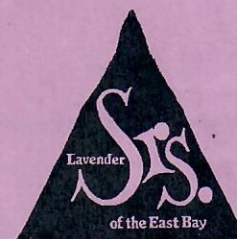




Lavender Notes



NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY

Vol 5, No 3

P.O. Box 6044, Fremont, California, 94538 Voice Mail: (510) 247-2406
Volunteer Services Program, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, (510) 667-9655

March 2000

VOTE NO ON PROP. 22

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will gay marriages be legal if Proposition 22 is defeated? Is this initiative necessary?

No. Gay marriage is not legal in California now. It will not be legal in California regardless of whether Proposition 22 passes or fails. No state currently allows gay people to marry. In Vermont, the state legislators are working on domestic partner legislation. They are not proposing to allow gay people to marry. Proposition 22 is redundant and unnecessary.

Isn't this protecting the tradition of marriage? Proposition 22 does nothing to shore up the marriages of heterosexuals. Denying protections to loving couples does nothing to protect marriage. This is about legal protections and responsibilities granted by the state, not about religious definitions of marriage. In addition, we have already thrown off the "traditions" that women were the property of their husbands and that people of different races or religions were not allowed to marry. Unjust traditions such as these should be cast

aside, in favor of new traditions celebrating families of all kinds.

How does the Knight Initiative hurt gay families?

Proposition 22 is anti-child. An Idaho judge has refused to allow a lesbian to adopt her partner's child expressly because of that state's enactment of an anti-marriage law similar to the Knight Initiative.

Proposition 22 is anti-family. The University of Pittsburgh is arguing that Pennsylvania's anti-marriage law forbids reliance on local anti-discrimination laws as grounds for obtaining equal treatment of gay and heterosexual employees in the area of dependent health care benefits.

How is this initiative divisive?

Pete Knight and his allies are saying that some relationships are valid and others aren't. He wants us to focus on our differences, instead of the ways in which we are alike. This week gay and straight couples across California will celebrate Valentine's Day in very similar ways. Flowers, candlelight dinners, expressions of love. We believe that all loving relationships should be celebrated.

Who is Pete Knight?

Pete Knight is a right-wing State Senator from Southern California. He claims that this initiative is not anti-gay, yet he and his allies have consistently voted against and attacked equal rights for gays and lesbians, non-discrimination laws protecting gay and lesbians students in California schools, and domestic partner benefits. Just last week, his anti-gay agenda was made clear at a prayer breakfast in Burlingame during which homosexuality was compared to sacrificing babies and Nazi Germany. Pete Knight's agenda also includes restricting women's reproductive health choices, promoting literal Biblical teachings in public schools, and dismantling equal protections for women and people of color.

What about Republicans?

Moderate Republicans oppose this divisive measure. Congressman Tom Campbell, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding, Ward Connerly, Assemblyman Jim Cuneen, and the California Republican League oppose Proposition 22.

March Meeting

Thinking of March as "Academy Awards Month," the speaker is Kam Jancek, who will speak on the topic: 'Hollywood Lesbians and Gays.' Ms. Jancek is a dynamic speaker who describes herself as a great lover of books, who has studied and become knowledgeable on a wide variety of subjects.

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

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, 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

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.

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*

▲ Overheard at a coffee connection; A group of senior citizens were exchanging notes about their ailments.

"My arm is so weak I can hardly hold this coffee cup."

"Yes, I know. My cataracts are so bad I can't see to pour the coffee."

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck."

"My blood pressure pills make my dizzy."

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old."

"Well, it's not all bad. We should be thankful that we can still drive!"

▲ "They're encouraging [gay people] to get married to stop them from having sex." --Politically Incorrect host Bill Maher, commenting on the December 20 Vermont Supreme Court decision requiring protection equal to marriage for committed same-sex relationships, on the December 21 broadcast of the ABC show.

▲ Ruth Michaels, was in Central America all of February. Tell us all about it Ruth. We want to hear more about your many adventures.

▲ I don't mind straight people, as long as they act gay in public.

▲ Natalie Zarchin and new partner are back from Hawaii. She had almost 700 pieces of Email waiting for her. Was it all jokes and political alerts from Marvin Burrows? I'll bet it was. Marvin is doing a good job keeping us entertained and informed..

▲ Mirrors should reflect more before returning an image.

▲ Apologies to Marvin Burrows. His birthday was omitted from the February birthday list. Hope it was happy Marvin. The editor explains that he has not got all the kinks out of the new data base that has birthday records.

▲ Congratulations to Frank Howell! He has volunteered to edit the newsletter starting with the May edition. Did you see Frank Howell's picture in the Hayward Review newspaper? Congratulations, Frank, on your retirement!. It is nice to see you looking so relaxed. Retirement does that sometimes.

▲ Bobbie Jarvis and Meg Bruynell will celebrate a committed loving relationship of 25 years on March 4, 2000. Meg writes, "Who would believe that the great grand daughter of a leader of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and a sweet charming Irish Oakie who drank from drank from dawn to dusk could last a quarter of century. Such happiness!"

**I do not envy people who think they have an
 complete explanation of the world, for the simple
 reason that they are obviously wrong.**

— - Solman Rushdie

We Get Mail

Dear Abby, A couple of women moved in across the hall from me. One is a middle-aged gym teacher and the other is a social worker in her mid-twenties. These two women go everywhere together and I've never seen a man go into their apartment or come out. Do you think they could be Lebanese?

Dear Abby, I have a man I never could trust. He cheats so much I'm not even sure this baby I'm carrying is his.

Dear Abby, Our son writes that he is taking Judo. Why would a boy who was raised in a good Christian home turn against his own

Submitted by Natalie Zarchin



LEATHER CORPS PLANS FUND RAISER FOR LAVENDER SENIORS

by John Ellefsen

A Fund-Raiser Dance for Lavender Seniors, sponsored by the Alameda County Leather Corps, will be held on Sunday, June 4, 2000, from 4 to 7 PM at the Bench and Bar, 120 11th Street, Oakland, between Madison and Oak, two blocks from Lake Merritt BART Station.

The Alameda County Leather Corps, ACLC is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 by Members of the local GLBTQ Leather community. It has raised many thousands of dollars for GLBT organizations and other worthy charitable causes-and has had lots of fun in the process, along with doing the hard work it always takes to raise funds!

The theme of the dance will be "Swing Into Leather" and will feature very danceable music from the Swing

era through the 1950s. The well-known DJ, Whirl, who knows and loves the music from those times and often DJs at the World Famous Turf Club in Hayward, has enthusiastically volunteered to play the music.

There'll be entertainment, too, including our own Don Silva, AKA Mama Portugal, doing his inimitable rendition of Kate Smith and other reminders of the "good old days." There will be no charge at the door. Instead, we'll think of enjoyable ways of raising money while the dance goes on, such as an auction of "retro" items, "Ten Cents a Dance" (or in these days, more like a dollar!), instant photos, etc. Additional suggestions and ideas will be most welcome. Contact John Ellefsen at 510-583-9638.

The Bench and Bar, has a large

dance floor, chairs and tables, as well as the bar itself, of course. Mark the date on your calendar and spread the word! A flyer will come out later in March with more details.

Several men and women from ACLC will present a program at our potluck in May to help us all get to know more about the Leather community. It is an important part of the larger GLBTQ community. Leather folk are often the object of misunderstanding, suspicion, even fear and persecution. This will be a good time to ask what you were always afraid to ask about leather, levi, uniform, latex, and fetish gear, toys, and clothing, S & M, etc. Why are some people "into leather"? What does the Leather motto "safe, sane, and consensual" mean?

Untitled

Around the corner I have a friend
In this great city that has no end,
Yet the days go by and weeks rush
on,
And before I know it, a year is gone
And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race,
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine..

We were much younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men..
Tired of playing a foolish game,
Tired of trying to make a name..
"Tomorrow" I say "I will call on
him"
"Just to show that I'm thinking of
him."
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow
goes, And distance between us grows
and grows.

- Submitted by Marvin Burrows

BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

Friends & Family: True Stories of Gay America's Straight Allies

by Dan Wong

Alyson Books-\$11.95-Paperback

We hear so much about the powerful enemies that the gay community has accumulated over the years. We must remind ourselves of the many friends that abound: American Civil Liberties Union, People For The American Way, Parents and Friends of Gays, and many others.

According to Dan Woog (author of Jocks: True Stories of America's Male Athletes and Schools Out: The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America's Schools) warm hearted comrades are scattered all across the land.

Leslue Sadasivan, mother of a gay son who took his own life at age fourteen, is a friend of our interest groups. Add to the list, Doyle, a former red neck, Frannie Peabody, long active in civic

affairs In Portland, Maine. Ms Peabody stands as a remarkable specimen of fortitude and courage, who distributes condoms in rural schools and debates the AIDS battle with everyone she meets. She is ninety-six years of age. Karl Debro, a teacher at San Leandro High School, challenged homophobia head on and battled ignorant parents who formed a group opposed his efforts. Karl is a recipient of the annual GLOBE award given to those who have benefitted the gay cause. He Karl finally won his case in federal court.

Gary and Millie Watts, devout Mormons, have taken on bigotry at the source. They are proud parents of six children, two of them gay. They strongly support "Family Fellowship," a sort of Mormon P-Flag. Tom Potier, chief of police in Portland, Oregon, has a lesbian daughter and has often had to battle his own fellow law enforcement officials.

Karen and Bob Gross have a daughter turned son. Transsexuals are at a point where gays were in the

(Cont'd from page 3)

1950's. A new pioneering effort is required. P-Flag fully accepts those who seek a change of gender. Steve Cozza, a straight boy scout, defends the right of gay teens to join his group. He is fourteen age of age.

Jean and George Huffey were forced to leave the Lutheran Church when they openly defended their gay children. Now they are Methodists.

The list stretches on: parents who went to court when their son was

beaten, a group of old ladies in North Carolina who always gave Jesse Helms a bad time. Whenever you feel the gay movement is standing still, pick up this book and renew your spirit. Hope springs eternal!

SUPPORT CRUMBLING FOR "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

News Release: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Several recent events, statements by political leaders and recently released polling data all are coming together to show that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue," policy toward gays and lesbians serving in the military may be crumbling under the combined weight of hypocrisy and discrimination...

****A report released by the Policy Institute of NGLTF shows that 70 per cent of U.S. residents support the right of gays and lesbians to serve in the military, up from 55 percent in 1992. This figure includes 57 percent of self-identified conservatives, 70 percent of moderates and 91 percent of liberals.

****Vice President Al Gore, in a strongly worded statement, called for elimination of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Another Democratic presidential candidate, Bill Bradley, had issued a similar call earlier in the campaign season. "In light of the Winchell case and other evidence, I believe the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy should be eliminated," Gore said. "Gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve their country without discrimination."

****The U.S. Army continues to hound Steve May, an Arizona state legislator and Army reservist. Despite the fact that May had been rated "one of the finest young officers" in the Army by his superiors, the U.S. Army is moving forward with plans to discharge May after he admitted he is gay during a floor debate before the Arizona Legislature.

****President Clinton came out strongly this past weekend over the way "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has been implemented. "The policy as implemented does not work as I announced and as the leaders of the military at that time in 1993 pledged to implement it," Clinton said.

****Hillary Clinton, appearing at a New York fund raiser, said that if she is elected to the U.S. Senate, she will work to overturn "Don't Ask, Don't

Tell." "Gays and lesbians already serve with distinction in our nation's armed forces and should not face discrimination," she said. "Fitness to serve should be based on an individual's conduct, not their sexual orientation."

****A Fort Campbell, Ky., soldier was convicted of brutally murdering Pfc. Barry Winchell and sentenced to life in prison. Pfc. Winchell was murdered after an Army sergeant violated Don't Ask, Don't Tell by asking Winchell about his sexual orientation, and after rumors regarding Winchell circulated throughout his Army barracks. Winchell was harassed and hounded in the months before his death.

****The number of gays and lesbians discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation increased 86 percent from 1993 - the year the policy was implemented - to 1998, according to the Service members Legal Defense Network.

****While the military is rooting out gay and lesbian service members, all branches of the armed services are experiencing an enlistment crisis, in part because of the booming civilian economy. In fiscal 1999, the U.S. Army fell 8 percent short of its recruiting goals.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is dying," said NGLTF Political Director Rebecca Isaacs. "This policy is simply wrong and 57 percent of conservatives and 70 percent of moderates agree that gays and lesbians should be able to serve without discrimination. Yet only two candidates for president have called for eliminating 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' It is obvious that some politicians are out of touch with their constituents. This policy is ruining lives and ruining careers and it is time that we elected a president and a Congress who will allow all gays and lesbians to serve their country."



Attention: Gay and Lesbian History / Herstory Buffs!

by John Ellefsen

Those of you who attended the SF International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival last June at the Castro Theater probably took a look at the exhibit on the mezzanine floor, called "Making a Case for Community History." The exhibit, sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, consisted of eight curated cases. Each of the cases was filled with interesting photographs, memorabilia, and other historical objects, and focused on a particular part of our wider community: African-Americans, Bears, Asian-Pacific Islanders, the Imperial Court of SF, Latinos/Latinas, Leather, Lesbian Feminists, and Transgender/Transsexual people. The

GLBT Historical Society is going to have another "Making a Case" exhibit this coming June--and this year's exhibit will include a case devoted to the Elder/Senior GLBT community! To that end, the Historical Society is holding a forum on Monday, March 20, 6 pm, at their headquarters, 973 Market St., Suite 400, San Francisco.

The forum will bring together persons who helped put together last year's cases, museum curators, Historical Society staff, and anyone interested in helping with this year's cases. Dot Hallinan and John Ellefsen will be attending. If you'd like to join us, call Dot at our Lavender Senior office or John at 510-583-9638.

Meanwhile, think about any pictures or mementos you might be willing to lend.

For a related but different project, we're in the process of assembling photographs of us GLBT "old folk" to be exhibited for a period of time on the walls of the Horizons Foundation in San Francisco. As you probably already know, the Horizons Foundation has been instrumental in helping us get the Collaborative up and running. Do you have any good-quality photos that might be suitable? Both of these projects are excellent ways of letting others know more about us, our lives, our history, how we've survived and thrived.

We Get Jokes

An Irishman's been drinking at a pub all night. When he stands up to leave, he falls flat on his face. He tries to stand one more time, but to no avail. Again, he falls flat on his face. He figures he'll crawl outside and get some fresh air and maybe that will sober him up. Once outside, he stands up and, sure enough, he falls flat on his face.

The Irishman decides to crawl the four blocks to his home. When he arrives at the door, he stands up and falls flat on his face. He crawls through the door into his bedroom. When he reaches his bed, he tries one more time to stand up. This time, he manages to pull himself upright but he quickly falls right into bed. He is sound asleep as soon as his head hits the pillow.

He awakens the next morning to his wife standing over him, shouting, "So, you've been out drinking again!"

"Why do you say that?" he asks innocently.

"The pub called. You left your wheelchair there again."

(Submitted by Marvin Burrows)

An usher in a very posh theater noticed a man sprawled across three seats. "Sorry, sir," the usher said, "but you're only allowed one seat." The man groaned but didn't budge.

The usher became impatient and said, "Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager." Again, the man just groaned, which infuriated the usher who turned and marched briskly backup the aisle in search of his manager.

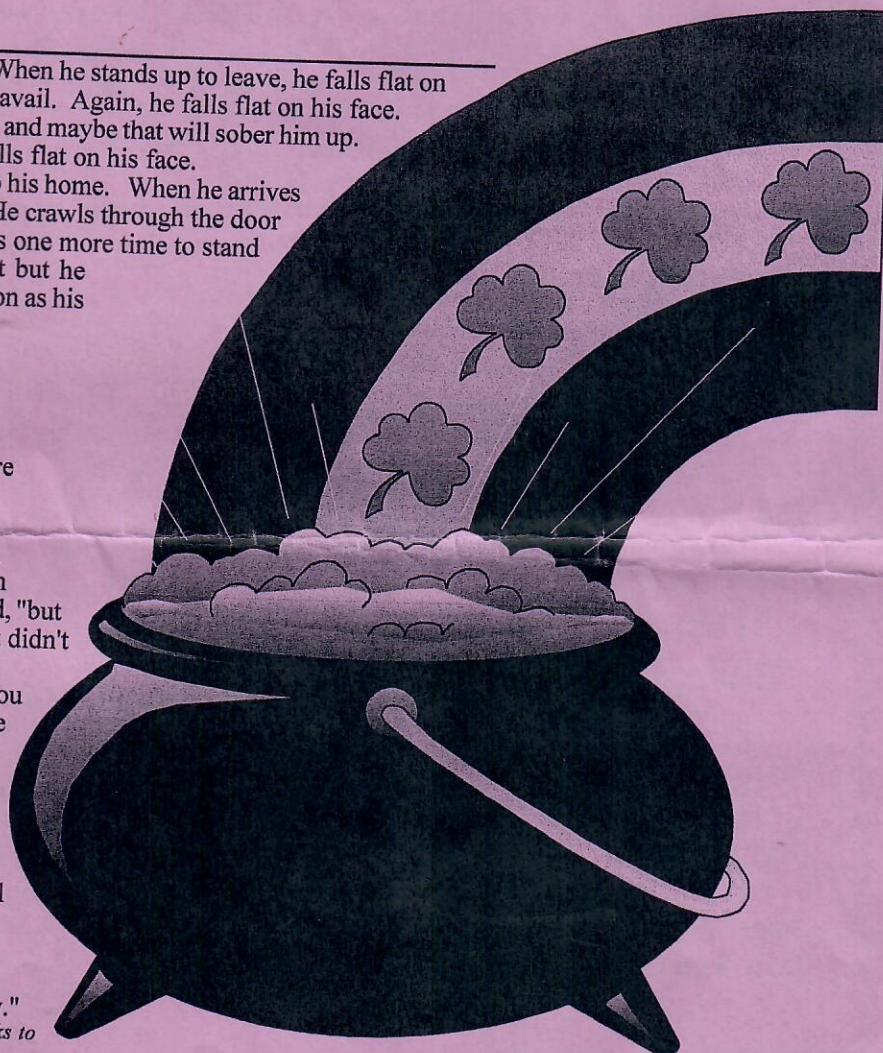
In a few moments, both the usher and the manager returned and stood over the man. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move him, "All right buddy," the manager said, "what's your name?"

"Sam," the man moaned.

"Where did you come from, Sam?"

With pain in his voice, Sam replied, "The balcony."

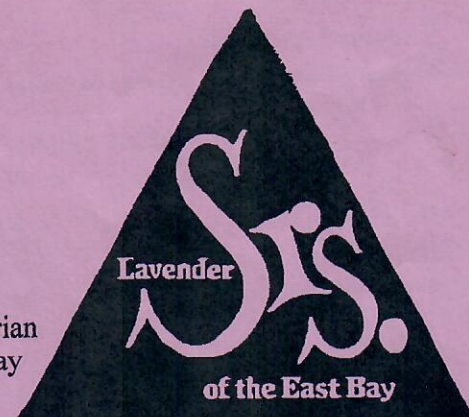
(We neglected to record who sent this one. Apologies and thanks to whoever you are.)



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

March 7 - 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) Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings.



March 11 - Saturday - 12 Noon MONTHLY MEETING

Hollywood Lesbians and Gays

Speaker: Kam Jancek

**Meeting at
San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro**

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: 247-2406 to arrange pickup.

COFFEE CONNECTIONS SOCIALS

March 1 - TRI-CITIES AREA - Fremont, Newark & Union City

1st Wednesday every month 10 - 11:30 am. Location: Call Donna at (510) 651-7305 for directions

March 15 - BERKELEY, ALBANY, EL CERRITO, NORTH OAKLAND Area ; 3rd Wednesday, every month; 10 - 11:30 AM

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

March 13 & 27 - CONTRA COSTA COUNTY; 2ND and 4TH Monday 1:30 TO 3:00 p.m.; Rainbow Community Center; Location: Call Dot for information (925) 829-7379

March 22 - SAN LEANDRO AREA; 4th Wednesday every month; 1:30 - 3PM (note time change); Community Church, 1386 Bancroft; Public Transit: Bus stop at Bancroft & Callan

March 22 - HAYWARD AREA: 1:30 p.m. Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. 3rd St. Hayward, Call John Ellefsen for Information (510) 583-9638

Happy Birthday

**Doreen Brand 3/27
Jerry Holmes 3/11
Bert Hutchison 3/26
Rita Kresha 3/7
James Thomas 3/29
Kelly Van Meter 3/4**

SECOND SUNDAY - 6 P.M. - FELLOWS OF EAST BAY NEW LOCATION AND TIME

Social Club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly Potluck dinner and social held the second Sunday of every month at the Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market, Oakland. 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.