



# Lavender Notes



NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY

VOL 5, No 5

P.O. Box 6044, Fremont, California, 94538 Voice Mail: (510) 247-2406 May 2000  
Volunteer Services Program, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, (510) 667-9655

## Domestic Partnership Law (AB26) Takes Effect

Assemblywoman Carole Migden has announced her goal of registering 50,000 couples by the end of the year. California is now the second state to legally recognize gay partnerships.

The forms for registration may be obtained from any county clerk or from the Secretary of State in Sacramento. (Web site: ss.ca.gov). (916-653-4984) The filing fee is \$10.00. The form must be notarized. No documents are necessary.

Under the new law hospital visitation and health coverage rights are offered.

## Farewell to Jim Joslin

James Leroy Joslin, venerable newsletter editor and database expert for the Lavender Seniors for the past five years, is donning his Lawrence of Arabia drag and heads for Palm Springs this month for a new life. He commented, "I'll take my ghosts with me but I wanted a new life.

Jim claims to have been born in a place called Chickashay, Oklahoma to a strongly Baptist family. He was the baby with two older sisters, later they moved to Phoenix, Arizona. He came to the Bay Area fifty-six years ago to attend San Francisco State on his quest for a degree in Psychology and recalls during that time he was observed in the dorm kissing a man. One of the Deans at State called him in and advised him to take some testosterone. He went on to earn a Masters Degree in Social Work at UC Berkeley and worked in mental health for the State for many years, mostly as a supervisor with special skills in mental retardation with the developmentally disabled population.

Joslin is very proud of his status as a recovering alcoholic of twenty years and gives AA credit for saving his life. He said, "I finally realized I went to gay bars not for the men but for the booze". He also connects strongly with Buddhism, meditates frequently and believes that physiologically it normalizes systems of the body. Jim maintains that he's "the happiest retired person in the world" (retired from working) and went on to say, "I loved being the editor of the newsletter. I do need a rest from it. It was frustrating at times but I learned how to use a computer to create a newsletter."

Jim infused a special sense of humor to the newsletter, he collected a storehouse of jokes passed on to him by various Lavenders and designed a lively column of friendly gossip under the byline of Sidney Poufft. He's been coaching Frank Howell as Frank prepares to become our newsletter editor. Welcome Frank.

The last quote about aging Jim dropped on us before he left as follows: "sex is the second thing to go-I forgot what the first was."

We wish you fair sailing, Jim, and thank you.-Dottie Fowler

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**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.



## SHORT NOTES *by Sidney Poutle*

### Lavender Notes

The newsletter of:  
**Lavender Seniors of East Bay,**  
P.O. Box 6044,  
Fremont, CA, 94538,  
(510) 667-9655  
[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 Hickcock, 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:

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.

Jess McVey wrote us a note saying that she is interested in "art stuff", sketching groups, museum visits, studio visits." She can be contacted at (415) 584-5818.

Natalie Zarchin's new girl friend is going to the gym regularly to get in shape. She is much younger than Natalie but she wants to try to keep up with Natalie who is over 70. There are some other reasons for her getting in shape. But this is a family newspaper, so we can't repeat it here. However, for those who want more information, Natalie is very proud to explain it. She had a mischievous smile when she told us about it.

There was a juicy morsel recently in Dear Abby's column from a reader who certainly knew how to take care of herself. "Dear Abby: I must tell you about an obscene telephone call I received about eight o'clock one morning. There was heavy breathing and then a deep voice said, "I want your body." To which I replied, "Have you seen it lately?" The caller hung up immediately, never to call again."

John is still collecting auction and raffle items for the June 4<sup>th</sup> fund raising dance. If you know any businessperson or professional who would be willing to donate any goods or services, John will provide a receipt that can be turned into the IRS for tax deduction purposes.

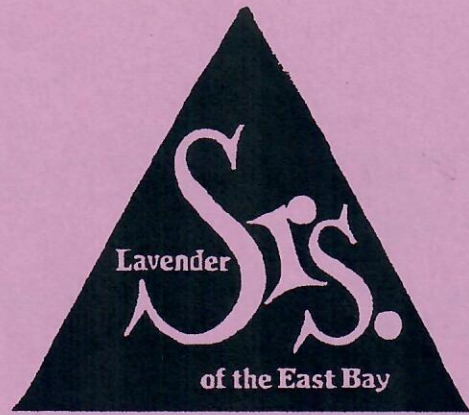
John also is collecting pictures and memorabilia for the two current history projects The Gay prom Decadence exhibit on June 10<sup>th</sup>, where Lavender seniors is sponsoring the 1940s board, and the GLBT Historical Society's Making A Case For History exhibit which will be on display from May 23 through Gay Pride Day. Call John at 510-583-9638.

Carol has a hot new movie in mind for us which is playing at the Fine Arts Cinema in Berkeley. It is called, "Surfing For Life," and is the inspiring story of seniors who don't allow age to stand in their way when challenging the ways of mother nature. These are men and women in their 60s, 70s, and 80s who are setting the pace. One man is 93! So you see what can be done.



## From the editors desk

Across the media land that attempts to mirror reality we are given a twisted vision of the real world. Most of the faces that we see are young. Older people do not simply exist on television. Advertisers insist that we do not represent the viewing audience they wish to reach, although we sit on the most dollars and voting power. The public is stuck on the stereotype of old folks wasting away in rocking chairs and puttering on shuffleboard courts. Our lives are not considered relevant. As the century progresses demographers claim we senior citizens will have the last laugh. Teenagers and those in their twenties will definitely be in the minority and seniors will be the majority. Grey heads will rule. Wisdom and experience will count. Let us anticipate the turning tide!



## BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin

By Gad Beck

University of Wisconsin Press

Holocaust novels and books are common as water, but the number of writings providing a gay perspective can be counted on one hand.

Gad Beck was born in 1923 of a Jewish Christian family living in Vienna. He was active in the Jewish faith and fully embraced Zionism. His father fully believed they were safe from Nazism. They thought only Jewish Communists were in real danger. But during his teen years Gad's blissful childhood came to a shattering halt.

Gad somehow led a charmed life. He managed to obtain a job working in factories where war materials were manufactured. He succeeded in protecting his family and also managed to conduct rescue missions smuggling Jews into Switzerland. During the war years he had gay affairs, one with the supervisor of a factory. The semetic term chapentz certainly applied to Gad.

He obtained the release of a lover by boldly marching into a prison wearing a Nazi Youth uniform and demanding the release of his friend.

By 1943 the Germans decided all Jewish peoples were now gone from Berlin, so ther Germans left him alone.

Gad and his companions survived by living in empty apartments. He evaded SS troops sent to pick up families bound for concentration camps. He changed hiding places from time to time.

The Gestapo was still closing in on people as late as 1945 but Gad still managed to elude them. Close calls were breathtaking.

After the war Gad emigrated to Israel for several years and later returned to Europe.

A sequel concerning his post World War II years has been promised.

## National meeting to be held on aging in the Lavender community

A major conference will be convened at Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus in New York City on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The conference title will be "Out of the closet / into the future: Midlife and aging in gay America". Workshops will cover a number of social concerns including sexuality, mental health, law, and spirituality. The call to action speaker will be Virginia Apuzzo, former executive director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force.

Among those participating in the conference will be Nancy Flaxman, of the lesbian and gay senior services collaborative, San Anselmo.

The major focus of this powerful meeting of the minds will focus on combating homophobia and ageism.



## **New gay magazine appears**

An informative new journal covering gay events of Northern California has come to our attention. *California Triangle* is published by Triangle Publications, 901 H Street, Suite 201, Sacramento, CA 95814, telephone 916-491-4007. Website – [www.cowtriangle.com](http://www.cowtriangle.com).

Evocative articles cover such stimulating topics as “Some GOPs Attack Gays”, “Gay Marriage In Two Steps”, and “Better Dead Than Homosexual”.

Subscription price is \$29.00 a year.

## **Major studies discovers dementia related to isolation**

Old people who live alone are isolated and have a poor relationship with their children are in danger of sinking into mental derangement.

This is the finding of a significant new study conducted by scientist at the Stockholm Gerontology Research Center in Sweden. Findings were published in the medical journal, *Lancet*. Richard Suzman, of the National Institute of Health, says this confirms similar findings in this country. Suzman believes social interaction protects the cognitive functions of the brain.

The research underscores the need for the Lavender Senior Project for the homebound.

Elder Abuse Prevention

Proudly presents:

**Senior Fraud Fighter  
Conference**

**Friday – May 19, 2000**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Nile Hall, Preservation Park

1233 Preservation Park

**LEARN HOW TO SPOT A SCAM  
& PREVENT FRAUD**

The conference is FREE and includes lunch!  
Space is limited. Call NOW to reserve your seat  
(510) 834-4401

Vouchers will be provided for discounted parking at City Center Garage, directly across from the entrance to Preservation Park at 1250 MLK Jr. Way.







# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**Date May 9<sup>th</sup> 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

## **COFFEE CONNECTIONS SOCIALS**

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

1st Wednesday every month 10 - 11:30 am. Location: Call Donna at (510) 651-7305 for directions. **No meeting for May.**

- **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

## **May 13-Saturday-12 Noon-Monthly Meeting**

### **Leathermen Explain Their Life Style**

#### **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 a Desert

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

- **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

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

## **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 Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market Street, Oakland.. Bring \$3 door charge and food or drink to share.

## **Happy Birthday**

Berni Miller 5/20

Bill Baillie 5/13

Carol Martin-5/23

Don Silva-5/2

Jim Joslin-5/1

Joan Emerson-5/29

Joe Horsington-5/21

Myra Williams-5/21

Norma Metz-5/21

Peter Hart-5/2

Shirley Dennett-5/9

## **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.