



Lavender Notes



Vol 5 , No 7

NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY

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

A dream come True!-Special Housing For The Lavender Community

At the July 8th potluck Jan Faulkner, vice chairperson of the Rainbow Community Housing Project, will unfold plans for retirement living for seniors of our world. The mission statement informs us that Rainbow 's purpose is "to create and sustain safe and affordable housing, free of discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual seniors, sixty years of age and older."

This urban residential fellowship will consist of at least 40 units. The ground floor will house service organizations and businesses.

One of the biggest fears of gay folks is that such projects are usually designed for the well to do, especially in a location like the Bay Area. . While there will be some upper income units, there will also be a mix of low and moderate level income pricing.

The project will also offer assisted services , meals, housekeeping, and transportation.

If you want to explore all the possibilities be sure to join us at the Lavender Seniors Potluck on July 8th.
Personality Plus Presents Ruth Michaels

For Ruth Michaels life began in a very dramatic way. She was born and raised in Vienna. The timing was unfortunate. At the age of 14 she and her family fled for their lives from the Nazi regime. Ruth vividly recalls one of her closest girl friends wearing a Nazi Youth uniform. It was not a good time to be Jewish. Fortunately her father was a lawyer and historian who had connections in the United States. The family obtained a sponsor and boat tickets were sent. Her mother died after only one year in the United States.

Ruth married at age 21 and she and her husband raised three children, one adopted. Her field of study was biology and chemistry. She received a PH.D in Microbiology.

In 1985 she came to the Bay Area.

In recent years Ruth has been involved in Mother Tongue, the feminist collective which recently performed before the Lavender Seniors.

Ruth is also a member of the program committee of the Lavender Seniors

Support Group For Lavender Seniors

When the new gay and lesbian community center opens in Hayward there will be an opportunity to organize a senior support group..Those interested should call Joyce Pearson at 667-9655.

New Break For Medicare Patients

Those seniors who are not covered by Medicare -HMO, can now show their Medicare card at the drug store and pay for drugs at a discount of between 10-40%. Call 510-413-5960 for further details.

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 Phvsicians for Human Rights. Gateway Initiative. and Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund

SHORT NOTES *by Sidney Poutte*

Lavender Notes

The newsletter of :
Lavender Seniors of East Bay,
P.O. Box 6044,
Fremont, CA, 94538,
(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, 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:

Frank Howell, Editor
31103 Hershey Way
Hayward, CA-94544
E-mail-FJHowell@pacbell.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.

Gossip-I never repeat gossip, so listen the first time

Meg and BJ had a rousing time in Reno recently. They won \$375.00 in nickels and had 78 e-mails awaiting them on their return.

The Leather Corps of Alameda County put on a terrific show recently and raised \$1,000 for the Lavender Seniors. Much thanks to Karl Suhuck and his wonderful gang of folks. What a show it was! You could have your picture taken for a small fee, drag queens performed, strippers tempted the men with their hot bodies, an auction was held and Dottie Fowler revealed unknown depths to her personality in a provocative session of the Dating Game. She was blindfolded and three attractive women were stationed behind her. She raised the temperature of the room by asking, "Who is top man and bottom man in your relationship Dottie had mentioned bringing a whip to the event, but none appeared. We'll never know what that met. Freud is still guessing.

Carol Beth and Cathy cut quite a rug on the dance floor as they performed the teen dances of their lighthearted youth.

Much credit for the success for the event must go to John Ellefsen (Yuel Brenner of the gay world) for producing the event. This was a massive undertaking. Some 200 people attended. John's other half Mac prepared some really delicious food for the occasion.

Laura Tow and Pat Sousa were also among those who really enjoyed themselves on the dance floor.

CORRECTION TIME-Doris Fisher did not break her hip. It was Doris Wilkins (partner Hope Greene) Doris is seriously ill following hip surgery. Please send cards to Doris at 218 Santa Susana Street, San Leandro, CA-94579

Nice touch-Bill Clinton has proclaimed National Gay Pride Month, noting the progress that has been made under his administration. There has been the usual disappointments under Clinton but he is the first president to really open the doors for us. We're still awaiting a big move from George Bush, Jr. (or "Shrub" as Molly Ivins likes to call him.

We must extend congratulations to Marvin Burrows for receiving the Stonewall Society Award for the Site of The Month (web site) The particular site was centered around the 45 year relationship Marv and Bill Swenor have enjoyed with each other. The award reads, Your site was chosen as you so beautifully demonstrate your pride in your life and relationship." The web site is for GLOBE, the political action group for Alameda County. Natalie had a wonderful trip to see Bea on her Farm in Arkansas. Now Bea is headed this way with her U-Haul. Oh rapture!

Computer Testers are needed. This is in Alameda near the Marina/Webster Tub. For details call Jackie-510-263-4853.

From The Editors Desk

THE CHRISTIAN FUNDIES NEVER LET UP

On June 10th the Lambda Youth Project of the Horizon Foundation presented the DECADance Gay Prom 2000 at the Centennial Hall in Hayward. The event has delighted gay teens for the past several years. Same sex couples from all over the East Bay proudly promenade into the dance hall. But the occasion by the pitiful presence of Fundamentalist Christians

These people seem to divide themselves into two distinct camps. On one side we have the older, prim and proper church goers who stand silently with their signs and register a silent protest. On the other side we notice the young married couples with their kids.

These pious dissenters have become noticeably more aggressive than in the past. At first their protests didn't arouse too much notice-a few scruffy hippies holding up crudely made sign with obviously slanted Bible verses. But today they flaunt giant black and white signs warning the youth that to be gay means not living past the ripe old age of forty. (How did Lavender Seniors make it?)

But my attention was drawn to the young men in their twenties who prowled the area like panthers seeking out a long delayed feast. They were obviously frustrated by the lack of attention. The well organized band and boisterous gay crowd drew attention away from the protesters. They seemed to long for a confrontation. They began to raise their banners higher and to shout slogans. They mocked the ministers who were there to support the youth. The word hypocrite was thrown about. They were seething with repressed rage. They were trapped behind a damn of anger than couldn't quite break.

We wonder how many more years these tired folks will continue to show up. What would Christ say to them about loving your enemies? Would they listen? Probably not.

BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

The Silence of Sodom

By Mark D. Jordan

University of Chicago Press-\$25.00

"Once a Catholic, always a Catholic," says Mark Jordan, Professor of Religion at Emory University. This creates a striking dilemma in the lives of gay Catholics. The church condemns the love that speaks too much, but young believers cannot bear to turn away from the guiding lights of their lives.

Jordan traces the grim chronology of holy persecution against gays and reviews all the papal condemnations of the last twenty years.

We also learn the methods of draining all traces of human passion out of the innocent Catholic men. Nothing can be more central to the building of human intimacy than "particular friendships", the very thing priests are forbidden to do. Real life and complexity is avoided. Analysis is kept to a minimum. The system indirectly promotes the sexual tension it wishes to underplay.

During the early training of the candidates for the priesthood the men are informed they must never look directly at attractive males or females. This edict is referred to as "custody of the eyes". As a result of the homoerotic environment created, sexual harassment is not uncommon.

Psychological testing is now employed to screen out unsuitable candidates. Men who possess a strong imagination, sentimental feelings, or a dislike for sports, are deemed unsuitable for the holy life.

Basic church doctrines, Jordan points out, have not changed since the Middle Ages. Any scientific view employed by the church bureaucracy hasn't changed since the 19th century.

Catholic officials hide gay issues so they will not need to be confronted.-(don't ask,don't tell).

At times Jordan becomes bogged down in theory and philosophy, but once he clears his analytical throat, reader interest picks up. In an especially intriguing chapter we are confronted with the bizarre case of Cardinal Spellman, referred to here as a "regal fag," or "clerical camp." The cardinal loved placing himself on display in "layers of lace and watered silk, with an ermine mantle and train." Known as "Nellie Spellbound, his eminence suffered a severe disappointment when the pope decreed that cardinals must alter their trains from ten yards to two.

We also learn about "liturgy queens", gay catholic men who are caught up in the pageantry and splendor of the mass are as legendary as gay enraptured by the latest opera diva.

The concluding segment comes as a letdown. Jordan provides an informative comparison between MCC and Dignity. He views MCC as more energetic and less hidebound. Dignity is too closely tied up with begging for papal approval.

His resolution for the gay Catholic predicament is vague and ill defined. Concrete ideas are nowhere in evidence.

Nevertheless we admire the searing light that Jordan has cast into dark ecclesiastical corners. The term "Catholic bashing" is frequently thrown about by myopic critics who fail to realize that exposing appalling conditions can often lead to cleansing reforms that serve the church well in the long run.

EAST BAY MCC TO BE FORMED

Metropolitan Community Church will soon offer services in Berkeley on August 6th. MCC will join forces with two other denominations - The United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. The group will meet at the Pacific School of Religion chapel at 1798 Scenic Avenue. Rev. Karen Foster will be the pastor. To get involved call Karen at 510-849-8280. E-mail-revfoster@aol.com.

MAKING A CASE FOR COMMUNITY HISTORY

The GLBT Historical Society and The Center For The History of Sexual Diversity are presenting a series of displays mounted in arresting cases depicting GLBT Elders, Two Spirit Native Americans, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Sex Workers and Bisexuals.

The displays were available for viewing at the San Francisco Public Library and were then moved to Civic Center the day of the Gay Parade on June 25th.

John Ellefson wrote the section on Gay Elders. The text follows:

What is the Role of The Elder in the GLBT Community?

Vital parts of the history of our community are in the histories of our long and diverse lives. We bring the past into the present, so younger generations can atke it into the future. We tell our stories and the lessons and insights we have learned from them. We bring perspective and hope. Growing older is a kind of opening. But as a wise elder once said, "We're not just growing older, we're older and growing." We're discovering day by day the special challenges and rewards of being GLBT elders, how to care for each other as we face the final challenge of death, and what we can give as our bequest to the community. The long struggle for freedom to live our own lives, for equality and respect, continues. Our message is, we will survive and thrive!

A MESSAGE FOR DR. LAURA

Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you so much for doing so much to educate people regarding God's law. I have learned a great deal from you, and I try to share that knowledge with an many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advise from you, however, regarding some of the specific laws and how to best follow them.

1. When I burn a bull on the alter as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the lord. (Lev.1:9) The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. How should I deal with this?
2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as it suggests in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev 15:19-24) The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.
4. Lev. 25"44 states that I may buy slaves from the nations that are around us. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans but not Canadians. Can you clarify?
5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?
6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. L0:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?
7. Lev. 20:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20?20, or is there some wiggle room here? I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.



GLOBE

VICTORY

PICNIC AT TILDEN PARK

WHEN: SATURDAY JULY 15, 2000 @11:00 am

WHERE: THE ISLAND AT TILDEN PARK

WHAT: BAR-B-QUE AND PICNIC

DIRECTIONS: GO TO TILDEN PARK via Grizzly Peak AND FIND SIGNS POINTING TO BRAZIL ROOM. THE ISLAND IS 100 YARDS FROM THE BRAZIL ROOM. HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

BRING SOMETHING TO BAR-B-QUE AND A SIDE DISH TO SHARE. DRINKS , CHARCOAL, PAPER GOODS AND SOME MEAT PROVIDED!!!

AND

**JOIN GLOBE , LAVENDER SENIORS,
LAMBDA YOUTH & SALLY ANDERS
FOR SWIMMING PICNIC AT CULL CANYON**



**WHERE: CULL CANYON REGIONAL PARK,
IN CASTRO VALLEY**

WHEN: AUGUST 12, 2000, @ 11:00 AM

WHAT: SWIM, BAR - B - QUE AND PICNIC

GLOBE WILL PROVIDE CHARCOAL AND DRINKS. BRING A DISH TO SHARE. NOMINAL (\$2.00 - \$3.00) ENTRANCE FEE TO SWIM AREA & CABANA. LIMITED SPACE.

DIRECTIONS: TAKE 580 east TO REDWOOD ROAD, go left over freeway, TURN RIGHT, GO TO STOP SIGNAL, TURN LEFT. ABOUT 1 MILE up CULL CANYON, PARKING lot will be ON YOUR LEFT .

CONTACT: EUGENE MARANGONI (510) 475-1125 FOR BOTH ACTIVITIES.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

July 8th-Saturday-12 Noon-Monthly Meeting Rainbow Adult Housing

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

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: 247-2406 to arrange pickup.

COFFEE CONNECTIONS SOCIALS

TRI-CITIES AREA - Fremont, Newark & Union City

1st Wednesday every month:, July 5th. 10 - 11:30 am. Call Donna at (510)651-7305.

BERKELEY, ALBANY, EL CERRITO, NORTH OAKLAND Area

3rd Thursday every month:, July 20th. 10 - 11:30 AM. Call Doreen at (510)524-6206.

HAYWARD AREA

4TH Wednesday every month: , July 26th. 1:30 p.m.; Senior Center, 22325 N. 3rd St., Hayward. Call John at (510)583-9638

Happy Birthday

Cynthia Dunn-7/19

Patricia Sousa-7/12

Dick Colton-7/11

Bea Howard-7/13

Patricia Mahaffey 7/28

Bill Swenor-7/6

Emiko Dare-7/16

Jerry Washington-7/1

Josie Martin-7/3

Tom Long-7/15

Rick Bolton 7/31

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.

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.