



Lavender Notes



NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY

August 2000

Vol 5 , No 8

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

August Picnic Instead of Potluck

The Lavender Seniors is taking time out this month for an old fashioned picnic. The potluck will return in September. The Lavender Seniors will be joined by GLOBE, Lambda Youth and the Sally Anders for this outdoor event at Cull Canyon in Castro Valley. This will take place on August 12th at 11:00am. There will also be swimming and a b-que. GLOBE will provide charcoal and drinks. Bring a dish to share. The fee (\$2.00-\$3.00) is charged if you want to use the swim area and cabana.

Directions: Take 580 east to Crow Canyon Center Street go left over the freeway, turn right, go to stop signal, turn left. Drive 1 mile up Cull Canyon, parking lot will be on your left. For further information Eugene Marangoni at 510-475-1125.

Lighthouse Community Center Has Spectacular Opening

The Lighthouse Community Center opened its door to an eager crowd of 200 eager folks anxious to see what was being offered to gay, lesbian and transgender people.

Mid-afternoon Mayor Roberta Cooper officially opened the center with a ribbon cutting and photographs, Ted Ekman provided musical entertainment. A study supply of raffle prizes were offered throughout the day. Re. Lee Williamson, pastor of the Wesley United Methodist Church gave a thoughtful invocation. Mary Anne Casper, representing State Senator Liz Figueroa, presented the center with an official commendation.

John Ellefsen exhibited his provocative display of historic decades which stretched from the turn of the century to the present time.

The walls of the center were graced with some 25 paintings donated by Doris Wilkins, Hope Green, and James Murphy.

The Community Center already has groups meeting there. These include the East Bay Network Gayme Nite, the Alameda County Leather Corp, GLOBE, Lavender Seniors nominating committee. A Men's Support Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Other support activities planned for the future will embrace the women's community, the seniors, and the youth. On Saturday nights a general social evening will be offered that will begin at 7:00.

The Center is located at 1217 A Street in Hayward. Visit the web site at www.haywardlcc.org. or call 510-881-8167.

New Hope for Senior Housing

Jan Faulkner and Jane Berger from the Rainbow Adult Community Housing project (RACH) presented a very interesting presentation at the potluck on July 8 regarding the many issues and problems that face LGBT seniors as they begin to think about and plan for possible changes in their living arrangements as they get older. RACH is dedicated to achieve the following objectives: 1) To create a residential community where LGBT seniors are free to be themselves safe from reprisal and other forms of discrimination. 2) To meet the changing needs of LGBT seniors and sustain independence by providing housekeeping, dining, transportation, organized activities, as well as non-medical services to the frail elderly. 3) To facilitate creation of mutually supportive networks of concern and care and assure a sense of community. Up to this point, RACH has been focused on trying to develop a site in San Francisco. But that project, if successful, would serve only a small portion of the senior LGBT community. Jan and Jane urged us to think about exploring possibilities in our local East Bay area as well, building upon the experiences of the SF RACH project. Much research and thought need to go into the project because the project involves not only formidable financial and practical challenges, but also must take into consideration the more personal individual needs and desires of potential residents, problems that will be come up whenever people try to live together in a close-knit community. For just a few such examples: food tastes and needs vary widely between ethnic groups and individuals. Also, an older person's needs may change drastically, depending on health and mobility. How can a LGBT housing community be designed to respond to those changing needs? Government financing may be available for certain projects, but only with many strings attached. A lively question and answer session followed the presentation, and to help further the RACH project, Jan and Jane handed out questionnaires for us to fill out. For further information, contact RACH at 3980 24th St. San Francisco CA 94114, phone: 415-285-5118, or e-mail: SFRACH@aol.com. We thank Jan and Jane for coming to us with their ideas and inspiration and hope to maintain contact with them and RACH.

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 Paeffle*

Lavender Notes

The newsletter of :
Lavender Seniors of 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, 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.

We all experienced an afternoon of heartwarming moments at the opening day of the Community Center in Hayward. Some 28 paintings adorned the walls Meg and BJ bought "The Pink Chair" painted by Hope Greene. "The Model King, in a Hood, painted by Doris Wilkins was also purchased. \$1,000 worth of paintings were sold. What a cultured crowd we are!

Doris and Hope are real treasures in our community. Doris studied art at Washington University in St. Louis in the School of Fine Arts. She once taught art to children at the Institute of the Deaf in St. Louis.

Hope has studied her craft at a wide range of institutions—the University of Mexico in Mexico City, the University of Washington in Seattle, the Art Academy in San Francisco and Laney College in Oakland. She has exhibited widely at the San Francisco Art Academy, Mama Bears Book Store and the Contra Costa Art Association Show.

The Turf Club, practically a historic institution in Hayward (1962?) has been forced to close its doors for the next few months. That entire block has been forced to make way for progress-Albertsons wants to create a shopping center there. But have no fear. This legendary location will re-open on Main Street, just one block over. It is rumored the patio area will be greatly expanded. Many old times recall the infamous back room at the Turf, a small space which held as many as seventeen people at one time. Men would gather there to discuss art and literature. The local police would also join the discussions from time to time. They were also cultured.

Doctor Dean Edel, popular talk show doctor on KGO radio, recently announced that a medical supply company now offers chastity belts for men. A number of questions arise. Who purchases these belts, men or women? But most important of all, who has the key?

Marvin laments that we need more volunteers for the coffee hours held by the Lavender Seniors. Call 667-9655 for more information.

Dot will soon embark on an art tour of Italy. She will no doubt contemplate the Statue of David.

Remember Tom Lehrer, controversial singer from the 1950's and 1960s. He serenaded us college rebels with such ribald titles as "The Old Dope Peddler," "Vatican Rag," and "National Brotherhood Week." Tom lives again. Warner Brothers has released a boxed set of 3 CDs and an informative and colorful booklet containing all the lyrics and background of Tom's infamous life as a math instructor at Harvard. The past lives!

Gerson Goodkind recalls Sally Stafford, the famous madam of old San Francisco. He also recalls Juanita (Juanitas Galley). She held forth at her casually run restaurant in rural Contra Costa County in the 1970s. She served unusually generous portions of grub.

From The Editors Desk

Roman Catholic Games

The Roman Catholic Church has yet to learn from its checkered past. The present Pope makes much of seeking forgiveness from the Jews and other minority groups. His holiness rarely has anything good to say about gays and lesbians. In his latest decree he notes that gays should be treated with "respect, compassion and sensitivity." But he has consistently opposed lavender civil rights and was reportedly upset when the Catholic bishops in America made supportive statements about parents of gays.

This does not mean we are "Catholic bashing" or adopting an anti-Catholic stance. We are aware of the notable contributions of the Church in the areas of charity and education. But many elements in the church desperately need reform. Gay priest and nuns lack proper recognition, women should be allowed to enter the priesthood. But the Vatican stubbornly clings to the 19th century.

Garry Wills, in a major attack on the track record of Popes (Papal Sins, Doubleday) quotes Cardinal Newman as saying with regard to the Pope of another era, "When he is persecuted, he is in his proper place-not when he persecutes." This could well apply to John Paul II.

What the world desperately needs is a Vatican III and another John XXIII. When the next Pope is chosen a magnificent opportunity will present itself. A major sea change is desperately needed.

BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

Dancing Naked

By Robert Hodgson Van Wagoner

Signature Books, Salt Lake City

\$20.00

Christianity and gay love have never been friendly to each other. But the Mormon aspects of this age old conflict are now opening to public view. The faith of Brigham Young represents ground zero. In order to gain entrance to heaven and its rewards, the good Mormon must marry, be fruitful and multiply. Other denominations may give you an escape of sorts, but not the pious folk from Salt Lake.

Terry Walker and his devoted wife Rayne live a relatively contented life until their fifteen year old son Blake takes his own life. The resulting turmoil lays bare underlying conflicts about homophobia, family, religion, our deepest feelings about each other.

Terry is a college mathematics instructor who inherits his rigid scheme of morality from his devout fundamentalist father. After the funeral Terry learns that Blake was gay and felt his father would never understand.

Avory, a friend and professional colleague, is also drawn into the traumatic events.

Van Wagoner has created a memorable, probing exploration of love and fear. He has received several literary awards, including the Sunstone's Brown Memorial Fiction Award. Dancing Naked was awarded the Utah Arts Council Publication Prize.

Personality Plus-Jerry Hyman Observes the Cultural Scene

Jerry Hyman know how to create the best of both worlds when it comes to enjoying the show biz scene of the San Francisco Bay Area. He works as an usher in the major theaters of San Francisco. He knows how to work the system. He sees the musical and legitimate theater for free. Once a year he makes a fans pilgrimage to New York City for a week of sampling the fare on the great white way.

Jerry first gazed upon the world in 1927 in Oakland. His grandparents came here from Poland and Hungary. He graduated from Oakland High School in 1945. He did a stint in the U. S. Army and received an Associate of Arts Degree from San Francisco City College. He entered the family business-Dorfman Hat and Cap Company which he left in 1954. He traveled in Europe for a time and then settled briefly in the Big Apple.

Upon returning to Oakland Jerry labored as a payroll clerk for five years.

From 1970-1985 he worked for the Street and Engineering Department of the City of Oakland. He retired in 1985.

Jerry has been ushering since 1960 and recalls many of the great moments of entertainment Les Miserables is his favorite. He has reveled in it five different times. He also fondly recalls Panama Hattie with Betty Hutton and Ethel Merman. The legendary Tallulah Bankhead was one of his favorite personalities. He also looks back on a London production of The Sleeping Prince starring Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh.

Jerry has traveled extensively in Canada, Mexico, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

He spent fifteen wonderful with Louis Moura (1977-1991). Louis is deceased.

Jerry loves classical music, art history, and popular music (excluding rock and roll). His "three B's are Beethoven, Bartok, and Berlioz. In opera he is partial to Verdi.

He enjoys cooking what is called "Jewish-Italian."

Telephone Tree is Vital Link to Seniors

Many lavender seniors are either house bound or tightly sealed in the closet. They can be difficult to reach. One of the primary missions of our organization is outreach, using either house visits or the telephone tree. We like to let people know they are not alone.

Nancy Flaxman, head of the Marin County group, Spectrum, recently held a training session for a dozen hearty volunteers on the art of how to reach people over a long period of time. Nancy estimates there are 64,000 gay seniors in the Bay Area.

Another method of outreach is a panel of speakers who tell their personal stories to audiences of social workers, counselors, and other concerned groups. In September the panel hopes to speak to a gathering of priests.

Interested volunteers c an call Joyce Pearson at 667-9655.

Great Web Sites For Gay and Lesbian Seniors

Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons (GLARDP)-www.gaylesbianretiring.org

Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) www.sageusa.org

Pride Senior Network-www.pridesenior.org

Golden Threads-<http://members.adl.com/goldentreads/index.htm>

JOE RAY MADRID AWARD
in memory of Joe Ray Madrid

Joe Ray Madrid was a driving force behind Behind the Masks; Gay Prom '99. He transformed Centennial Hall into a place of mystery and beauty using his creative and theatrical talents. He and his partner, Bruce MacDonald, also created the SallyAndro Community Picnic in addition to helping with SF Pride and other community events. This award commemorates his artistic, philanthropic work and his involvement in the greater LGBTQ community as well as his commitment to LGBTQ youth.

FIRST PRIZE: \$100.00 VALUE GIFT CERTIFICATE (WINNER'S CHOICE)

HONORABLE MENTION: \$50.00 VALUE GIFT CERTIF. (WINNER'S CHOICE)

WHO SHOULD APPLY? Any 25-14 y.o. (one entry per person)

BY WHEN? All Submissions must be received by August 4, 2000.

AWARD DATE? August or September, 2000 -- more info to follow.

CRITERIA? This award will be granted to a person who has creatively used her/his talents to improve the LGBTQ community. In keeping with the memory of Joe Ray, submissions may include visual/performing arts, creative writing, web design, event organization (Gay Prom, Lobby Day, WOA! Conference, OH My! Conference, etc), volunteer work (Lambda Youth, Pacific Center, Eden Youth Center, SMAAC, The Edge, Girlz Alliance, etc), activism (Lobby Day, GSAs, Speaker's Bureaus, Youth Commissions, etc.), outreach work, peer mediation, and so on. For each entry, please include name & address and a typewritten summary/description including details of your personal involvement, explaining how your art/work/event impacts the LGBTQ community. You may also include photographs, drawings, recordings, etc. (Include your name on each item submitted.) PLEASE NOTE that no materials will be returned to you.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

JOE RAY MADRID AWARD
LAMBDA YOUTH PROJECT
22646 SECOND STREET
HAYWARD CA 94541
510/247-8200
510/247-8202 FAX

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Picnic Cull Canyon – August 12th, Saturday

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 Dessert

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: , August 2nd. 10 - 11:30 am. Call Donna at (510)651-7305.

BERKELEY, ALBANY, EL CERRITO, NORTH OAKLAND Area

3rd Thursday every month: , August 17th. 10 - 11:00 am. Call Doreen at (510)524-6206.

HAYWARD AREA

4th Wednesday every month: , August 23rd 1:30 pm; Senior Center, 22325 N. 3rd St., Hayward. Call John at (510)583-9638
Afternoon High Tea at Lighthouse Community Center, Sunday, August 13th 3 - 4:30 pm. 1217 A Street, Hayward

Happy Birthday

- Natalie Zarchin – 8/4
- Ruth Michaels – 8/22
- Cam Jancek – 8/6
- Peggy Alices – 8/20
- Meg Bruynell – 8/10
- Martha Walker – 8/24
- Gayle Marie – 8/1
- Colleen Trawick – 8/2

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.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT MEETING

August 3rd, 12:00 – 2:30. Lunch will be served. Friendly visitors and telephone volunteers