



LAVENDER NOTES

Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Volume VI, No.1 – January 2001

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

Commitment Rites in February

Lavender Seniors is going forward with plans to celebrate a Commitment Ceremony during February for members of our group. We encourage our members to participate, either as someone who would like to commit, or as a member of the committee to plan and carry out this joyous celebration.

If you are interested in helping to make this a successful event, please contact Nancy Fugett, our administrative assistant, at 510-667-9655.

Erratum

Meg Bruynell

should have been on the list of **Honored Volunteers** that appeared in the December newsletter, page 6. *Meg*, besides being one of our venerable founders, has been one of our most unflagging supporters through all the years of our existence. And she was among our honored guests at the November 5 event at the Montclair Cultural Arts Club.

Our apologies to *Meg* for this unfortunate omission.

Senior Support Group Starts This Month

Feeling lonely or isolated from other gay seniors? Need a little more social stimulation? Then mark your calendar for January 12th, which is a Friday. A senior support group commences at the Lighthouse Community Center at 1:30 – 3:30 P.M. The community center is located at 1217 A Street, in Hayward (510-881-8167). The group is designed for both men and women.

The support group will be facilitated by Lester Marks, a retired medical social worker. Lester is from New York and has done volunteer work at Pacific Center in Berkeley. He plans to have the group meet twice a month.

Lester would like feedback from people over fifty. He would like to know the following:

1. What age group are most of your friends in? 50s? 60s? 70s?
2. Do you know disabled people?
3. Are the seniors you know mobile? Are they isolated? Do they get around?
4. Would it be all right for Lester to speak with seniors you know?

Please leave a message for Lester at Lavender Seniors' office: 667-9655; or, for those up and running in the 'E mode,' Lester's e-mail is:

SLAM7@ix.netcom.com

Senior Outreach Volunteer Meetings

Regular Monthly Meeting for all
Friendly Visitor and Telephone Volunteers

1st Thursday, January 4, 2001, Noon – 2:30 P.M.

Brown Bag Lunch, Beverages Provided

1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

Bi-Monthly Meeting for Friendly Visitor and
Telephone Volunteers

for trained Volunteers who work during the week
Saturday, January 6, 10 A.M. – Noon

For further information, call Joyce Pierson,
Senior Outreach Coordinator, 667-9655

Happy New Millennium! 2001

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

is the newsletter of
Lavender Seniors of the 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, Dotty Fowler, Dorothy Hallinan, Beverly Hickock, Jerry Holmes, Frank Howell, Doris Fischer, Bobbie Jarvis, James Joslin, Barbara Jue, Barbara Konecny, 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

Dotty Fowler, President
Frank Howell, Vice President
John Ellefsen, Secretary
Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Site Coordinator *Joyce Pierson*

Admin. Assistant *Nancy Fugett*

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 \$15 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:

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 (510) 652-6906

Signed articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.

Inclusion of a name in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate a person's sexual orientation. §

SHORT NOTES

by Sidney Pouffe

Mel's girlfriend Maxine fell while out walking the dog. She broke her pelvis and is recuperating at home. Moral of the story, when walking the dog, let the dog lead you . . . don't try leading the dog, no matter what size.

What male member of Lavender Seniors is using *Rug Layers* knee pads these days . . . Is it a new sexual aid or what?

Coupling? Nice to know that we seniors can get—ahem—coupled in our *Golden* years! Present at December's Potluck were:

A. Natalie and Bea — They are planning something in Hawaii for next February.

B. Kelly and Linda — They had matching rings.

C. Donna and Kay -- They are taking part in the Commitment Ceremony in February.

Barbara K. and Barbara J. must be feeling better. They are planning a fund raiser at their home in San Leandro for GLOBE . . . BK's last stint in the hospital must have gone well and that is **Great News!**

Frank Howell, our Vice-President? Frank has a new man in his life. It just goes to show that when you are not looking for love, it will find you — even while you are doing your *exercise walking*, in your own neighborhood! Now it appears that a European Holiday is in their plans for 2001. It couldn't happen to a sweeter man. We'll all be watching with interest.

Doreen and Bev left on December 29th for a trip to La La Land. They will tour the Queen Mary, go to Catalina Island and Pismo Beach.

Board of Directors news is that they are looking for a new location to hold their meetings. They have been meeting in Harry's Hof Brau in San Leandro, but it was heard mentioned that not much can be heard there. Could it be *old ears* or just *too much noise*? If you know of a nice place, that is quiet, and that serves good food, do let them know.

Dotty Fowler is vacationing in *México*, hoping to escape the Bay Area holiday madness. Drink the *Cerveza* and *Tequila* but look out for the water and ice!

Jerry Holmes and Bonnie MacKenzie went to Sacramento to visit a foster daughter.

Ina Mae and Stella are awaiting word that Ina Mae's son, who is in the Navy, has safely left the Persian Gulf on his way home after a six month tour.

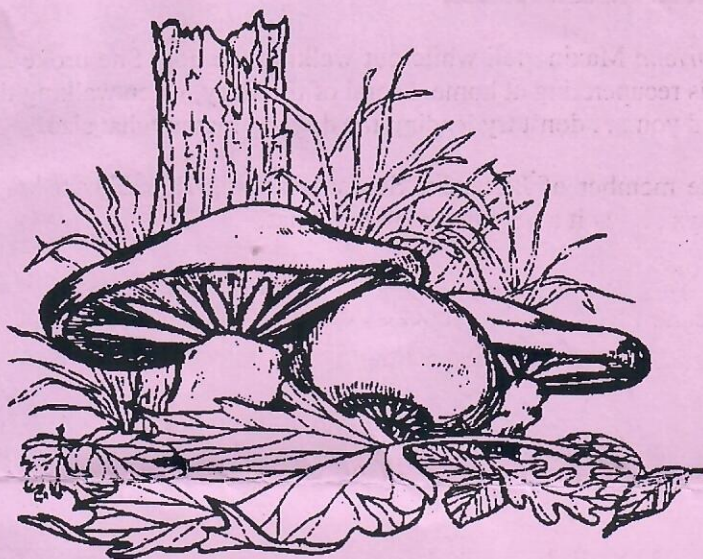
Alack and alas! Looks like the Sunday 'High Tea' event is no more. They say a call was received at the office in support of resuming the event in January. If you have overlooked making that call, it *may* not be too late — but then it would also help to have new co-hosts to give some respite to hard-working volunteers. Well, like Marvin Burrows and Frank Howell! —*Sidney Pouffe*

Subscription Increase:

Effective January 2001 the annual subscription rate will be raised to \$15, owing to increased costs of reproduction and distribution.

This newsletter was created in **Adobe PageMaker 6.01**; a PDF file is available to be viewed in **Adobe Acrobat Reader**.

Send E-mail address to the editor:
 hendriksen@aol.com



Astonishing Concepts

1. Why do men become smarter during sex?
A. *Because they are plugged into a genius.*
2. Why don't women blink during foreplay?
A. *They don't have enough time.*
3. Why does it take 1 million sperm to fertilize one egg?
A. *They don't stop for directions.*
4. Why did god put men on earth?
A. *Because a vibrator can't mow the lawn.*
5. Why don't women have men's brains?
A. *Because they don't have penises to put them in.*
6. What do electric trains and breasts have in common?
A. *They're intended for children but men usually end up playing with them.*
7. Why do men masturbate?
A. *It is sex with someone they love.*
8. Why were men given larger brains than dogs?
A. *So they won't hump women's legs at cocktail parties.*
9. Why did god make men before women?
A. *You need a rough draft before you make a final copy.*
10. Why is a man's pee yellow and his sperm white?
A. *So he can tell if he's coming or going.*
11. How many men does it take to put a toilet seat down?
A. *Nobody knows, since it has never happened.*

Contributed by fungilarry

JANUARY HONOREES

¡Happy Birthday!

Beth Williams

January 1

Carol Beth

Gerald Felton

January 2

Maggie Rochlin

January 4

Paul Silverman

January 5

Roma Rohfish

January 7

Ina Mae Murri

January 15

Margaret Shepherd

Susan Vanderburgh

January 27

Mary Volz

January 31

¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

Speaker at January Potluck

Our January Potluck guest speaker will be Mark Witte, who is a senior health care and retirement advocate. He will be speaking about the new California Health Care Decisions Law, which came into effect on July 1, 2000.

That law consolidated old rules and created new provisions for the legal documents that must be used to convey a person's decisions about his or her health care in the event that he or she becomes incapacitated. Some of us were able to attend the recent Elder Law Forum, presented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which dealt with the same topic. But even for those of us who went there and gained some information about the *Advance Health Care Directive*, as it's called, we discovered it's not easy to deal with these issues.

None of us like to think about the possibility that we might reach the point in our life where we can't take care of our own health needs or make coherent decisions. But for our own peace of mind, and to help our friends and relatives do the right thing, the Directive is exactly what is needed. Mr. Witte's presentation will enable all of us to find out what we can do to make sure that our health care wishes will be carried out.

Our speaker will describe the process, discuss the issues involved, answer questions, and hand out all the necessary forms, so everyone can complete the Directive and start the New Year right!

Newsletter Mailing Party

Monday, Jan. 29, 10:30 A.M.
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro Community Church

Call Dot Hallinan if you would
like to help: 667-9555

THE ROYAL GRAND DUCAL COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA COUNTY,
THEIR ROYAL MAJESTIES

ROYAL GRAND DUKE IX NORMAN LEVESQUE &
ROYAL GRAND DUCHESS IX CSENECA GREENWOOD

PRESENT

A WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

January 7, 2001, 5 – 10 P.M. at the Bench & Bar, 120 11th Street, Oakland. There will be food served, a show, auction, grab bag, and raffle, with the grand raffle prize of a DVD player.

Swing Into Leather?

Remember the "Swing Into Leather" dance and fund raiser that we had last June at the *Bench & Bar* under the auspices of the Alameda County Leather Corps? We raised \$1000 for *Lavender Seniors* that afternoon and had a ball!

Would you like to help plan a another "Swing Into Leather" or a similar event for sometime this spring or summer? If so, please contact John Ellefsen at 583-9638 or leave a message at our office.



"It's a very senior moment — he's dead."

BOOKS

Losing Matt Shepard

By Beth Loffreda

Columbia University Press

Reviewed by *Frank Howell*

The murder of Matthew Shepherd in 1998 galvanized the energy of the gay and lesbian community as no other event could. There had been other hate crimes in recent years but the death of the young college student in Wyoming finally focused the attention of the conscience of America. The wake up call finally seized us by the throat.

Beth Loffreda witnessed the entire tragedy as it unfolded against a background of fear and media distortion. Loffreda is assistant professor of English and adjunct professor of women's studies at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. She has also been a faculty advisor to campus gay rights group. Her own sexual orientation is quite straight.

Loffreda dissects the Laramie community which is a curious mixture of frontier style individual rights and stubborn conservative attitudes. The folks there welcome the tourist dollars but resent any social change that comes with the package. They feel the outside world misunderstands.

Gay groups swarmed into Wyoming to offer support but after it was all over they departed and gays in Laramie felt deserted. But the author has kind words for GLAAD and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

There has always been a low-grade feeling of tension between the community and the students at the University of Wyoming. When a "Safe Zone" support program was established for gay students, a right-wing group called SOFAITH (Society of Families Anchored in Truth and Honor) challenged the effort.

TECTONIC, a New York based organization led by dramatist Moises Kaufman (author of a well received play about Oscar Wilde) descended on Laramie to interview the residents about their views of the murder and trial of defendants Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. The resulting drama was produced in Colorado and New York City.

Despite all the hue and cry, most efforts to pass any meaningful form of hate crimes legislation failed — both in Congress and Wyoming. The "compassionate conservatives" pleaded that "all crimes are hate crimes." The issue gradually faded from public view.

Beth Loffreda has succeeded in clarifying many of the facts of the Shepard case and provides an intimate feel for the Wyoming landscape of rural charm and unresolved social dilemma.

The case of Matthew Shepard will not die. It is destined to be the *cause célèbre* of gay and lesbian history.

Book Review

—*Frank Howell*

East Bay Women's Support Group

Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays each month

January 12 and 26: 1:15 – 3 P.M.

Meets at *Pacific Center*, 2721 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

Calculate This — with Calculus

A man and a woman were walking in a field when they came across a hole in the ground. They leaned over the edge and peered into the blackness. "How deep do you think it is?" asked the woman. "Beats me," said the man. "But let's throw this rock in and count how long it takes until it hits bottom."

They tossed the rock in and counted until they heard a distant splash. "Was that it?" asked the woman. "I don't know," said the man. "We need something bigger." The woman glanced around and spotted an old railroad tie. With great effort, they hauled the tie over and heaved it over the edge.

They had counted to six seconds when a goat raced up and dove into the hole. Momentarily stunned, they continued to count, hearing a big splash after a total of 10 seconds and a smaller splash shortly after.

At that instant, a farmer yelled from the distance, "Hey, have you seen my goat?"

"A goat just ran up and jumped in this hole," the woman yelled back.

"Oh, that couldn't be my goat," he shouted. "My goat is tied to a railroad tie."

How deep is the hole?

Fellows of East Bay

Second Sunday, 5:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Fellows of the East Bay is a Social Club for mature men and their admirers. A monthly potluck dinner and social is held on the second Sunday of every month at Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market Street, Oakland. Bring \$3 door charge and food or drink to share.

Calendar of Activities

Presentation of the Month:

Mark Witte will talk about 'Health Care Wishes'

(See details on page four: 'Potluck Speaker')

Saturday, 12 Noon • Monthly Meeting • Program at 1:00 • January 13

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 day before: 667-9655 to arrange pickup.

Coffee Connections Socials

Tri-cities Area

(Fremont, Newark and Union City)

First Wednesday every month

10:30 – Noon

Call Ina Mae Murri for location:

490-5425

North Oakland Area

(Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito)

3rd Thursday every month

11 – 12:30 P.M.

Call Doreen at (510) 524-6206

Hayward Area

None in January

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.

Viva Las Vegas! Casino Night

The Lighthouse Community Center, serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning community of central and southern Alameda County is having a benefit called "Viva Las Vegas! Casino Night" on Saturday, January 27, 7 – 11 P.M. at the Hayward City Hall Rotunda at 777 B Street, Hayward.

The City Hall is located across from the Hayward BART station and has plenty of parking available under City Hall or on the nearby streets. \$50 is the suggested donation, which will include casino chips to play the games with, one complimentary drink (since alcohol will be served at the event, only those over 21 will be admitted), free appetizers, and entertainment. For more information call the Lighthouse Community Center at (510) 881-8167, or mail checks to P.O. Box 447, Hayward, CA 94543.

New Year's Eve Social

8:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.

Can't cope with going out on New Year's Eve?

If you are planning on staying home, why not join us in welcoming the *Real* Millennium!

Munchies and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Please note: The LCC provides a safe, substance-free alternative for our community to meet and socialize. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the LCC. If you intend to drink, please visit one of our local establishments such as the Rainbow Room or Rumors (or the Turf Club when it re-opens). They all cater to the GLBTQ community in Hayward and are near the LCC. Remember to drink responsibly, as we want to see you again!

Lighthouse Community Center – 1217 A Street, Hayward