Who Knew Henie?

Our man of the month was born in Flint, Michigan in 1936. His mother was a housewife and his father ran a dairy and later expanded into the grocery business.

A major highlight of his life was competing in amateur figure ice-skating for a year and a half. He started out roller skating and gradually flopped into the ice. His favorite memory stands out as his participation in the March of Dimes nationwide tour sponsored by the world famous Sonja Henie.

He met the lover of his life when he was 17. His lover was 15. His dad didn’t approve of his boyfriend — so he moved in with his lover and his mother — mother-in-law, that is.

Our mystery man married a woman and they were together 25 years. His lover was the best man, after the marriage ended the best man became the man of his dreams. Funky how these things turn out.

In 1966 our man and his lover moved to California. He worked as a store manager for Kinny Shoes and the National Shirt Shop. These were hard-driving years when he frequently put in 60-hour weeks. His lover has worked in a glass factory for the past 32 years. He recalls that he and his lover broke up briefly numerous times but that otherwise their union has endured.

Our mystery man was forced into retirement at age 50 because of a kidney disease. He retired a second time at age 62 when he suffered a heart attack and went through a bypass operation. He currently works part time for Meals on Wheels and is active in the Lavender Seniors, the Lighthouse Community Center and GLOBE, a gay political organization.

If you haven’t figured it out by now, we are talking about Marvin Burrows and his partner Bill Swenor. Marvin is one of the hardest working board members of the Lavender Seniors.

Congratulations, Marvin!

—Frank Howell

John Ellefsen is Our New President

New President’s First Report

After serving several years as Secretary, I consider it a great honor to have been elected President of our Advisory Board at our last Board meeting. I pledge to do my best to help Lavender Seniors prosper and grow.

Throughout the year ahead, I invite one and all to give me comments, suggestions, criticisms, whatever you want to say, at any time. My home phone is 510-583-9638; if I’m not there, leave a message and I’ll call you back. I also look forward to working with the Board (which we expect will expand in the near future), and our past President, now Project Director, Dotty Fowler, our great staff, Joyce Pierson and Nancy Fugett, our newsletter editor Bert Hendriksen, and all our volunteers, without whom Lavender Seniors simply wouldn’t exist. I’ll use my column in the Lavender Notes to highlight certain events, plans, and issues. This month I’ll focus on four events that I believe deserve our support.

First up is the Gay Prom sponsored by the Lambda Youth Project, which will be held on Saturday, June 9, at Centennial Hall in Hayward. The prom itself is for LGBTQ youth under 25, but we seniors can do a lot to help make the event a joyful and safe event by showing up in force at Centennial Hall about 6 P.M. as the young people start to arrive. Each year the prom-goers are greeted with a determined band of persons who hope to convince or frighten the youth into believing that being gay is sinful, sick, disgusting, etc. — all the hurtful nonsense that we heard when we were young and, unfortunately, still hear from certain quarters of society.

We can counteract that homophobic preaching simply by being there and cheering on our youth. As happened last year, the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Marching Band will be there to inspire the young people and us and to drown out the hateful words of the—no doubt sincere but fearful and ignorant—people who think it is their duty to tell others how to live their lives.

Another annual event I hope many of us can join in is Gay Pride Sunday in San Francisco. Once again, there will be a motorized cable car to carry those of us who cannot or don’t want to walk the entire parade route from Embarcadero to Civic Center, and at the Festival at the end of the parade

*President’s Report* continued on page 4
**A View From My Wheelchair**

As most of you know, I have been incapacitated over the past few weeks as a result of breaking my left ankle while gardening. It seems the most important lesson I am learning is how it feels to be on the other end of needing help — by having to ask for assistance in daily living — plus keeping in touch with Lavender Senior staff and volunteers who are doing the daily/weekly business of our Senior Outreach Services.

In my younger years such an accident (a broken right ankle in 1967) did not seem so formidable. Now at 67, there is foreboding of life’s unexpected setbacks that make one feel more vulnerable in growing old! I think about how each one of the Senior Participants who are being visited by our Friendly Visitors and what it means to have a person available on a regular basis. Among other things it means a person who will come to your place, bringing energy and friendliness, another view of the world, a person whose sexual orientation embraces difference; it means a person who brings human nurturance.

Without naming names, I think about the nature of the confinements that our Senior Participants cope with, i.e., a 79-year-old who is recuperating in a rehabilitation center, learning how to walk again, counting on a volunteer to get to the monthly potluck; an 85-year-old who is in recovery from several strokes who can still drive but needs help occasionally and loves being visited; a resident, age 73, in an assisted living center who enjoys having gay/lesbian visitors; another 85-year-old who has been receiving hospice care in his home and is visited weekly by our volunteer.

As the Outreach Coordinator, I continue to be amazed at the courage and strength each Senior Participant brings to his/her life situation. Lavender Seniors have a wonderful group of volunteers doing this very important work. I have personally benefited this past month with help from Bea, Natalie, Dotty, Dot, Jim, John, Dotty and Nancy. My thanks to all.—**Joyce Pierson**

Each month I renew my plea and invitation for some of you to become involved in the Outreach Services. There is a need for more volunteers in the coming months as Lavender Seniors will be receiving funding through the Commission On Aging to serve up to 40 Seniors throughout Alameda County from July, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

We need your help in being Friendly Visitors and/or Telephone Volunteers. Please call the office (510-667-9655) to leave your name and number. I have been doing phone calls and E-mail from home and expect to be back in the office by mid-June. I’m happy to call from home, so don’t hesitate to leave a voice mail message for me.—**Joyce Pierson**

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**Senior Outreach Volunteer Support Meeting**

For all Friendly Visitor and Phone Volunteers
Thursday, June 7, Noon — 2 P.M.
Bring a Bag Lunch
Drinks and Dessert provided
1395 Bancroft Avenue

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**Saturday Support Meeting**

For all Friendly Visitor and Telephone Volunteers who cannot attend a weekday meeting.
Saturday, June 2, 10 A.M. — Noon
Upstairs Office
1395 Bancroft Avenue

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This newsletter is available in Adobe Acrobat Reader via E-mail; send E-mail address to the editor: hendriksen@aol.com

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**Why is it that to stop Windows 95, you have to click on “Start”?**
Book Review

The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities

Reviewed by Frank Howell

The Greatest Taboo: Homosexuality in Black Communities

Despite all the advances in race relations since the days of Martin Luther King, Jr. there are nagging issues yet to be uncovered. Homophobia in the black community is one of these unresolved boils that defy lancing. Mr. Constantine-Sims, brings a broad background in cross-cultural research in both Europe and the United States. He is currently working at the University of Essex in England. He has gathered together a stimulating collections of challenging essays.

Earl Hutchinson probes, “My Gay Problem, Your Black Problem,” where he relates instances of black prejudice against gays. One night in a movie theater a scene flashed on screen of two black men kissing that sent the black males into an orgy of screaming and near hysteria.

Homosexuality is viewed as a product of the white community. Black queers are viewed as denying their African heritage. Gregory Conerly explores this delicate issue in “Are you black first or are you queer?” These “deviant” men are said to be full of self hate and deny their basic selfhood.

E. Patrick Johnson provides a new perspective in “Feeling The Spirit In The Dark: Expanding Notions Of The Sacred In The African American gay community.” The black church lies at the heart of Negro homophobia. “Normal sin” is rationalized but gayness is condemned without reservation. A new development known as the gay Negro night club combines spirituality and entertainment as an antidote to such hatred.

The emergence of black drag is duly noted in “How RuPaul Works: Signifying and contextualizing the Mythic black (Drag Queen) mother,” by Seth Clark Silberman. RuPaul cuts to the heart of sex roles when he remarks, “You know, in America a black man can’t get a hand until he puts on a pair of high heels and a wig.” He also observes, “I’m accessible as a black woman. Society doesn’t know what to do with a black man.”

Here the reader will find other equally challenging writing on the black artistic renaissance in Harlem of the 1920s, hip-hop music, the bisexuality of Bessie Smith, the male drag of Gladys Bentley, historical views of the slave trade narratives, the novels of E. Lynn Harris.

The final section of the anthology deals with AIDS and the black community. Homophobia lies at the heart of black denial of this deadly disease. Recently two black civil rights organizations refused to place AIDS on the agenda of their meetings. Black churches will not discuss it.

Cheryl Cole analyzes the problem in “Containing AIDS: Magic Johnson and Post-Reagan America.” Magic Johnson emerged as a safe poster boy for the fight against the scourge. He was viewed as wholesome and family orientated. Other AIDS victims were seen as a threat to the family.

The Greatest Taboo will not leave you untouched. This concentration of intelligent observation is bound to stir up much discussion and hopefully add light instead of wasted heat.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is holding its 24th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, June 30 at the Moscone Center in SF. Volunteers are needed to assist with their Liberty Weekend events, including the Dinner/Dance. By donating four hours, a person can have a $20/ticket for the Dinner/Dance event. NCLR provides free legal assistance to LGBT persons of all ages, including the Elder Legal Project. Call: NCLR at (415) 392-6257.

Lavender Seniors
Board Members Sought

Do you need a new challenge in your life? Do you seek a renewed sense of adventure? Have you thought about a place on the board of directors for the Lavender Seniors? You’ll find they are a jolly bunch of folks who like to take on new challenges.

We need to reach out to isolated gay and lesbian seniors who lack a sense of belonging. We have a panel of speakers who go into the community at large to tell our unique stories. If you share this sense of ‘daring, call Frank Howell at 489-0932 (fhowell@acbell.net) or John Ellefsen at 583-9638.

The Ex-Gay Movement

What is it like to undergo the experience of attempting to change your sexual orientation? Does it work? Do people return to their former way of life? Find out by attending the next potluck of the Lavender Seniors on June 9th at the San Leandro Community Church.

Five men will relate their experiences with the “Love in Action” group in Marin County. Jack Panteleo and his friends are associated with the Evangelicals Concerned movement which attempts to combat the influence of the Christian fundamentalists. This promises to be a most provocative event!
President’s Report
(concluded from page one)

there will be a special area for seniors to rest in and relax. Last year, with the help of others, I carried our proud Lavender Seniors banner and, as in earlier years, was cheered on immensely by the parade watchers, who seem to really appreciate our past and our presence. If you wish to join me, call me or the office.

A special event in August will occur on Thursday August 30 in conjunction with the ILGA Gay Global Summit described in the April Newsletter and by our April potluck speaker, Pete King of East Bay Pride. On Thursday, August 30 there will be an all-day community conference at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Oakland, near the City Center Bart station. The conference will be devoted to issues related to LGBT elders. Details of the workshop topics, speakers, and panels will be announced later. This is a rare opportunity to meet and talk with seniors from other parts of the Bay Area, the nation, and other countries. The cost will be minimal and will include a catered lunch and free admission to four days of the East Bay Pride festivities in Preservation Park, which is next door to the Unitarian Church. The day will conclude with a free performance by Gwen Avery at City Center. So again, circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend. For further information call me at 510-583-9638 or Marion Abdullah at 510-223-9034.

By the way, check out the May 17 issue of Bay Times. There’s an interesting article by Dennis McMillan titled “Gay and Gray is OK,” a report on a series of workshops put on by the STOP AIDS Project for men over 45. The article includes a picture of Armistead Maupin with Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. And speaking of pictures, near the back of the issue is a picture of four of our own, Bea, Natalie, Dotty, and Joan, to advertise a Purple Moon Dance Project performance. Kudos to Bay Times for paying increasing attention to the issues of aging and ageism.—John Ellefsen.

Community Fundraising and Social Events in June

The Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County is holding three events:

1. Saturday, June 2, from 3 to 8 P.M., at the Rainbow Room, 21859 Mission Blvd., Hayward. An Ice Cream Social and BBQ. $5 for All You Can Eat!

2. Also at the Rainbow Room: Sunday, June 3, 3 to 8 P.M. An International Dinner and Entertainment. $7. Bring your favorite homemade dish if you would like to add to the variety of selections. This is also candidate announcement night. The Ducal Council is currently seeking candidates for their Board of Directors and for the new Duke and Duchess, who will begin their reign after the current Royal Grand Duke IX Norman Levesque and Royal Grand Duchess Csencsa Greenwood step down at the Grand Ducal Ball on Saturday July 7, 2001 at Centennial Hall in Hayward. For more information call 510-351-7985.

3. Sunday, June 17, 3 to 8 P.M. Picnic with the Royals! $5 This is a joint function with the San Francisco Ducal Council at Marlena’s, 488 Hayes St., between Gough and Laguna in San Francisco.

NOTED
by Sidney Prouse

Jerry Holmes and her partner Bonnie MacKenzie were recently burned out of their home and were forced to live in a motel in Alameda. But the damage to their place has now been repaired and they are once again back in their home sweet home.

THEATRE

‘The Laramie Project’

The murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard is the focus of this documentary theatre piece by Moisés Kaufman. Runs through July 8 at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Happy Birthdays!

Jane Buerger
June 2

Kathy McCarter
June 3

Charles Weber
June 6

Ruth Adams
Dolores Huff
June 12

James Silva
June 13

Douglas Odermatt
June 15

Don Sullivan
June 20

2015 Addison Street, Berkeley
510-647-2949
www.berkeleyrep.org
Lavender Seniors Will Appear On TV!

On Sunday, June 10, from approximately 1:30 – 6 P.M., a bunch of us Lavender Seniors will be assisting KQED in its annual Gay Pride month pledge drive. We will be taking calls in the KQED studio in San Francisco from viewers who wish to begin or renew their Channel 9 subscriptions. We’ll all be wearing our Lavender Seniors T-shirts, sitting behind podiums that identify us as Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, and from time to time our phone number and other pertinent information will be flashed on the screen for interested viewers to take note of.

At least ten of us have already signed up to be there, and the more the merrier—or rather, gayer, so if you’d like to join us, call the office at 510-667-9655 and leave your name and phone number. As is usual for KQED pledge drive volunteers, food from various restaurants will be provided to help keep up our strength and spirits.

If you can’t be there, watch us and during the show call in your subscription to KQED. Among other programs of value to our community, KQED broadcasts *In the Life,* which is an informative, well-produced monthly TV magazine series on a wide variety of LGBT issues and events.

New Leaf Outreach to Elders
Serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community

Invites your participation in Pride Parade

Are you 60+ and want to be part of the LGBT Pride Parade on Sunday, June 24? Join New Leaf Outreach to Elders and ride with us in comfort on a San Francisco cable car. Seats are limited so call today, (415) 255-2937 to make your reservations.

First Time Ever. A senior only space at the Civic Center for LGBT Pride weekend, Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24. The space will provide chairs, tables, umbrellas, beverages, bathroom facilities and a safe, comfortable place to meet with friends and watch the festivities on the main stage. Look for the New Leaf Outreach to Elders sign at Civic Center Plaza (Polk & Grove) at the northwest grass quad, near the Flagpole and join us. For details call Valerie @ (415) 255-2937 ext. 308.

Tips for Energy Savings

Our presenter on May 12 discussed a variety of ways to reduce energy consumption at home and at work; some are given here as a reminder and for those who were unable to attend.

A more complete list may be found online: [www.energystar.gov/energysavingtips.shtml](http://www.energystar.gov/energysavingtips.shtml) — along with links for detailed information on particular subjects.

§ § § §

Change a light and save a bundle. ENERGY STAR (ES) qualified lights are 75% more efficient than incandescent bulbs and are equivalent to 10 incandescent bulbs. Replacing just five of the most often used light bulbs in your home will save you time buying and replacing bulbs and money ($25 or more per bulb over its lifetime).

Change the air filters in your home’s cooling and heating system. This simple change will produce real results for your annual energy bill and overall health.

Consider replacing your central air conditioning. If your central air conditioning system is more than seven years old, you may want to consider a replacement. ENERGY STAR qualified central air conditioners save you up to 20% on cooling costs. When your air conditioning is running, it represents as much or more than 40% of your power bill.

Enable power management on your office equipment at home and at work. ENERGY STAR labeled computers, monitors, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, and multifunctional devices have features that enable the equipment to power down (or “sleep”) when not active. In addition, office equipment that powers down when not in use gives less heat, which can contribute to reduced need for cooling.

Set your water heater temperature at the “normal” setting (no higher than 120 degrees F). This can save up to 11% of your water heating costs. Second, make a quick trip to the hardware store or home improvement center for a hot water insulation kit to wrap your water heater and save on water heating costs.

Tighten up your home, save on cooling costs, and be more comfortable. Simply adding new weather stripping and caulking around your windows and doors can help reduce your energy bill up to 20 percent. Even better, if you’re in the market for new windows, look for the ES label. ENERGY STAR labeled windows keep your house cooler and more energy-efficient.

Run your clothes washer, dryer and dishwasher only on a full load. Use the energy saver feature on your dishwasher. Many ES qualified dishwashers include this energy saver feature. If you’re in the market for a new dishwasher or clothes washer look for the ENERGY STAR label. Most ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers remove more moisture than conventional models so your dryer uses less energy.

Consider replacing your 10-year-old refrigerator. Refrigerators use more energy than any other appliance in your home. If your refrigerator is 10 years old or older, it may be time for a replacement; ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators use less than half the energy of a 10-year-old conventional model.
Calendar of Activities

Presentation of the Month: Inside The Ex-Gay Movement
With Jack Panteleo and his associates. (See page 3 for some details.)

Saturday, 12 Noon • Monthly Potluck Get-Together • Program at 1 P.M. • June 9
San Leandro Community Church

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 day before: 667-9655 to arrange pickup.

Bisexual Men’s Support Group
First Friday each month 4 – 5 P.M.
This new bisexual men’s support group is offered at the Lighthouse. Fred Banuelos offers leadership in dynamic peer support group.
The Lighthouse Community Center is located at 1217 A Street (near the corner of 2nd St., next to A St. Cafe in Hayward).
For more info, call (510) 881-8167 or e-mail LatinoFred@aol.com

T-shirts with Logo
We have Lavender Seniors T-shirts for sale at the office. Our attractive logo is imprinted on a lavender triangle on a white T-shirt. Cost is only $15 and they come in all sizes. Time to suit up for Gay Month!
The T-shirts are available at our potlucks, or if you need to make special arrangements to get one, call the office at 510-667-9655. Dare To Wear, we suggest, because it’s a good way to start a conversation about our organization and services.

Senior Men’s Afternoon
1:30 – 3:30 P.M.
2nd and 4th Thursdays
June 14 and 28
2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley
Co-sponsored by Pacific Center and Lavender Seniors

Fellows of East Bay
Second Sunday, 5:30 – 8:30 P.M.
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.

Old Dyke’s Tea Dance
Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender
Women of all ages Welcome
This is a Free Event
Music by LORIZ
June 3rd, 2001
3 – 5:30 P.M.
890 Beach Street, San Francisco
Polk Street Maritime Museum, Bay view Room
Sponsored by New Leaf Outreach to Elders
Call Vallerie @ 415-255-29378, ext. 308 for further details

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East Bay Women’s Support Group
Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays each month
June 8: 1:15 – 3 P.M.
Picnic at Live Oak Park, Berkeley
June 22: 1:15 – 3 P.M.
Meets at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

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 Koncchny or Barbara Jue, 508 Broadmore, San Leandro, (510) 633-0398.