Lavender Profile

He was born in 1933 in Oak Park, Illinois, also the birthplace of Ernest Hemingway and site of a number of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed residences. Born into a strongly fundamentalist family, he was the youngest child with two older sisters. His father owned his own tax and title office business, his mother was a housewife.

At 7 he fell out of a tree, broke his arm which was permanently damaged. In 1949 the family moved to Denver where he attended high school. The day after graduation he told his parents he no longer believed in God. Affected by the painful scene that followed, he told his parents the following morning that he would try to believe in God – but everyone knew it was essentially over between him and God.

To save money for college he found work on a newspaper where he was able to smoke and escape to the movies, all forbidden by his parents. Soon the whole family moved to Santa Barbara where his father relocated for a job and the young man started college at University of California, Berkeley. He lived in a co-op with several gay men who assumed he was gay too, which surprised him. Not long afterwards, on a bus crowded with young military men, he realized that indeed he was attracted to other men – but it was the 50s and he was not prepared to act on any such feelings.

‘Lavender Profile’ continued on page 4

SHEVY HEALEY, LGAIN MEMBER AND OLOC FOUNDER, DIES AT AGE 79

Shevy Healey, longtime member of the LGAIN Leadership Council, died on December 8, 2001, in Mesa, Arizona, following a heart attack. She was 79 years old. Shevy was born in Russia on Jan. 29, 1922; as an infant, she came to the United States with her mother. Shevy married and raised a child before coming out as a lesbian at the age of 50. When her daughter started college, Shevy returned to school. Her training led to a career as a clinical psychologist.

Absorbing lessons during the Depression from her mother, a communist, Shevy became an activist early on. In a talk at the 1998 ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco (subsequently published in the spring 1998 issue of OUTWORD), Shevy recounted her own history of activism: She recalled witnessing police brutality against a picket line of striking workers at the age of five and conquering her fears so she could openly support the Communist Party during the McCarthy-era witch hunts of the 1950s.

Shevy became a leader of the old-lesbian movement in the late 1980s. She helped organize the First West Coast Conference of Old Lesbians in 1987. At the Second West Coast Conference in 1989, she was one of the cofounders of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC), a national organization with which she remained active until her death.

‘Shevy Healey’ continued on page 3

LGAIN = Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network
OLOC = Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

Celebration of the Life of Shevy Healey

Everyone is invited to this event, sponsored by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC). It will be held on

Saturday, March 9, 3:30 to 5 P.M.

at Francis of Assisi Community Room
145 Guerrero (near 14th Street)
San Francisco

Lite refreshments will be served.
From Our New Site Coordinator

Greetings Lavender Seniors Community & Friends,

It is my extreme pleasure to join the staff of Lavender Seniors. I come to the position of Site Coordinator with great expectancy. I have spent the last 10 plus years in the Social & Human Services industry, and this is the first time in my career that I have the opportunity to serve the LGBT community directly.

I strongly believe in the work that the Lavender Seniors has set out to accomplish, and I hope to be a positive influence toward the goal of providing support and visibility to the LGBT Senior community in Alameda County.

Currently I reside in the City of San Leandro, with my partner and our daughter, for the past six years. In the coming months I look forward to being able to meet and serve you. I offer my deep appreciation for the work of those that have gone before me to open the way.

Peace & Blessings
Erin Stern, Site Coordinator

New Drug Assistance

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. is offering its own prescription drugs to uninsured low-income Medicare beneficiaries for a flat fee of $15 for each 30-day supply.

Any beneficiary who has no other drug insurance and whose gross income is less than $18,000 a year ($24,000 for a couple) is eligible for the card.

Pfizer says the card can be used for all the prescription drugs it makes, including some most commonly prescribed for Medicare patients: Lipitor (cholesterol), Norvasc (high blood pressure), Neurontin (epilepsy) and Zoloft (depression). The card also covers two drugs that Pfizer co-promotes but does not make: Zyrtac (antihistamine) and Aricept (Alzheimer’s disease).

The flat fee of $15 per prescription is a departure in drug company assistance programs, which generally give limited free supplies to the neediest people. Two companies, Novartis and GlaxoSmith-Kline, recently began discount card programs.

Beneficiaries may enroll in the Pfizer program from Feb. 1. The cards can be used at participating pharmacies from March 1. For application forms and more information, call (800) 717-6005 or go to www.pfizerforliving.com.

Source: AARP newsletter, February 2002

Subscription Renewals
When renewing your subscription, please make the check payable to The Tides Center/Lavender Seniors
Crimes of Hate, Conspiracy of Silence:
Torture and In-Treatment Based on Sexual Identity

Amnesty International
322 8th Avenue
New York, New York 10001 – $10.95

Reviewed by Frank Howell

As gays, lesbian and transgender citizens we sometimes fail to realize how fortunate we really are compared to our counterparts in foreign lands.

Horror stories abound and are almost too numerous to catalog: In Malaysia gays can be whipped and sent to prison for up to twenty years; in other Islamic countries lovers of the same sex can be separated from their heads.

After frustrating years of relentless pressure, the gay community finally persuaded Amnesty International to address the cause of civil rights in the area of sexual orientation. We are now viewed as legitimate human beings.

The basic civil rights we all take for granted in this country simply do not exist in third world countries. The Council of Europe has taken the lead by warning other countries on the continent to decriminalize homosexuality or risk being denied membership in the Council.

In repressive countries such as Egypt, the government will use gays or lesbians as scapegoats to distract attention from their own failures in dealing with social problems within the country. They can also use homosexuality as a tool to defeat the political opposition. If the victims try to protest, the situation grows worse; punishment and harassment is increased.

Often mental hospitals are resorted to instead of prison where protestors are subjected to chemical castration or aversion therapy.

Amnesty International points out that political refugees can seek help from the United Nations Convention of 1951 which states that victims of oppression can stay in the host country if they can prove that returning to the country of origin will endanger their lives.

In the year 2000, for the first time, a U. S. federal court granted asylum for sexual orientation. This year another first will be achieved when an international conference will be held in Sydney, Australia to explore the question of human rights for gays and lesbians.

But some medieval countries such as Zambia are defying efforts at reform. The battle is just beginning.

Amnesty recommends the following measures:
1. Repeal all sodomy laws
2. All prisoners need basic physical and psychological protection
3. Women should be held separately from men
4. Prohibit all “treatments” for homosexuality
5. Prohibit immunity of public officials from prosecution for harassment
6. Torture of any kind should be prohibited
7. All mental health organizations need to stop classifying homosexuality as a mental illness (China has recently done this)

Amnesty International now joins the battle for sexual human rights. Let us all join the global struggle.

Shevy Healey
(from page 1)

Shevy’s work with OLOC focused on ensuring that old lesbians are represented in all the institutions that have power over their lives and on combating ageism in the LGBT community and in society as a whole. She never wavered in these tasks – and did not shy from calling even her allies (including LGAIN and ASA) on ageist attitudes and practices.

Shevy is survived by her life partner, Ruth Silver of Apache Junction, Arizona, and by her daughter and grandson. In addition, LGAIN is planning a commemorative issue of OUTWORD with reminiscences of Shevy and articles reflecting her concerns as an old lesbian organizer. If you are interested in contributing, contact LGAIN staff liaison Gerard Koskovitch at lgain@asaging.org.

(This was printed in OUTWARD on-line – the newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network of ASA)

Recognition

Dear Lavender Seniors:

I am pleased to enclose [my] check for the important work that you do in the Lesbian and Gay community. We never know who will need these services so we must all support them. I know it seems overwhelming at times to run a volunteer social services agency but your work really does matter as well as serve and inspire.

—Emily Rosenberg

Our gratitude to Emily Rosenberg and also for support from

Bill Baillie / Don Silva
and
Jess McVey
Achieving 103%

We have all been to those meetings where someone wants more than 100%. Well here's how you do that. Here's how you can achieve 103%! First of all, here's a little math that might prove helpful in the future.

How does one achieve 100% in LIFE? Begin by noting the following:

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<td>M = 13</td>
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Then:

\[
\text{HARD WORK} = 8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = \text{Only 98%}
\]

Similarly,

\[
\text{KNOWLEDGE} = 11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = \text{Only 96%}
\]

But interesting (and as you might expect),

\[
\text{ATTITUDE} = 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\% ...
\]

This is how you achieve 100% in LIFE.

But even more important to note (or realize), is that

\[
\text{BULLSHIT} = 2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103\%
\]

So now you know what all those high-priced consultants, upper management, and motivational speakers really mean when they want to exceed 100%!

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Lavender Profile
(from page one)

He moved to San Francisco instead, met a woman, Diana, who had been Miss Baltimore and married her. It lasted a year after which he toyed with the idea of trying gay life but in 1961 at age 24 he married Jane, a woman he had met five years earlier. They were married for about 12 years, parented three children - a girl and two boys. He found a job doing social work in Los Angeles. It was the 60s and he became involved in left-wing politics, the anti-war movement, and the Black community. They eventually moved back to the Bay Area and Jane, taking the initiative, decided to end their marriage.

Some time later he began a warm relationship with Jean, a woman 17 years younger, with two children. After a long marriage her physical illnesses, with heart and lungs, increased and she died. He decided it was time to come out and explore gay feelings. He met and fell in love with several men and finally settled down with his partner, Mac, in Hayward where they live in a communal house with three other men.

He told me that when he came out he wanted everyone he cared about to know and noted with pleasure that all of his children and stepchildren were supportive; only his sisters and one fellow social worker have found it hard to accept.

By now you have caught on that this is John Ellefson, Lavender Seniors' board chair and development director. John has worked with much care and diligence on the project. "I became interested in the group when I became aware of my own aging," said John, "and I want to give back to the community that gave me so much."

---Dotty Fowler

Editor's Note: For much more information and insight than this mini-bio provides, you may visit the Website maintained by the profiled member's son Sean: www.penetralia.org

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¡Happy Birthday!

Charles Betcher
Kelly Van Meter
March 4

Brendalynn Goodall
March 6

Rita Kresha
March 7

Laurence Stickney
March 9

Jerry Holmes
March 11

Bob Davis
March 16

Arlene De La Mora
March 20

Roberta (Bert) Hutchison
March 26

Doreen Brand
Robert Carr
Rob McCallum
March 27

Ken Bradley
March 28

James H. Thomas
March 29

¡Feliz Cumpleaños!
Presentations of the Month:
The first half of our potluck program will feature Anna Swardenki of the Emergency Preparedness Coalition. She will give us the latest information on how we as seniors can prepare ourselves for emergencies, whether natural disasters or terrorist attacks.

The second half of the program will be a surprise social activity designed to give us an opportunity to help us get better acquainted and increase our enjoyment of our time together. You may rest assured that any rumors you have heard about a possible orgy is a gross exaggeration! But prepare to have some fun!

Saturday, 12 Noon • Monthly Potluck Meeting • Program at 1 P.M. • March 9

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.

Senior Dental Program
Senior-Dent is a special program for eligible seniors sponsored by the California Dental Association. To qualify one must be 60 or over, have an annual income of $20,000 or less, and not have dental benefits from Denti-Cal (Medi-Cal) or another dental insurance plan. Participating dentists offer discounts from their usual fees for examinations, cleaning and all other dental procedures. Financial arrangements and fee reductions are handled privately between the patient and dentist. To find a participating dentist, call one of the following numbers:

Dental Information Bureaus:
Alameda County Dental Society 510-547-7188
Berkeley Dental Society 510-865-6334
Southern Alameda County Dental Soc. 510-782-5442
Alameda County Dental Program 510-628-7810
Denti-Cal Information 800-952-5253

MAKE IT LEGAL!
DO YOU WANT TO BE DOMESTIC PARTNERS?

Sign the papers for domestic partnerships. Get legal advice – Free Notary Public available. Hear Frederick Hertz, author of Legal Affairs, noted expert on gay legal issues. Speakers will be featured on questions relating to health care directives, wills, and estate planning.

This event will be held at the Lighthouse Community Center, 1217 A Street, Hayward, on Saturday, March 16: 1 – 5 P.M. Speakers will be featured at 2 P.M. For further information call 510-881-8167.

The Lighthouse Community Center is located next to the A Street Cafe, across the street from the Bank of America.

Our Mailing List: Lavender Seniors does not lend, sell or give away its mailing list to any outside organization.

Your support is crucial to enable the Lavender Seniors to continue its role as a vital resource to our community. Please take a moment and send your donation today.

Here's my gift of:  $10  $25  $50  $75  $100  other __________

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _____________________________________________
State _____ Zip Code _____________________________
Home Telephone _________________________________
E-mail address _________________________________

Please make checks payable to:  The Tides Center/Lavender Seniors
and mail to:  Lavender Seniors
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

Thank you for your generosity!

☐ Please contact me about including Lavender Seniors in my will.  ☐ Please contact me to volunteer.
Calendar of Activities

**East Bay Women's Support Group**
Meet 2nd and 4th Fridays each month
March 8 and 22: 1:15 – 3 P.M.
Meets at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

**Fellows of the 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 food and drink to share and a $4 donation.

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

**Pat Bond Memorial Old Dyke Awards**
Honoring Extraordinary Old Dykes
Marion Abdullah
LGBT Elder Issues Activist

Dotty Fowler
Lavender Seniors Founder

Barbara Konecny
WOFF Founder

Alice Molloy & Carol Wilson
Mama Bear's Bookstore Founders

**Women Over Fifty and Friends**
WOFF
Meet Saturday, March 2
Pot Luck is one hour earlier, starting @ 5 P.M.
San Leandro Community Church
Fireside Room
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro
Hosting:
Cam & Cheryl (530) 432-4860
Iris (510) 841-4776

**Free Legal Help for Caregivers**
Did you know that the Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) offers referrals to lawyers who specialize in issues often faced by caregivers, such as long-term care and conservatorship? Not only that, but the FCA may cover the cost of the initial one-and-half hour legal consultation if you use an attorney referred by them. For more information, call the Family Caregiver Alliance at 415-434-3388.

**‘Lucky in Leather’**
The Alameda County Leather Corps with Dan Herrera promoter, offer an evening of Good Times, Fun, Prizes, Drawings, and Live Entertainment at the World Famous Turf Club, 22519 Main Street, Hayward, on Sunday March 17, from 6 to 9 P.M. This event will benefit the Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward.

**To Celebrate 65**
A party to celebrate Norman Levesque's official ascent into elderhood, his 65th birthday! To be held at the Rainbow Room, 21859 Mission Blvd., Hayward, on Sunday, March 10 from 4 to 8 P.M. Food and entertainment galore! The Grand Duke IX requests, instead of gifts, donations to the charity account of the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, Inc.