



# LAVENDER NOTES

**Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay**

**Volume VII, No.3 – March 2002**

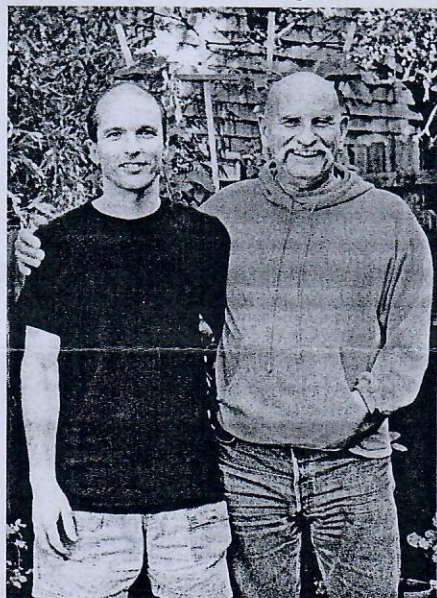
*A Volunteer Services Program — project of The Tides Center*  
 • 1395 Bancroft Ave. • San Leandro, CA 94577 • (510) 667-9655 •

## 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, Ber-



Sean (a son) and our 'profilee,' left and right, outside Sean's home in the Northwest during a recent visit.

keley. 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 14<sup>th</sup> Street)

San Francisco

Lite refreshments will be served.

Lavender Seniors provides a Volunteer Services Program to isolated gay and lesbian seniors. It also presents LGBT educational panels to care providers who offer services to all seniors. Lavender Seniors is a member of the Lesbian and Gay Senior Services Collaborative along with New Leaf Outreach to Elders in San Francisco, Senior Spectrum in Marin. Lavender Seniors is funded in part by Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, the East Bay Community Foundation, Gateway Initiative of the SF Foundation, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Horizons Foundation, The Jay Cohen Philanthropic Fund, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, and "100 Lesbians and Our Friends." We gratefully acknowledge this support and that from all other donors.



## LAVENDER NOTES

is the newsletter of  
*Lavender Seniors of the East Bay*  
 1395 Bancroft Avenue  
 San Leandro, CA 94577  
 510-667-9655  
 fax 510-667-9909

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.

### Advisory Board

*John Ellefsen*, President  
*Frank Howell*, Vice President  
*Ina Mae Murri*, Secretary  
*Bobbie Jarvis*, Treasurer  
*Meg Bruynell*, *Marvin Burrows*,  
*Jeanine DeBacker*, *Eugene*  
*Marangoni*,  
*Natalie Zarchin*

**Project Director** *Dotty Fowler*

**Site Coordinator** *Enid Stern*

**Admin. Assistant** *Nancy Fugett*

**Editor** *Bert Hendriksen*

### 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

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.

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. §

## 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

*Enid 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: Zyrtec (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](http://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**

This newsletter is available in **Adobe Acrobat Reader** via E-mail; request: [hendriksen@aol.com](mailto:hendriksen@aol.com)  
 510-652-6906



# BOOK REVIEW

## Crimes of Hate, Conspiracy of Silence: Torture and Ill-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. Lets 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 Koskovich at [lgain@asaging.org](mailto: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:

IF:	and IF:
A = 1	N = 14
B = 2	O = 15
C = 3	P = 16
D = 4	Q = 17
E = 5	R = 18
F = 6	S = 19
G = 7	T = 20
H = 8	U = 21
I = 9	V = 22
J = 10	W = 23
K = 11	X = 24
L = 12	Y = 25
M = 13	Z = 26

Then:

$$\text{HARDWORK} = 8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = \text{Only 98\%}$$

Similarly,

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

But interesting (and as you might expect),

$$\text{ATTITUDE} = 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\% \dots$$

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%!

## 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 Ellefsen, 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](http://www.penetralia.org)*

## ¡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 Swardenski 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

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Sunday, March 3**

**3:30 - 7:00 P.M.**

St. John's Presbyterian Church  
2727 College Avenue, Berkeley

MC: Karen Ripley, Comic

Entertainment: Gwen Avery

**Reservations:**

**415-626-7000 ext. 828**

**Donation \$5 - \$25**

**No one turned away**

## Women Over Fifty and Friends WOFF

**Meets 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 longterm 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.