



LAVENDER NOTES

Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Volume VII, No.7 – July 2002

A Volunteer Services Program — project of The Tides Center

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

Outreach Update

Hi everybody!

Again, I am so thrilled to be working with Lavender Seniors. The past month has been busy. At this point, I have met many of you – and I'm anxiously awaiting meeting new volunteers and participants in an effort to get my feet "drenched."

The good news: the Oakland Tribune will be featuring Lavender Seniors in July (exact date to be announced), so I'm hoping that with that publicity, we will be able to grow even more! The potlucks and volunteer meetings have been so much fun, informative and a good chance for me to connect with you.

We're setting up an e-mail group list, and that way each volunteer will know what's going on and can contact me more easily. I'm working on getting more participants, and as of July, I will be working more hours so that the outreach component can expand. This is thanks to our new grant from The California Endowment! Hope you all had a wonderful Pride month, and I hope to see you SOON!

Take care and be well.

–Suzi Kalmus, Site Coordinator

July 20

Monthly Volunteer Meeting

3rd Saturday, 9:30 – 11:30 A.M.

San Leandro Community Church
Come to meet other volunteers,
the co-ordinator and to share
your friendly-visiting and
panel-presentation news.

Book Review

Love Stories: Sex Between Men Before Homosexuality

By Jonathan Ned Katz

University of Chicago Press – \$35.00

Reviewed by *Frank Howell*

People have a tendency to view the past through the lens of the present. We assume that people of 19th century America regarded human sexuality just as we do today. But they didn't. Many erotic feelings were simply not identified. Humans committed acts, they did not have particular types of personalities. That idea came with Freud and the psychologists.

Ned Katz, noted gay historian and author of the memorable *Gay American History*, *Gay/Lesbian Almanac*, and *The Invention of Heterosexuality*, takes the reader on a tour of early American characters to see how they felt and reacted towards the people they encountered.

Katz shocks us into regarding Abe Lincoln in a new light. He shared a room with one Joshua Speed. Abe liked the company of men and kept the women folk at bay. Perhaps he was a little shy and backward. Wishful thinking by gay historians who see what they want to see? We will probably never know. Katz points out that men in the frontier days were conditioned into sublimating their homoerotic urges into "spirituality and noble friendships." "Bull dancing," a form of all-male socializing was popular at one time but disappeared at the turn of the century.

Much of this book is centered around the old gray poet Walt Whitman, who managed to free his fellow Americans from the constraints of rigid masculine and feminine roles that dictated the way in which you could love and fantasize. He celebrated erotic impulses and allowed them free rein. His *Leaves of Grass* caused no end of trouble and stirred up censorship nightmares for years to come. Whitman could be quite coy about his undercurrent of emotion by pretending to view his men friends through the eyes of women. What better way to hide!

During the Civil War soldiers would often sleep together and look after drummer boys in a fatherly manner.

'Love Stories' continued on page 4

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is the newsletter of
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 1395 Bancroft Avenue
 San Leandro, CA 94577
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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

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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. §

SHORT NOTES *by Sidney Poufte*

Bobbie Jarvis is home again after having open heart surgery to have a valve replaced. A number of our members have been entertaining Bobbie and urging her on – like with the very special enchiladas made by Stella Lopez-Armijo. I actually heard they were good enough to die for – but that may not be the best simile, under the circumstances?

Bobbie is eager to get back to work but Ina Mae has wisely been trying to hold her back!

Kathy and Carol Beth are just back from Las Vegas where they celebrated their 25th anniversary. Ask them about their many adventures! Didn't hear how much they won, did you?

Postcard from Taiwan

"Hello Sidney and Lavenders:

"Greetings from Taiwan. I am spending the summer here with my partner, Lorenzo. Am getting traditional Chinese treatment for Diabetes and Arthritis.

This [the postal] is a picture of an aboriginal tribe girl. We visited a park in the mountains where the aborigines still live."

Jim Joslin



Long Term Health Care Insurance Explored

We often worry to ourselves about our future as Seniors: How will I cope if a serious illness strikes? Suppose I require expensive hospital care? In 1980 the average cost of such care was \$15,000 per year. Today that same cost is \$51,100 a year. How many of us can pay such a charge? Tom Lucas, a clinical social worker and Josie McGann, provided a stimulating discussion of the issues involved in this vital issue at our last potluck.

They provided a generous supply of free literature and guided us through the complex pros and cons of weather or not we should purchase long term care insurance.

The California Department of Aging has trained volunteers who will assist seniors who are considering this type of health insurance. For assistance call 1-800-434-0222 -*Frank Howell*

Subscription Renewals

When renewing your subscription, please make the check payable to **The Tides Center/Lavender Seniors**

Wheelchair Lift Needed

Barbara Konecny has the use of an electric wheelchair, but she would appreciate some assistance in figuring out how to store it under cover outside, perhaps in a small shed, because it's too heavy to bring inside all the time. She also needs a rack to carry it on the back of her car. If you have any suggestions or leads, please call Barbara at 633-0398.

510-633-0398

This newsletter is available in Adobe Acrobat Reader via E-mail; request: hendriksen@aol.com
 510-652-6906

771 Kingston Ave
 Apt 405
 #405

Free or Discounted Prescription Drugs

**Lack Rx coverage?
Experienced “denials”?
Try these options!**

By Kurt Hahn, RPEA HBI Director and
Dorothy L. Wake, HBI Committee Member

Have you ever been denied coverage for a prescription drug ordered by your doctor? And you don't have prescription drug coverage? Here are some options:

1. Medicare recipients may take their prescriptions to any pharmacy that accepts Medi-Cal. Present your Medicare Card to receive Medi-Cal prices. You may need to ask for Medi-Cal prices as authorized by SB 393. Medi-Cal prices are typically 20-30% less than what you would otherwise pay. The Pharmacy may charge a 15-cent processing fee. Obtain a free Medi-Cal pricing sheet by calling the State Department of Health Services, 916-657-4302 (Weekdays 8:00 – 4:30).
2. Order that denied prescription through the mail at a sizeable discount (in the 50-60% range) from The Canadian Drugstore (recently highlighted in the AARP newsletter): <http://www.thecanadiandrugstore.com> – Phone: 1-888-3722252, Fax: 1-888-575-5506, or 1696 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5M 3Y4.
3. Phrma (the Drug Manufacturers Program) allows physicians to apply on behalf of the patient at <http://www.rxhope.com> or 1-908-850-8004 (toll call) and order for you. This program typically applies for non-maintenance drugs associated with an illness or injury.
4. United Health Alliance, another Canadian Internet Pharmacy, will accept orders directly from your doctor at <http://www.unitedhealthalliance.com> or by the doctor placing the order at 1-866-633-7482. They do not accept direct from patient orders. The prices are comparable but typically a little higher than the CanadianDrugStore.Com
5. Apply for the Medicine Program at PhRMA: 1100 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, Phone: 1-800-7624636, or <http://www.phrma.org> – Go to their patients' assistance program for a reimbursable \$5 fee per prescription. This program is generally open to individuals with incomes below \$18,000 or couples below \$24,000 (pension and Social Security combined). This program also serves those with no drug coverage.
6. For \$15, Pfizer offers a 30-day supply of any of its drugs to anyone below the above income levels: <http://www.pfizerforliviniz.com/sharecard/nucardinfo.html> – Phone: 1-800-717-6005.
7. Eli Lilly, manufacturer of a large portion of drugs used by seniors, offers a 30-day supply of any of its drugs (except insulin) for \$12. Lilly's program focuses on, but is not limited to, those on Medicare without prescription insurance, whose annual household income does not exceed \$24,000. Lilly may also cover those with high co-pays, annual limits for drugs, or overall financial distress. They determine eligibility on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the patient's doctor. Physician requests should be directed to: Lilly Cares Foundation, P.O. Box 25968, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, Phone: 1-800-545-6962. Interested members should talk to their physician about this program. For further information: <http://www.lilly.com/about/community/foundation/product/llycare.html>

Gay Prom 2002 . . . A Fantasy Come True!

Gay Prom 2002, Fantasy: See the Truth Beyond the Rainbow, was a great success on June 8. Four hundred youth, gay and straight, attended and gave rave reviews of the evening. One young woman said, “Gay Prom is the happiest place on earth!” Big thank-yous to all of you community members who donated time and money to support the prom.

Some highlights: Karen Ripley, comedian, had the King King Queen Queen contestants do improv to show their stuff for the royalty elections! A rainbow brick road led into the hall, lined by about 150 supporters sporting rainbow flags, streamers and boas, clapping to the beats of the *Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band* drowning out the protesters, as the fabulously dressed youth promenaded into the prom.

The Lambda youth reported in group the next week how they truly felt like Hollywood stars coming into the prom.

The DJ's who donated their time and services (WILD 94.9's St. John, SF Club Divas DJ EClat and Ezzy Medina, and RBI Mike Marvel) spun a good diversity of music, from hip-hop through house and trance. The Carnival Room was big fun this year, with 11 organizations teaching healthy life-skills through clever games and excellent prizes.

There was excellent news coverage of the prom on KRON4 TV, the Hayward Daily Review, KPFI Radio in Berkeley, and an upcoming story in the Mercury News – San Jose.

Once again, Gay Prom was the beautiful, safe and fun community-building event we all hope for in celebration of LGBTQ youth and friends.

Your Daily Moment of Zen

(Modified to reflect contemporary wisdom):

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just leave me the hell alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Sex is like air. It's not important unless you aren't getting any.
5. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
6. Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.
7. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
8. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
9. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
10. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
11. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
12. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
13. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
14. Some days you are the bug; some days you are the windshield.
15. Don't worry; it only seems kinky the first time.
16. Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
17. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
18. A closed mouth gathers no foot.

Book Review

'Love Stories'

(from page 1)

The term "gay" usually referred to a female prostitute. "Gay" as we know it today emerged in the 1920s. Charles Warren Stoddard wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle and specialized in travel writing such as *South Sea Idyl*. He loved the natives and lived among them for several carefree years. He later ended up in Italy. His writing helped to free the imagination of his fans as they thrilled to his overseas adventures.

John Addington Symonds fought to repress his homosexual drives but finally published *A Problem In Greek Ethics* in which he openly argues for the rights of homoerotic love. This tract was published in a very limited edition and circulated privately. He later came to the United States and visited Whitman. Historians have explored how definitions of sexuality evolve over time. Jeffrey Weeks sees a difference between homosexual **behavior** and homosexual **identity**, which is grounded in a particular period of history.

Katz provides us with a number of private letters, poems and intimate memories of how our forefathers loved and reacted to their deepest passions. Give yourselves a treat and share these special moments of deep feelings with those who came before us.

19. Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
20. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
21. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
22. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
23. We are born naked, wet, and hungry, and get slapped on our ass ... then things get worse.
24. The most wasted day of all is one in which we have not laughed.

¡Happy Birthday!

Don Hancock

Carol Parker

Jerry Washington

July 1

Bill Swenor

July 6

Dick Colton

July 11

Patricia Sousa

July 12

Bea Howard

July 13

Tom Long

July 15

Abel Foster

Nancy Fugett

Emiko Midori

July 16

Cynthia Dunn

July 19

Grant Brown

July 25

Jennifer Sprinkles

July 26

Thomas A. Daniels

July 27

Patricia Mahaffey

July 28

Rick Bolton

July 31

¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

Social Mixer of the Month: A number of people who attend our potluck each month have said they feel the need for more socializing with each other. So, for the July potluck we will eat and then *mingle* – there will be no formal program or speaker. Summer is a good time to kick back and relax. Enjoy!

Saturday, 12 Noon • Monthly Potluck Meeting • Program at 1 P.M. • July 13

If your name begins with the letters A through H — Bring a Dessert

I through P — Bring a Main Dish

Q through Z — Bring a Salad

San Leandro BART station shuttle is available. Call voice mail day before: 667-9655 to arrange pickup.

Work Vs Prison

IN PRISON you spend the majority of your time in an 8x10 cell.

AT WORK you spend most of your time in a 6x8 cubicle.

IN PRISON you get three meals a day.

AT WORK you only get a break for one meal and you have to pay for it.

IN PRISON you get time off for good behavior.

AT WORK you get rewarded for good behavior with more work.

IN PRISON a guard locks and unlocks all the doors for you.

AT WORK you must carry around a security card and unlock and open all the doors yourself.

IN PRISON you can watch TV and play games.

AT WORK you get fired for watching TV and playing games.

IN PRISON you get your own toilet.

AT WORK you have to share.

IN PRISON they allow your family and friends to visit.

AT WORK you cannot even speak to your family and friends.

IN PRISON all expenses are paid by taxpayers with no work required.

AT WORK you get to pay all the expenses to go to work and then they deduct taxes from your salary to pay for prisoners.

IN PRISON you spend most of your life looking through bars from the inside wanting to get out.

AT WORK you spend most of your time wanting to get out and inside bars.

IN PRISON there are wardens who are often sadistic.

AT WORK they are called managers.

Mothertongue

North Berkeley Senior Center has asked **Mothertongue**, a feminist theater collective, to perform one of their pieces in celebration of GAY PRIDE – which is a first time ever. It will be on Tuesday, July 16 at 1:15 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst at Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Mothertongue will be presenting THE EXPERIENCE OF AGING.

The gay community needs to be well represented at the performance – so please, ya'll come.

–Ruth Michaels

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 _____

Please make checks payable to

The Tides Center/Lavender Seniors

Address _____

and mail to:

City _____

Lavender Seniors

State _____ Zip Code _____

1395 Bancroft Avenue

Home Telephone _____

San Leandro, CA 94577

E-mail address _____

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Community Listings

The Alameda County Leather Corps

presents "Remote Control," the competition for Mr. and Ms. Alameda County Leather for 2002. On Friday, July 12, from 8 – 11 P.M. meet the contestants at the Turf Club, 22519 Main Street, Hayward.

On Saturday, July 13 from 6:30 – 11 P.M. is the competition itself, with entertainment and food, at the Hill and Valley Club, 1808 "B" Street, Hayward. This year's beneficiaries are the Women's Cancer Resource Center and the Tri-Cities Health Project, *Men Together.*

Women Over Fifty and Friends WOFF

Meets Saturday, July 6

Pot Luck is at 6 p.m.
(meeting follows)

San Leandro Community Church
Fireside Room
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro

Hosting:

Cam & Cheryl (530) 432-4860
Iris (510) 841-4776

Senior Men's Afternoon 1:30 – 3:30 P.M.

2nd and 4th Thursdays

July 11 and 25

**2712 Telegraph Avenue,
Berkeley**

Co-sponsored by *Pacific Center
and Lavender Seniors*

The Royal Grand Ducal Ball,

the annual grand celebration of the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, will be held Saturday, July 20 at Centennial Hall in Hayward, located on Civic Center Drive behind the Safeway Shopping Center on Foothill Blvd.

*Doors open at 6:30 P.M. and
admission is \$25 at the door.*

East Bay Women's Support Group

Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays each
month

July 12 and 26: 1:15 – 3 P.M.

Meets at *Pacific Center*,
2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

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 food and drink to share and a \$4 donation.

July 14

\$520 Berkeley

Charming small room available July 1 and spacious attractive 2-room suite (\$750) available August 1 in 5-lesbian home. Seeking warm, friendly, helpful, mature outgoing lesbians or celibate heterosexual women dog lovers (couple \$950). No smokers/pets. 510-843-0680.

510-843-0680

*Why do you need a driver's license
to buy liquor when you can't drink
and drive?*

*Why is the time of day with the
slowest traffic called rush hour?*

*Why is the third hand on the watch
called a second hand?*