A New Home for GLBT History in SF

The International Museum of GLBT History is taking a big step toward the future when the offices, archives, and exhibition gallery of the GLBT Historical Society move in January to a new location in San Francisco’s burgeoning downtown cultural district near Third and Mission Streets.

“This is exactly where we want to position ourselves right in the heart of museum row,” said Executive Director Susan Stryker, who notes that the organization’s new home at 657 Mission Street is half a block from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the future homes of the Mexican Museum, Jewish Museum, and African American Museum. It is directly across the street from the California Historical Society Museum, and in the same building as the Cartoon Art Museum.

The new location, roughly twice the size of our current facility, has 2500 square feet of dedicated gallery space.

“I’m really looking forward to having more space to work with,” Exhibitions Director Paul Gabriel said. “We now have the opportunity to expand our exhibitions program and ‘test-drive’ the concept of a full-scale museum.”

Archives Director Kim Klausner appreciates the fact that we now have the ability to house nearly twice as much historical material. “The archival vault has been bursting at the seams for nearly two years. We had reached the point where we couldn’t accept any new materials due to lack of space. Now we can grow again.”

In addition to the gallery and archives, the new facility includes a reading room, an audio-visual station, high-speed internet hook-ups for research patrons and staff members, and the administrative offices of the GLBT Historical Society.

Board Member Thomas Ryan, who steered the International Museum of Gay and Lesbian History through its merger with the Historical Society, applaudied the move.

“This is a concrete accomplishment,” Ryan said. “It literally puts us on the map as a serious cultural institution.”

Two important collections related to lesbian and women’s history are now accessible online – the papers of lesbian pioneers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, and The San Francisco Women’s Building Collection. www.glbthistory.org

Project Director’s Report

Our staff recently mailed our second fundraising letter for the year ending December 2002. We raised close to $4000 and raised a total of $10,000 from all contributions for the year 2002. Donor fundraising from an organization’s community of support is an essential part of any organization’s revenue plan. It makes a statement to our foundation and government funders that the program has value to its constituency, that the community of support stands behind the ongoing services being offered.

In a recent board retreat, donor fundraising goals were set by the Lavender Seniors board for the upcoming year 2003, which doubles the total amount raised during 2002. This figure was arrived at by estimating a proportional percentage from this revenue source for the fiscal year coming up which means that our budget increases as the organization continues to grow. We will continue to list the names of our donors in the newsletter as a form of recognition to those who give so meaningfully and generously to Lavender Seniors. (See page 4 in this issue.) Incidentally, every board member makes a meaningful contribution to the organization every year.

In addition to Lavender Seniors corps of volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy, every financial donation, no matter what amount, has importance to a community-based organization such as ours. These contributions arrive in varying amounts – anywhere from five dollars to thousands of dollars. Here’s some quotes from notes attached to contributions received at the office: “Keep up the good work.” “I know how important (and sometimes how difficult) volunteer-run organizations can be – please take this contribution in recognition of your efforts.” “I can’t afford membership but wanted to support your work” – from a person who sent $5.

In the categories of funding such as grants, corporate contributions, events, and now even e-mail campaigns, donor-based fundraising continues to stand out as the area with the most potential. It offers the individual contributor an opportunity to become part of the team that’s making the mission possible.

Lavender Seniors is currently in a growth period. Every contribution is more important than ever. We thank each and every contributor for their thoughtfulness and caring.

—Dotty Fowler, Project Director
**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@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**
- Frank Howell & Ina Mae Murri, Co-Chairs
- Jeanine DeBacker, Secretary
- Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer
- Meg Bruynell, John Ellefson
- Eugene Marangoni, Norma Ramos & Natalie Zarchin

**Project Director**, Dotty Fowler
**Senior Services Coordinator**, Susan Kalms
**Administrator**, Nancy Fugett
**Editor**, Bert Hendriksen

**Founding Members**
- Carol Beth, Bill Baillie, Doreen Brand, Meg Bruynell, Marvin Burrows, Shirley Dennett, John Ellefson, 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.

[www.lavenderseniors.org](http://www.lavenderseniors.org)

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**Commentary**

I hope everyone has experienced a wonderful holiday. Many people are deeply disappointed over the results of the November election. We are also fed up with a do-nothing Congress that has failed to address problems that are of interest to senior citizens.

But fate has a way of turning things around. The downfall of Trent Lott means new leadership in the Senate. Perhaps the senators will be a bit more flexible. Several of the old-line legislators such as Jesse Helms have departed. The death grip on what is allowed onto the Senate floor may now ease up. This could bode well for the gay civil rights bill (ENDA). Gay Republicans take note.

For years the AARP (American Association for Retired Persons) has avoided the subject of gays and lesbians in the pages of their monthly publication, Modern Maturity. But this month the barrier was finally breached with a modest one-page article on adult children who come out to their parents. We must give credit to the editors by e-mailing them at mmletters@aarp.org.

_Frank Howell_

Editor’s Note: Frank is a frequent and much appreciated contributor; this piece was intended for the January issue but was deferred, owing to space and time limitations.

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**Coordinator’s Report**

Hi everyone! It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the January potluck. I really think this is one of the most enjoyable things we do!

I need your help. If anyone is not signed up for either being a friendly visitor, or panel volunteer (and would like to do that for Lavender Seniors), that would be a great help. We have a number of participants who have not been visited in a while, and now’s the time to “step up to the plate” if you have not done so already. Also, our telephone program is under way at this point. We did a training in January, so at this point I am matching up volunteers with participants.

A good portion of our program at this time is aimed at panel trainings. If you have never been to one, let me know and I’ll make sure you are on the list for the next one. We could certainly use more volunteers for that as well. It would be wonderful if we could have more folks really involved with all of the different facets of this wonderful outreach program.

As many of you know, Joyce Pierson was unable to do the volunteer training in January, so the training was postponed to February 8th at 10 A.M. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

We’re moving along with trainings, with a few good ones coming up.

Happy Valentine’s Day to you all, with lots of love from me.

_Suzi_

(Suzi Kalms, Senior Services Coordinator)

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**Taking the Chill off**

Older Americans can get help coping with high heating bills and with weatherizing their homes through state and federal programs. Call the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program toll free at (866) 674-6327, or go online to www.ncat.org/liheap. For state Weatherization Assistance Programs, go to www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance, or call (800) 363-3732.

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**Subscription Renewals**

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

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This newsletter is available in Adobe Acrobat Reader via E-mail; request: hendriksen@aol.com
510-652-6906
The Attack Queers:
Liberal Society And The Gay Right
By Richard Goldstein
Verso – $22.00

The recent national election has left Democrats everywhere in a psychological trough. The political left has fallen into limbo since the 1970s. Jimmy Carter was the last hurrah. The gay and lesbian rights movement has traditionally been dominated by the restless progressives. But recently the lavender element from the right has pushed itself to the fore. This has caused ambivalent feelings. It is encouraging to see pressure building from the conservative side of the Republican Party. On the other hand let’s not play it too safe. Nothing of much importance will be accomplished.

Into this vacuum steps Richard Goldstein, executive editor of The Village Voice. He is the author of Reporting The Counterculture and The Poetry of Rock. He coins a name for the reactionary forces, “homocons.” He sees them as a threat to the progress made by gay movement through the years.

Who are these people? Goldstein identifies three: Andrew Sullivan, columnist for the New York Times, Camille Paglia, who writes for Salon.com, and Norah Vincent, who voices her opinions for the Los Angeles Times and the Advocate.

Sullivan dotes on respectability and shuns folks like transgenders, fems and drag queens. We must always play nice. (He was once caught trolling for unsafe sex on the internet) Sullivan denies there is job discrimination and opinions that, “Once we have won the right to marry I think we should have a party and close down the gay movement.”

Camille Paglia is anti-lesbian but adores gay men. She claims that battered women enjoy being slapped around. She assures us, “I’m not saying stop sleeping with women. I’m saying stop being a lesbian.” (What?)

Norah Vincent attacks gay sexuality that rages through circuit drug parties.

At the top levels of lobbying we observe this conflict in action. Witness the jarring dialogue between the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D. C. HRC supports ENDA (Gay civil rights) but insists that transgender people be excluded from the bill because it would make it more difficult to pass Congress. NGLTF champions inclusion of transgenders.

Goldstein certainly makes his point, but we wonder if any compromise is possible between these two powerful groups. Progress achieved at the cost of unity is no progress at all. Read The Attack Queers and stay tuned for further intrigues as the Bush machine rolls along.—Frank J. Howell

Alameda County Leather Corps

presents

‘Aim for the Heart’

the 3rd annual Cupid’s Arrow event. Saturday, February 8, 6 – 9 P.M. at the Rainbow Room, 21859 Mission Blvd, Hayward. Beer and Soda Bust. Great Entertainment. “Pleasure and Pain Auction.” Spaghetti Feed. Raffle. Proceeds go to: 50% In Memory Foundation, and 50% to the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Cancer Treatment Clinic.

Hearfelt Thanks to Recent Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from donors during the months of December and January.

Rosemary Barker
Jo Barr
Doreen Brandt
Leslie Brandt
Bucher, Kathleen
Mary Coffey
Robert Davis & Hoang Le
Cynthia Dunn
John Ellefsen
Jerome Fishman
Brendalynn Goodall
Kathy Graves
Dorothy Hallinan
Shirley Hamburg
Sherrie Holmes
Frank Howell
Roxanne Kellam
Gail Kocher
Joan Kral
Linda Kretz
Mary Lavelle
Sandra Morris
Elena Nachman
Diane Nagy
Sue Parsell
Richard Riffer
Emily Rosenberg
Fred Schadick
Marilyn Shatzen
C.G. Utley,
Jim R. Utley & Susan Prior
Pier A. Veit
Kay Wellington
Sue Carol Witt
Stephen Wong
Robert Yates & Reed Houghton
Natalie Zarchin
Jan Zobel
**February Birthdays**

Anna Johnson
Barbara Konecny
Two
Frank Howell
Six
Eric Larson
Renee Watkins
Seven
Gerald Hyman
Eight
Lynn Riordan
Ann Smith
Nine
Jess McVey
Twelve
Simi Litvak
Fourteen
Joseph E. Fasciani
Seventeen
Marvin Burrows
Nineteen
Duaine Imhoff
Twenty
Cathy Cade
Carol Squires
Twenty Four
Gene Windels
Twenty Six
Elizabeth Ruth
Twenty Nine

Happy Birthday to all!

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**'No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon'**

A World Film Premiere Celebrating
Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's 50th Anniversary
Thursday, February 13
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
6:00 P.M. – Sponsor’s Reception
7:00 P.M. – Doors Open for General Admission
7:30 P.M. – Program with Fabulous Surprises
8:00 P.M. – World Premiere Film Screening
9:00 - 9:30 P.M. – Q&A with Del & Phyllis, Dee & JEB

No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon is a 55-minute documentary that chronicles the lives of two women who have been partners in love and political struggle for half a century. San Francisco icons, Del and Phyllis are known as the founders of the modern lesbian civil rights movement. No Secret Anymore follows them through six decades, tracing the emergence of lesbians from the fear of discovery to the expectation of equality. Produced by Academy Award Nominee Dee Mosbacher and produced and directed by internationally recognized documentary artist JEB (Joan E. Biren) under the auspices of Woman Vision and Moonforce Media; Associate Producers: Margie Adam and Jason Heffner; Director of Photography: Sophie Constantinou.

**Ticket Information** Contact Ron Wong and Associates: 415-355-9988

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**Prescriptions**

California has a law providing that Medicare recipients who do not have prescription insurance coverage can request the “Medicare rate” from their pharmacy. If the pharmacy sells to MediCal patients, they cannot charge you more than that rate.

If your income is under $28,000 ($38,000 for couples) you may be able to get free or discounted drugs from various laboratories. Ask your doctor's insurance clerk (not the doctor) if they participate in such a program.

For more information about such programs call 800-865-7211 or go to www.together-rx.com. Pfizer has its own discount card and lower income levels ($18,000/$24,000): Call 800-717-6005; www.pfizerforliving.com; Lilly has the same income levels: 877-795-4559 (toll free), www.lillyanswers.com

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**McCarter Gets Under Our Skin At Potluck**

Many of us don’t realize that our skin is the largest organ of the body. Kathy McCarter, a nurse who works in a dermatology department at Kaiser Hospital, emphasizes that most skin diseases are not easily spread. Therefore, we should be more than willing to embrace those who are afflicted with such ailments.

At our January 11 meeting Cathy discussed the functions of the skin and some of the problems experienced by older persons. Various drugs and treatments were also considered. Cathy also offered some literature for those seniors who desired further information.

—Frank Howell
Saturday • 12 Noon • Potluck Meeting
• Program at 1 P.M. • February 8 •

Your name begins with the letters
A through E — Bring a Dessert/Fruit
F through R — Bring a Main Dish
S through Z — Bring a Salad

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

Presentation of the Month:
Marcy Adelman
Rainbow Adult Community Housing

The Rainbow Adult Community Housing is "the only mixed income multi-use LGBT senior housing community planned for San Francisco." The new organization is hoping for a Hayes Valley building. This plan will hopefully include a broad range of health and social services for gay seniors. To date RACH has succeeded in obtaining support from the Haas Foundation, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, and the state of California.

'Future Leaders'
The following questions and answers were collated from SAT tests given in Oklahoma in 2002 to 16-year-old students. (Don’t laugh too hard — one of these may be your president, someday!)

Q: Name the four seasons.
A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink. A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes sand, dead sheep and large pollutants like grit, canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?
A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What is a planet?
A: A body of earth surrounded by sky.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?
A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: In a democratic society, how important are elections?
A: Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

Q: What are steroids?
A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?
A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?
A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.
A: Premature death.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?
A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (E.g., abdomen.)

A: The body is consisted into three parts — the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E, I, O, U.

Q: What is the Fibula?
A: A small lie.

Q: What does “varicose” mean?
A: Nearby.

Q: What is the most common form of birth control?
A: Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium.

Q: Give the meaning of the term “Caesarian Section.”
A: The caesarian section is a district in Rome.

Q: What is a seizure?
A: A Roman emperor.

Q: What is a terminal illness?
A: When you are like sick at the airport.
### Community Listings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Men’s Afternoon</td>
<td>1:30 – 3:30 P.M. 2nd and 4th Thursdays February 13 and 27 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley Co-sponsored by Pacific Center and Lavender Seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Bay Women’s Support Group</td>
<td>Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays each month February 14 &amp; 28: 1:15 – 3 P.M. Meets at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley</td>
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| 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.  
February 9 |
| Retirement Party Invitation                | Bill Baillie and Don Silva (aka Marna Portugal), of Lavender Seniors and the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, invite you to come join them to celebrate Bill’s retirement! The party starts at 2 P.M. on Saturday, February 15, at Club Rumors, 22544 Main Street, Hayward. This is not a fundraiser, but just fun, fun, fun! |
| Women Over Fifty and Friends WOFF         | Meets Saturday, February 1  
Pot Luck is at 6 P.M., Meeting one hour earlier  
San Leandro Community Church  
Fireside Room  
1395 Bancroft Avenue  
San Leandro  
Hosting:  
Cam & Cheryl (530) 432-4860  
Iris (510) 841-4776 |
| Adrienne Rich Reads at Berkeley Campus     | February 6, 12:00 P.M. (free)  
International House Auditorium  
Sponsor: Lunch Poems Reading Series  
Since winning the Yale Younger Poets Award in 1951 at the age of 21, Adrienne Rich has become one of the towering voices of our culture. Her many volumes of poetry and criticism summon us to reexamine our lives, from gender roles to the structure of our relationships and politics. Co-sponsored by Women’s Studies and by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. |
| Birthday Party Invitation                  | Norman Levesque, Grand Duke IX of the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County invites you to his 66th birthday party (the 3rd annual one!) on Saturday, March 1, from 5 – 9 P.M., at 1850 Mission |
| Southern Alameda County Gay & Lesbian Film Festival | March 7 and 8, 2003  
We are proud to announce the Sixth Annual Southern Alameda County Gay & Lesbian Film Festival which is scheduled for March 7 & 8, at Chabot College's Little Theater. The outrageously funny comedian Regina Stoops will host the event. Doors open at 6:00pm for a champagne reception. Show starts at 7:00 PM. At 8:30 PM there will be a Q & A with the film makers. A cash bar will be available. Tickets ($10) are available at the Film Fest box office and at the door. |