

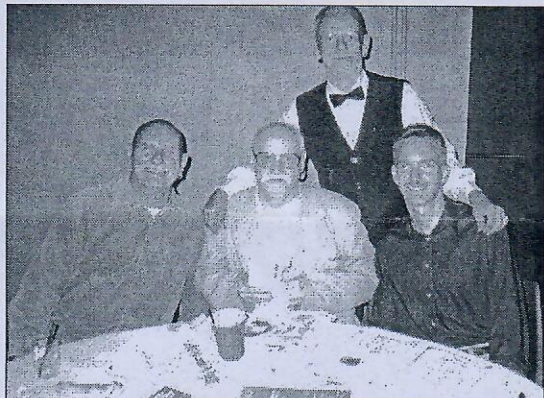


# LAVENDER NOTES

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

**Volume VIII, No.8 – August 2003**

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



Present to accept the generous gift on behalf of Lavender Seniors were (left to right) John Ellefsen, Frank Howell (Co-Chair), Marvin Burrows, and Jeff Vessels (Director).

## Royal Grand Ducal Council

Many, many thanks to the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, Inc. for presenting Lavender Seniors a \$1,000 check at the Council's Ball on July 19 in Hayward.

We are truly fortunate to have support from the Council, which has given several substantial gifts to Lavender Seniors in recent years. Your support is vital and inspiring, dear friends!

## Celebrate LGBT Pride!

This year's LGBT Pride events have taken on special significance in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 decision striking down sodomy laws and recognizing the right of privacy for LGBT people.

Here's a summary of upcoming events in the East Bay:

### Pride Picnic

**When:** Saturday, August 9, Noon – 5 p.m.

**Where:** Cull Canyon Regional Park in Castro Valley, in the swimming lagoon area at the Cabana.

**Fee:** \$2.50 for seniors and youth, \$3.50 for other adults.

Free parking and swimming.

**More Information:** Visit [GLOBEinALAMEDA.org](http://GLOBEinALAMEDA.org)

Lavender Seniors traditionally has a large contingent at the Pride Picnic.

This is a potluck event – bring your favorite picnic dish to share – that takes the place of our regular Lavender Seniors monthly potluck.

### Sistahs Steppin' in Pride

**When:** Saturday, August 23

**Where:** Lake Merritt, in Oakland (near El Embarcadero and Grand Avenue).

**Fee:** Free

**More Information:** Call 510-551-8330 or email

[sistahssteppin@sistahssteppin.org](mailto:sistahssteppin@sistahssteppin.org) or visit

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

*continued on page 3*

## Report from Senior Services Coordinator

by *Suzi Kalmus*, Coordinator

We have received yet another two referrals for friendly visitors, and another woman has been signed up for the program and is waiting for a visitor. In addition to personal referrals, we have been receiving referrals from agencies where we have conducted trainings. Thanks to the "Over 60 Health Clinic!" They are consistently asking for more brochures so we **know** there's interest there. Our training program *works*, we know that much! We **do** need more volunteers so that I can match participants shortly after I do the intake, so that they don't have to wait.

We have a number of participants who have been very patient, and I'd like to have matches for them all. Just an hour or so per week would work; but of course if you can spare more time that would be wonderful, too. Many of our seniors would just like a ride to the potluck. That way they can connect with us and see how wonderful we all are – and they don't remain so isolated and lonely.

*see page 3 for continuation*

Lavender Seniors provides a Friendly Visitor service 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 and Senior Spectrum in Marin. Lavender Seniors is funded by individual donors, Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, Alameda County Leather Corps, The California Endowment, City of Oakland, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Horizons Foundation, The True North Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County and San Francisco Foundation. We gratefully acknowledge this support.

## 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

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

[lavenderseniors@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavenderseniors@sbcglobal.net)

### 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,*

*Eugene Marangoni,*

and *Natalie Zarchin*

### Next Advisory Board Meeting: August 5, 7 P.M. at our office

Interested persons are welcome to attend this meeting; public comments will take place at 7 P.M.

### Project Director,

*Jeff Vessels*

### Senior Services Coordinator,

*Susan Kalmus*

### Administrator, *Nancy Fugett*

### Editor, *Bert Hendriksen*

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 or gender identity.

### Subscription Renewals

When renewing your subscription, please make the check payable to

**The Tides Center/Lavender Seniors**

This newsletter was created in **Adobe PageMaker 6.5**; PDF files are available from our website for viewing in **Acrobat Reader**.

## Commentary

### Sodomy Laws: The Long View

by *Frank Howell, Co-Chair*

When we behold the struggle for human rights, we realize the need for patience and courage. Ask any black person who has worked for his or her civil rights. Over 100 years was consumed in gaining the right to vote and marry a person of another race. Social scientists call this cultural lag. The same rule applies with gay and lesbian civil rights.

In 1961, all 50 states outlawed sodomy. Illinois became the first state to break the mold. The American Law Institute recommended that other states follow suit. State by state, we hacked our way through the jungle of ignorance and fear that said laws can't be changed because it has always been that way. Change was unthinkable.

We gradually wore the enemy down. Fundamentalist Christians employed the "slippery slope" argument: if you allow any form of gay rights, then other disasters are sure to follow. As George Bernard Shaw once observed, this was like arguing that if we observed a performance of Oedipus Rex, we would all rush out of the theater and try to marry our mothers.

Conservatives pleaded that bestiality and plural marriages would result. They also pleaded that morale would suffer if black people were integrated into the armed services. Clearly none of these fears were realized.

Repeal of the sodomy laws can spill over into other areas such as marriage and the passage of ENDA (federal law which insures basic civil rights for gays and lesbians).

So let us all take pride in our progress since the dark days of the 1950s, when gays were not allowed to assemble in public. Now we need patience for the next struggles to come. ▲

## Lavender Seniors Wish List

Make a difference. If you or anyone you know can help us with any of the following items or services, please contact us. Thanks!

### Goods:

- Paper and plastic items (plates, napkins, cups, plastic utensils, etc.).
- Reams of white copy paper, 20 lb., 8-1/2 x 11.
- Sodas and bottled water.
- Computer printer ink cartridges, HP inkjet print cartridge #23 (color) and #45 (black).
- Reusable mylar wall calendar.

### Services:

- Volunteer for our Friendly Visitor program and be matched with an LGBT senior who has requested in-person and/

or telephone support. (Volunteers can be of any age.) Or sign-up if you would like to be matched with a volunteer.

- Work with our Senior Services Coordinator, Suzi Kalmus, to arrange and produce Speakers Panel presentations about LGBT senior issues.
- Interview LGBT seniors and Lavender Seniors volunteers and write an article for our newsletter.
- Work with our Director, Jeff Vessels, to research grant opportunities and prepare grant applications.
- Inquire about positions on our Advisory Board. To expand our diversity, we are particularly seeking candidates who are male, of minority race or ethnicity, and who may have non-profit board experience. ▲

## Property Tax Ruling

[Editor's Note: This letter was received by one of our participants.]

Thank you for writing about the proposed Property Tax Rule amendments that would affect the assessment of property held by surviving domestic partners. I am very pleased to report that the Board of Equalization voted earlier today to adopt new Property Tax Rule 462.040 and Property Tax Rule 462.240.

These rules provide that non-spouse joint tenants may pass on their property interests to each other using a will or trust without reassessment at the time of death; and provide that a surviving registered domestic partner may inherit property from his or her registered domestic partner by will, trust, other prearranged estate plan, or intestate succession, without property tax reassessment.

As a long time advocate for fair and equitable treatment of all persons, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, or personal preference, I view these rule amendments as an important step forward. These modest and compassionate amendments will assure that surviving domestic partners – in their time of greatest grief – will not have to face the unwelcome prospect of an increase in the property tax assessment of their homes.

These newly adopted rules will become effective after they are reviewed by the state Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and are then promulgated to local county assessors throughout the state. This final review process should be completed by the end of this year.

As always, I look forward to your comments and advice on this and any other issue.

Very truly yours,

John Chiang

(Member of the State Board of Equalization) ▲

## Senior Services Report

(from page 1)

In case you were not aware, we have not one, but four more Pride celebrations coming up. There seems to be no end to celebrating! So don't put away your Pride regalia . . . not quite yet.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the annual picnic at Cull Canyon. If anyone needs a ride, I'll try my best to connect people, but this is an event not to be missed. Over 20 LGBT agencies and organizations as sponsors and participants! Pretty wonderful gathering, I'd say!!

Last but definitely not least . . . I'll be starting to do volunteer orientations monthly, in an effort to make it easier for people to volunteer. So if you have not been to an orientation, let me know. We don't want volunteers without participants and we certainly don't want participants without volunteers! If any of you would be interested in being a speaker on our panel, let me know that as well, and I'll set up a training. Don't be bashful, it's fun (and you have my permission to use a script if that makes it easier). We really could use a few more panelists. Everyone has an interesting story!

Stay cool in this warm weather and I hope to see you all at the picnic on August 9. ▲

## Kudos to Frank H.

At its Third Birthday Celebration in July, the Lighthouse Community Center (LCC) in Hayward dedicated its LGBT Borrowing Library to Frank Howell for his generous, sustaining support. A dedication plaque at LCC reads, "*In appreciation – The Frank J. Howell Library.*"

Friend and fellow LCC and Lavender Seniors volunteer Marvin Burrows said that at one critical point, Frank provided a gift in order to keep LCC's doors open and lights on. "Without Frank, LCC would be a very dull place," Marvin said. "Frank is a very busy and dedicated person."

Because he is a founder and current co-chair of the Lavender Seniors Advisory Board, we also are fortunate to know Frank and his kindness and generosity. On behalf of the entire Lavender Seniors family, congratulations to Frank for his latest well-deserved honor. ▲

## Celebrate LGBT Pride!

(from page 1)

The gathering will begin at 9:30 a.m. in front of the pillars at Lake Park Drive.

The march, which starts at 10 a.m., will be from Lake Park Drive to Snow Park at 20<sup>th</sup> and Harrison streets.

The festival in Snow Park will begin with an Opening Ceremony at 1 p.m. and will include speakers, comedy, and live entertainment until 5 p.m.

This is the second year for this event, which drew nearly 300 people last year.

### Seventh Annual East Bay LGBTI Pride Celebration

When: Sunday, September 7, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Where: Ogawa Plaza/Oakland City Hall (14<sup>th</sup> and Broadway)

Fee: To be announced; children under age 10 enter free when accompanied by a paid adult.

More Information: Visit [www.eastbaypride.org](http://www.eastbaypride.org)

The largest Pride celebration in the East Bay, with 7,500 attendees expected, includes three stages of live entertainment, more than 100 exhibitors, and an all-new food court.

### Hayward Pride

When: Saturday, September 13, 6 – 11 p.m.

Where: Main Street between A & B Streets (two blocks from the Hayward BART station), in Hayward.

Fee: To be announced.

More information: Visit [www.eastbaypride.org](http://www.eastbaypride.org) or visit [www.geocities.com/haywardlcc/](http://www.geocities.com/haywardlcc/) (Lighthouse Community Center website) ▲

# BOOKS

## Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965

By Nan Alamilla Boyd

University of California Press

Reviewed by *Frank J. Howell*

San Francisco stands apart from other American cities. A cultural climate flourishes here that would be widely condemned in other parts of the country. The Queen City of the West encourages an atmosphere that is distinctive in morality. This atmosphere was no doubt created by the gold rush against the background of a seaport town. The Barbary Coast set the tone until the big crack down in 1917. A series of vice crusades have ebbed and flowed over the years. The gay bars as we know them today began to emerge during the 1930s with Finocchio's, the infamous drag lounge that catered to tourists.

During the McCarthy era the San Francisco Police began to harass the bars but a major decision from the California Supreme Court (Stoutman vs. Reilly) established the right of bar owners to serve gays.

Jose Saria founded the League For Civic Education which later became the Society for Individual Rights (SIR).

During the 1940s bars were established (Mona's) that catered exclusively to gays and lesbians. Gay life found itself bathed in a sea of alcohol from the very beginning. The darkly lit bars with painted over windows were the only game in town. Much of this unique decoration dates from the Prohibition Era.

New palaces of entertainment emerged such as the Paper Doll, Tommy's 299, Miss Smith Tea Room and the Cooper Lantern (restroom decorated with pages from the Kinsey Report). A new era of anxiety and political pressure bubbled to the surface when the *San Francisco Examiner* ran articles warning of "a marked influx recently of homosexuals." The United States Senate attempted to implicate Tommy's 299 in a sex scandal. Once again the community fought back and won another significant decision (Storemen vs. Reilly) that meant that gays could assemble and socialize.

Major George Christopher launched a crusade to run the lavender menace out of town. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act gave renewed power to the homophobic element. (Kissing, hand holding and dancing were prohibited.)

During the early 1960s two political and social forces emerged – the bar owners and the newly organized homophile organizations (Mattachine Society, Daughters of Bilitis). The groups emphasized a conservative, law abiding approach. The Tavern Guild was formed by bar owners who attempted to give out legal advice to patrons and hire attorneys. SIR held dances since they were not allowed elsewhere. They were hugely successful. In 1961 the Vagrancy Law was repealed. The police were now partially handicapped.

The epic battle with law enforcement and gays boiled over when the Council on Religion and The Homosexual held a fund raiser in 1965 where police attempted to photograph and frighten those attending the event. The raid backfired. The arm of the law was chopped off at a court hearing and a new era commenced. The men in blue were now clearly on the defensive. Membership in SIR exploded – over 1,000 in 1965. CRH issued "A Brief of Injustices." Nan Boyd, an assistant professor of Women's Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has also included a series of oral histories from pioneers such as Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, Jose Sarria, and George Mendenhall.

**Celebrate the Sodomy Decision. Rush out and buy this compelling social history.▲**

## ¡Happy Birthday!

Patrick Russell

August 1

Mary Jane Sepulveda

August 2

Natalie Zarchin

August 4

Cam Jancek

August 6

Josef Prochnow

August 8

Margaret Bruynell

Robert Tharp

August 10

Howard Curtis

August 14

Norma Ramos

August 15

Kathleen Bucher

Barbara Marques

August 16

Richard L. Hicks

August 18

Peggy L. Alices

August 20

Ruth Michaels

August 22

Martha Walker

Ron Wong

August 24

Jerry Latimer

August 30

¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

### Attention: Note the change in venue for August only!

#### Potluck Event . . . Pride Picnic

- bring your favorite picnic dish to share –
- Cull Canyon Regional Park in Castro Valley –
- Swimming Lagoon area at the Cabaña –  
(same as last year)

**Saturday, August 9 Noon – 5 p.m.**

East Bay Regional Park entry fee is:

\$3.50 Adults, \$2.50 Seniors & Youth

Free Parking . . . Swimming (not *au naturel*)

Directions: From **I-580 eastbound** in Castro Valley, take the Center St. exit; go north on Center to Heyer, right turn on Heyer to Cull Canyon Rd. and on the left is park entrance. From **I-580 westbound**, take the Castro Valley exit and continue west on Castro Valley Blvd. to Crow Canyon Rd.; turn right on Crow Canyon, then turn left on Cull Canyon Rd. and continue to park entrance on the left.

### Your generosity keeps Lavender Seniors going

Thanks to those who responded to our June letter. So far, we have received nearly \$1,700! As you know, Lavender Seniors can exist only with your gifts of time and funds. Without your help, we could not match frail and isolated LGBT seniors with much-needed volunteers, or train mainstream service providers on how to meet LGBT seniors' unique needs.

Those sending gifts recently and permitting us to print their names are:

*Bruce Alexander*

*Bill Baillie & Don Silva*

*Meg Bruynell & Bobbie Jarvis*

*Dr. Suzanne Dibble & Jeanne DeJoseph*

*John Ellefsen*

*Geraldine A. Farmer*

*Jerry Fishman*

*Elwood Gerrits*

*Michael T. Gifford*

*Sheila Goldmacher*

*Gerson Goodkind*

*Dot Hallinan*

*Beverly Hickok*

*Frank Howell*

*Duaine Imhoff*

*James Joslin*

*Eva Lilly*

*Bob Lindeborg*

*Angela Niles*

*Sue Parsell*

*Richard Riffer*

*Teri Robinson & Amy Guy*

*Patrick Russell*

*Frederick W. Schadick*

*Mel Scontrino*

*Lyn Strewalt*

*Audrey Tillmann*

*Lee & Arlene Williamson*

### For Laughs

On the way to Nags Head, North Carolina from Virginia there is a sign for a seafood restaurant that says, "I get my crabs from Dirty Dicks."

On a hospital door to the colonoscopy unit: "To expedite your visit, please back in."

On a plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On the trucks of a plumbing company: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Pizza shop slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one weak."

Sign over a gynecologist's office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

Another pizza shop slogan: "Buy our pizza. We knead the dough."

At a tire shop: "Invite us to your next blowout."

*concluded next page*

**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.

## Community Listings

### Senior Men's Afternoon

1:30 – 3:30 P.M.

2nd and 4th Thursdays

August 9 and 23

2712 Telegraph Avenue,  
Berkeley

Co-sponsored by *Pacific Center  
and Lavender Seniors*

### Senior Support Group at Lighthouse Community Center – Hayward

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of  
each month, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

August 12 & 26

*Frank Howell & Fred Banuelos*  
are the leaders

For information call Frank at  
510-489-0932

### East Bay Women's Support Group

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays each  
month

August 10 and 24: 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.

August 9

### Welcome, Peggy!

#### Peggy Moore hired as Outreach Specialist

Lavender Seniors has hired Peggy Moore as its Outreach Specialist.

A resident of Oakland with a history of LGBT activism, Peggy will work to learn more about and establish closer relationships with Oakland's LGBT senior African American, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American communities.

Our goal is to ensure that Oakland's diverse LGBT senior communities receive needed services from Lavender Seniors and mainstream agencies.

The Outreach Specialist position is made possible by a grant from the City of Oakland.

Look for a more comprehensive story in the next edition of Lavender Notes ▲

### RICHMOND HOME TO SHARE

I'm looking for a congenial male  
housemate who can prepare my  
dinner and drive my car to  
appointments and shopping in  
exchange for free rent.

I have a 3 Bedroom, 1½ bath house  
with garden and laundry in a safe  
neighborhood.

I have six indoor cats.

Share utilities, cable and phone.

No smoking or drugs.

Call Sam @ 510-412-3313

### For Laughs

(concluded from page 5)

Door of a plastic surgeon's office: "Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On a taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff."

In a podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment."

At the electric company: "We would be de-lighted if you pay your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a funeral home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a propane filling station: "Tank heaven for little grills."

And don't forget the sign at a radiator shop: "Best place in town to take a leak."