



LAVENDER NOTES

Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

A Project of the Tides Center

Volume IX, No. 1 — January 2004

1395 Bancroft Avenue ▲ San Leandro, CA 94577 ▲ (510) 667-9655

email: info@lavenderseniors.org ▲ www.lavenderseniors.org

Calendar of Events

(Note: Monthly potlucks are held at 1395 Bancroft Avenue in San Leandro.)

▲ January 10, Noon-2 p.m.: Lavender Seniors monthly potluck. Featured guests: Oakland City Council Member Danny Wan and representatives of the Mayor's Commission on Aging.

▲ January 12, 1-3 p.m.: Seniors event at International Museum of GLBT History, 657 Mission Street, in San Francisco. See page 3 for ride-sharing and other information.

▲ February 14, Noon-2 p.m.: Lavender Seniors monthly potluck. The new domestic partners law: what does it mean for LGBT seniors?

▲ April 17, 10:30 a.m. Senior LGBT Community Forum, sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Aging Network of the American Society on Aging. Free. Hilton Hotel, San Francisco. More information to come.

2004 brings new programs and ideas

By Jeff Vessels, Director

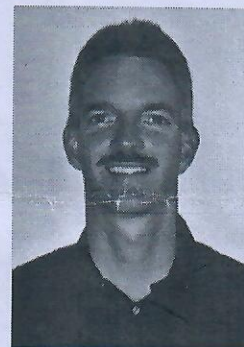
H

appy New Year!

The past eight months serving as Director of Lavender Seniors has been an amazing honor. I'm proud of all we have achieved together so far, and I am grateful for your support. I am even more excited about 2004.

Plans are already under way for another successful year in 2004. Our Friendly Visitors Program and Speakers Panel Program are thriving, and our new project focused on LGBT seniors of color is already experiencing phenomenal success. In addition, we are planning several special events and a new regular social activity — watch your mailbox.

Our ability to attract support from new sources — including new individual and corporate donors as well significant grants and contracts from governments and private foundations — is more proof of the value of our work.



Change is a constant in dynamic organizations like ours. Following her recent transition from the Senior Services Coordinator position, we wish Suzi Kalmus all the best in her future endeavors. The transition brings some changes in staff responsibilities but no change in what you can expect from the organization. Inquiries about the Friendly Visitors Program should now be directed to me, and those about the Speakers Panel Program should be directed to Peggy Moore, our Outreach Specialist. And of course, Nancy Fugett, our Administrator, is always ready to help with any question you might have.

(continued on page 2)

The programs of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay are made possible by individual and corporate donors as well as Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, Alameda County Leather Corps., The California Endowment, City of Oakland, Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, The Horizons Foundation, The True North Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, and The San Francisco Foundation. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all "Friends of Lavender Seniors."

Lavender Notes
is the newsletter of
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay



Mission Statement

The mission of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is to improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors (age 55 and older) residing in Alameda and western 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, Dotty Fowler, & Natalie Zarchin, members at-large

Next Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 7 p.m., at our office. Interested persons are welcome; public comments will take place at 7 p.m.

Staff

Jeff Vessels, MSSW, Director
Peggy Moore, Outreach Specialist
Nancy Fugett, Administrator

Lavender Seniors welcomes all persons age 55 and older, their partners, and guests. The cost of production and mail makes it necessary to request a minimum \$15 annual donation to receive the newsletter. Visitors and others may receive the newsletter for three months without charge. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

When making a gift, please make checks payable to The Tides Center / Lavender Seniors.

Signed articles represent the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of Lavender Seniors. Inclusion of a name in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

What We Do ...

Founded in 1994, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay provides the following:

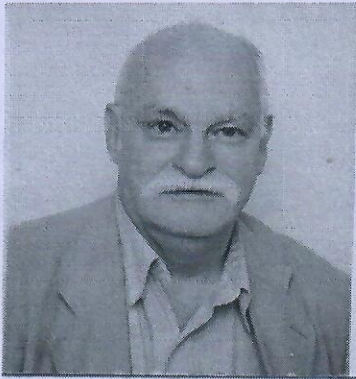
- ▲ The Oakland Outreach Project, to improve access to health and human services to LGBT seniors in the African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.
 - ▲ Friendly Visitors Program, to match volunteers with isolated, frail LGBT seniors for social support, light household and shopping assistance, and telephone assurance.
 - ▲ Speakers Panel Program, to educate service providers and urge them to change policies and practices to make services more accessible and culturally appropriate to LGBT seniors.
 - ▲ Potlucks on the second Saturday of each month, to provide a safe and welcoming social environment and information from invited speakers.
 - ▲ Monthly discussion groups, co-sponsored and hosted by the Pacific Center (see back page for schedule).
 - ▲ Monthly newsletter, *Lavender Notes*.
 - ▲ A website at www.lavenderseniors.org
- To get involved as a participant or volunteer, contact us at (510) 667-9655 or info@lavenderseniors.org

New programs (continued from page 1)

The celebration of our founders concludes in this edition, with more photos and essays from these heroes. Enjoy.

Special thanks to Charlie Aiken, whose many helpful suggestions about the format of *Lavender Notes* are reflected in this edition. We always welcome suggestions and ideas. Keep 'em coming! ▲

To A Challenging New Year by Frank Howell, Co-Chair of the Board



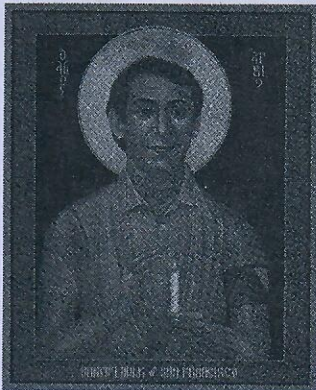
2003 has certainly been a stunning year for gay and lesbian rights—*Lawrence vs. Texas* and gay marriage decisions from the courts, especially from Massachusetts. Let us hope we can share in the adventures associated with the presidential election.

Ron Coulter, a veteran gay entertainer, delighted the holiday audience at our annual Holiday Lunch. Unfortunately, certain members of the audience insisted in engaging in a constant stream of rude and inconsiderate cross talk during the performance. Many of us felt embarrassed for the Lavender Seniors. We must remember that Mr. Coulter has given generously of his time and talents. He presented a class act, but what he needed most of all was a class audience. I hope we can do better next time. Special thanks to Dan Tussey, who provided lovely holiday music during the Holiday Lunch. Another special thanks to all those volunteers who help set-up and clean-up at potlucks each month.

Now it's on to another fun and challenging new year. The discussion at the November potluck provided ideas for future potlucks and other programs. In no particular order, the ideas mentioned were:

1. Update on Senior Housing Project
2. Transgender people
3. Alzheimer's Disease
4. Problems associated with aging process
5. Gay theaters
6. Stagebridge
7. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society
8. Mother Tongue
9. Money management/financial planning
10. End of life issues
11. Gays in the media (GLAAD)
12. Gay travel
13. Volunteer opportunities
14. Intergenerational relationships
15. Drag Show
16. Amateur hour with talent from Lavender Seniors ▲

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF GLBT HISTORY



25 years ago our most prominent gay politician was assassinated.
SAINT HARVEY
The Life and Afterlife of a Modern Gay Martyr

You're Invited to a Special Event!

Join LGBT seniors from around the Bay Area at a special event at the International Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco.

Monday, January 12, 1—3 p.m.

657 Mission St., Ste. 300 (between 3rd Street and New Montgomery)

View the exhibit

"Saint Harvey: The Life and Afterlife of a Modern Gay Martyr"
 and get a special guided tour of the Museum's archives.

Light snacks will be provided.

Ride-Sharing available!

**To arrange, call Lavender Seniors at 510-667-9655
 by Noon on Thursday, January 8**



Ruth Michaels

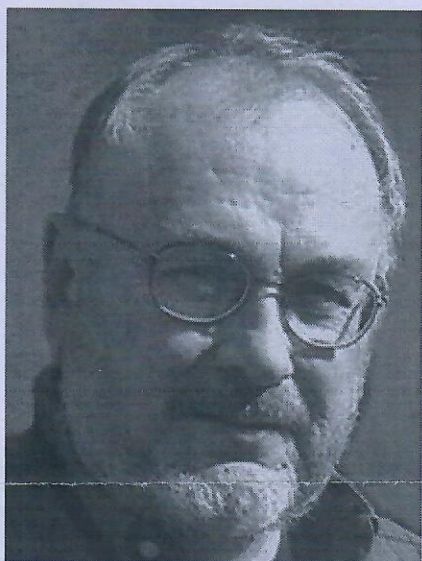
Before I became a member of East Bay Lavenders, I used to go to meeting of GLOE (now part of New Leaf) and still attend some special meetings there.

But already nine years ago the commute to San Francisco was hard, and it is sure essential for me at this point to have a group right here in the East Bay.

I appreciate that we have both women and men working together, and I am thrilled with our new outreach to LGBT seniors of color. Our presence in the East Bay is also politically essential, especially since more and more LGBTs are moving into the area.

Many of us are active and "out" in other community organizations. We are making our presence felt and are affecting decisions being made.

I have helped a bit by being part of our program committee and by organizing some LGBT events at the North Berkeley Senior Center. ▲



Jim Joslin

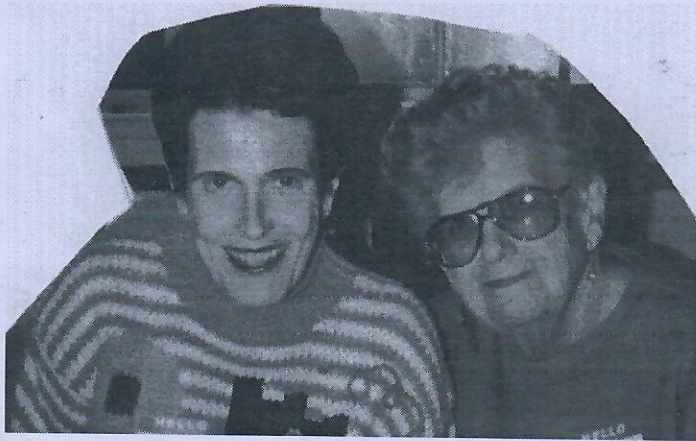
Ina Mae Murri invited me to the first meeting of what was later to be known as Lavender Seniors. I was invited because I was the contact person and newsletter editor for Fellows of East Bay.

We met at a shopping center in east Oakland. There was a good turn out due to Ina Mae's efforts. The goals and purpose of the meeting were not clear. Those who attended had different ideas about what the organization should be; where we should meet; who should attend; open or closed membership; structure of meetings; speaker or business meetings; social or service goals; who will do what; etc. There was no consensus, but a lot of enthusiasm from those attending.

I decided to be a part of the group because it was not going to be just another social group. It was going to be a group of older gay people who were doing something positive for each other.

I worked on the Newsletter in the formative years. I enjoyed reporting organization and senior issues as well as the personal news, gossip and jokes of the members. One of the most fun tasks was translating the jokes into a printable form.

I live in Palm Springs now. I miss you. I am proud of you. I am proud that you invited me to participate in your program to honor the founders. I wish you continued success. ▲



Bonnie MacKenzie & Jerry Holmes

Saw about Stella and Ina Mae in *Oakland Tribune* starting something for seniors. Went to the second meeting at Macy's. Maybe about 20 people. It was great to think that something was starting for seniors. We looked forward to the wonderful meetings. We are in San Diego most of the time lately. Sure miss everyone. ▲

 **UPTOWN**
BODY & FENDER

Giovanna Tanzillo

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Special Greetings to Our Founders

(Editor's Note — The following are special messages placed in the "Lavender Pioneers" event program booklet by well-wishers. Many thanks for their support!)

Congratulations to the Lavender Seniors for accomplishing so much in a short period of time. Enjoy your party — you've earned it!
--Carol Beth

Congratulations, Lavender Seniors. We appreciate your service to our community.
--Dr. David Bui

We're aging — We're aging *well* — We're aging well, *together!* Thanks to the Pioneers for Lavender Seniors.

--Elizabeth Callaway Trust Services

Thank you, Dotty, for all you give and your continuing support of my work. I have learned so much from you. --Nancy Flaxman

In all my travels and work, I have never seen a program more successful through the efforts of volunteers than Lavender Seniors. You are an inspiration. --Nancy Flaxman

Congrats, Lavender Pioneers and Seniors! Your work is so valuable! Come visit us outside Palm Springs. --Dot and Carol

Congratulations, Aunt Meg & Aunt Bobbie. I am so proud of you both. You are an inspiration to us all. Tons of love.
--Jennifer aka your favorite lesbian niece!

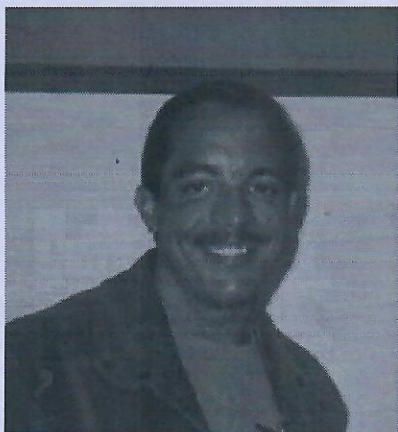
Keep up the good work. We're proud of our "sisters," Meg and BJ. Love, Carole and Nick

For your leadership and vision, we say "thank you." --Paula Pilecki and Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns, Marin County

Congratulations, Lavender Pioneers, for your gentle leadership. --John Simmons

Thank you for expanding awareness and providing support. --Rose Simmons

Thank you, Lavender Seniors, for your courage and pioneering spirit! Best wishes.
--Dr. Carolyn Stroebe, Licensed Psychologist
(Offices in Berkeley, Albany, & Walnut Creek)



Alan Pardini

Dear Friends, Has it really been nine years since a small group of us first came together to talk about issues, needs and concerns of LGBT seniors in the East Bay? I am unbelievably proud of the work Lavender Seniors has accomplished and I'm certain that the future holds even more important and exciting challenges for us. What a great start! What a promising future! Congratulations and thanks to all the awesome volunteers who have taken a good idea and made it a reality. I am looking forward to visiting with you and celebrating Lavender Seniors' many accomplishments. Best Wishes, Alan Pardini ▲

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Beth Williams

January 1

Carol Beth

January 2

Rosemary C. Hyde

January 4

Maggie Rochlin

January 4

Roma Rehfish

January 7

W. Pigman

January 13

Ina Mae Murri

January 15

Bob Compton

January 25

Ellen Scheiner

January 27

Susan Vanderburgh

January 27

Mary Volz

January 31

Become a "Friend of Lavender Seniors" today!

Your support is crucial to Lavender Seniors' continuing role as a vital resource to our community.

Become a "Friend of Lavender Seniors." Please take a moment and send your gift today. Your annual giving entitles you to a subscription to our monthly newsletter, *Lavender Notes*.

Here's my gift of: ___\$15 ___\$25* ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 Other: _____

(* Please give this amount or more if possible.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Tides Center / Lavender Seniors

and mail to:
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

Thank you!

- ☐ Please contact me about including Lavender Seniors in my will.
- ☐ Please contact me about participating in your programs and/or volunteering.
- ☐ Please do not list me in Lavender Seniors publications as a "Friend of Lavender Seniors."

Lavender Seniors never lends, sells, or gives away its mailing list.

Monthly Potluck

Saturday, January 10

Meal at Noon ▲ Program at 1 p.m.

Your name begins with the letters

A through G — bring a **Salad**

H through M — bring a **Dessert/Fruit**

N through Z — bring **Main Dish**

Shuttle from San Leandro BART station is available. Call Lavender Seniors one day ahead to arrange pickup: (510) 667-9655

Government and LGBT seniors:

What do we want?

What can we expect?

This month's potluck will feature a discussion with Oakland City Council Member Danny Wan and representatives of the Mayor's Commission on Aging.

Regardless of where you live, this is a unique opportunity to educate government officials and learn how they view LGBT seniors and our interests. Come join the conversation!

Doreen Brand & Bev Hickok



In our wildest dreams, we wouldn't have believed possible a group existing solely for old, gay women and men — a group that would provide a safe meeting place at which to sponsor speakers, lunches, entertainment, as well as political activities. But the climate was right, and we were lucky enough to be invited to the first meeting of Lavender Seniors, which was held in a meeting room at Macy's in a shopping center. Since then, we have grown and prospered, and we see our group as a foundation of total acceptance, in the coming years, of our lifestyle by the community as a whole. ▲

Bill Baillie & Don Silva (aka Mama Portugal)

When we came to Lavender Seniors, we had a great time and met a lot of nice people, so we joined the club. ▲



Community Listings

<p>East Bay Women's Support Group</p> <p>Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, 1:15—3 p.m.</p> <p>January 9 and 23</p> <p>Meets at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p>	<p>Seniors Men's Afternoon</p> <p>2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 1:30—3:30 p.m.</p> <p>January 8 and 22</p> <p>At Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p>	<p>Senior Support Group at Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward</p> <p>Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 5—7 p.m.</p> <p>January 13 and 27</p> <p>Co-leaders: Frank Howell and Fred Banuelos</p> <p>Call Frank for more information: (510)489-0932</p>
<p>Fellows of East Bay</p> <p>2nd Sunday of each month, 5:30—8:30 p.m.</p> <p>January 11</p> <p>Social Club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly potluck dinner and social held at Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market St., Oakland.</p> <p>Bring food and drink to share and a \$4 donation.</p>	<p>Alameda Co. Social Services Agency Low or No Cost Public Health Coverage for Seniors (over 65) and children and their families</p> <p><u>Sign up:</u> January 10, 10 a.m.—3 p.m. St. Elizabeth's Parish, Franciscan Hall 1500 34th Ave., Oakland</p> <p>More information: Call the Medi-Cal Client Advocate at 510-383-2898</p>	<p>EXHIBIT--Through Jan. 15, Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality (1971-1982). Photos by Cathy Cade, UC Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley. Call for hours: 510/643-8140.</p> <p>SLIDE TALK--Jan. 15, Queer Photo Salon Series, SF Main Public Library auditorium. 6-8 pm. Cathy Cade, Tammy Rae Carland & Christopher Reed.</p>

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Advertising rates* for Lavender Notes

Ad Size	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Classified ad	\$2 per line (per month) on a 3 -column page			
Business card	\$25	\$65	\$125	\$235
Quarter page	\$40	\$100	\$185	\$350
Half page	\$75	\$185	\$350	\$650
Full page	\$135	\$350	\$650	\$1,200

* Individuals and non-profit organizations who have made an annual contribution of \$25 or more are entitled to discounts of 50% on classified ads and 20% on ads of other sizes. Lavender Seniors reserves the right to accept or reject any ad submitted.