

LAVENDER NOTES

Official Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

A Project of the Tides Center

1395 Bancroft Avenue
(510) 667-9655

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info@lavenderseniors.org

www.lavenderseniors.org



Volume IX, Issue 5

May 2004

CELEBRATING OUR TENTH YEAR!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 8, NOON-2 PM. Lavender Seniors monthly potluck, 1395 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro. "Taking Care of Business: What Every LGBT Senior Needs to Know About Having a Will." Guest speakers: Barbara Beery, attorney at law, and Elizabeth Callaway, fiduciary. See back page for more information.

MAY 20, 12:30-2:30 PM. Lavender Lunch Bunch. Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, in Oakland. (see adjacent story)

MAY 27, 11 AM-2 PM. Second Annual Older Americans Month Celebration. Oakland City Hall, Frank Ogawa Plaza. Sponsored by Oakland Department of Human Services. Resource tables, music, dancers, speakers, storytellers, and more. Want to volunteer at the Lavender Seniors table? Call us at 667-9655.

AUGUST 21. East Bay Pride Picnic, Cull Canyon Regional Park. More information to come.

NOVEMBER 14. Celebration of Lavender Seniors' Tenth Anniversary. More information to come.

SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, NOON-2 PM. Lavender Seniors upcoming monthly potlucks: Recognizing and Stopping Elder Abuse & Neglect (July), Transgender Issues (August). Others to be announced.



Lavender Lunch Bunch Gets Off to a Great Start

Lavender Seniors' new monthly lunchtime program called Lavender Lunch Bunch (LLB) is off to a great start, with about 40 people attending the first gathering on April 22.

"There is an obvious need for Lavender Lunch Bunch," said Jeff Vessels, Director of Lavender Seniors. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors in the East Bay need more ways to meet one another and feel part of a supportive community."

"LLB is perfect for Oakland's diverse LGBT seniors," said Peggy Moore, Outreach Specialist for Lavender Seniors. "Everybody feels at home."

LLB is co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors

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Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is funded by individual 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, The San Francisco Foundation, and Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. 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) 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

May 4, 7 pm., at the office. Interested persons are welcome; public comments take place at 7 pm.

Staff

Jeff Vessels, MSSW, Director

Peggy Moore, Outreach Specialist

Nancy Fugett, Administrator

Newsletter Editor

Charles A. Aiken

Lavender Seniors welcomes all persons age 55 and older, their partners, and guests. Cost of production & mail makes necessary a request of \$15 minimum annual donation to receive the newsletter. Visitors & others may receive the newsletter for three months without charge. No one is turned away for lack of funds. For gifts, make checks payable to *Tides Center / Lavender Seniors*.

Signed articles represent the opinion of the authors & 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. ▲

Lavender Juniors Update

The first meeting of Lavender Juniors occurred on April 29. Because of press deadlines for Lavender Notes, more details will be printed in next month's edition. Lavender Juniors is a project of Lavender Seniors that is designed to involve more non-seniors in the work of our organization. To learn more, please call Jeff at the office or email him at jeff@lavenderseniors.org ▲

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 and/or 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 to LGBT seniors.
 - ▲ Potlucks on the second Saturday of each month, to provide a safe and welcoming social environment and information from invited speakers.
 - ▲ Lavender Lunch Bunch, a monthly social gathering with food and drinks provided, on one Thursday each month.
 - ▲ Lavender Juniors, to organize support from LGBT non-seniors and guide inter-generational programming.
 - ▲ 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. ▲

Happy Birthday!

May 1 JAN FAULKNER JIM JOSLIN	May 7 LESLIE BRANDT	May 16 ED TANOVITZ	May 26 LYNN RAYBURN
May 2 PETER HART JOAN NORRY DON "MAMA P" SILVA	May 9 SHIRLEY DENNETT ANGELA HUNKLER	May 20 TITA CALDWELL BERNI MILLER IBARRA	May 28 SHIRLEY SARTIN
May 6 EDWARD MAJUL	May 13 BILL BAILLIE MICKEY BARKER	May 21 NORMA METZ MYRA WILLIAMS	May 29 JOAN EMERSON
	May 14 ROLLAND SHERMAN	May 23 CAROL MARTIN	May 30 FRANCES FRANCO

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.)

- Enclosed is a check made payable to Tides Center/Lavender Seniors
- Please charge my (circle one): AMEX Mastercard VISA

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

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

Thank you!

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

May Book Review



Against The Current: Coming Out In The 40's

by Beverly Hickok

Xlibris Corp. Paperback

Reviewed by Frank Howell

Ah! The memories of days never to come again. It is vital that young gays and lesbians appreciate what it was like to live and survive in

tered with the attack on Pearl Harbor. From there the reader is taken through the war years when Jan obtains a job on a defense assembly line. But the grim and boring routine gradually wears Jan down and she joins the Waves.

We experience the danger and excitement of the hidden love affairs that never

her parents' need to envision her as a teacher? They are shocked when she decides to work in a war factory and mother delivers a classic line of the period, "Dad wouldn't want the neighbors to see you dressed in slacks!" How times change.

Bev Hickok has written a haunting memoir of an era

It is vital that young gays and lesbians appreciate what it was like to live and survive in the San Francisco Bay Area of the 1940's.

the San Francisco Bay Area of the 1940's. Bev Hickok, a member of the Lavender Seniors, has painted a vivid portrait of a time and place that some of us can only vaguely recall.

Jan is a young teacher trainee who aspires to please her two prim, middle class parents who reside in Berkeley. We are caught up in the innocence of life teetering on the edge of World War II. Jan is only vaguely aware of the larger world. Her initial exposure to life is "The Well of Loneliness."

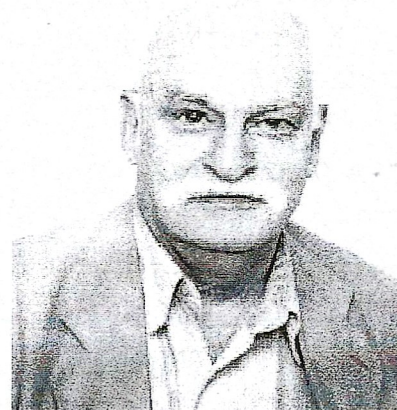
She goes through the usual failure of the first heterosexual date, the scary encounters in a lesbian bar, and meeting her first fellow lesbians. Jan resolves to begin therapy with Margaret, a dream analyst, at Cal Berkeley. This world of security and certainty is shat-

quite gel.

But it is the recreation of the American culture of the era that remains most striking: the movies and songs of the time like "Two Old Maids in a Folding Bed," and the one that stabs us and never lets go, the old Rodgers and Hart tearjerker, "They're Singing Songs of Love But Not for Me." You feel as though we are really there with Jan and her girlfriends.

Will Jan be able to reconcile her deepest wishes with

that will leave an imprint on us for years to come. ▲



Frank Howell



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(Continued from page 1)

and the Oakland Department of Human Services, which is under-writing expenses.

The next LLB gathering will be May 20, 12:30-2:30 p.m., at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, in Oakland.

Attendees at the April 22 inaugural gathering enjoyed food and drinks catered by the City of Oakland plus lots of fun conversation. Ideas for future LLB gatherings include hearing people's coming-out stories (similar to a Speakers Panel presentation), having a walk around Lake Merritt just before or after LLB, having icebreakers at each luncheon, playing cards and other games, learning about community resources, and more.

LLB is in addition to Lavender Seniors' long-standing monthly potlucks on the second Saturday of each month in San Leandro. Unlike the Saturday potlucks, all food and drinks at LLB are provided, thanks to Oakland DHS. All LGBT seniors in the East Bay are welcome, and no reservation is needed. ▲

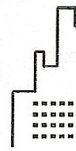
FEATURED RESOURCE OF THE MONTH...

East Bay Paratransit

What is **East Bay Paratransit**? East Bay Paratransit (EBP) is transportation for people who are unable to use buses or BART trains because of a disability or a disabling health condition. It is sponsored by AC Transit and BART to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Rides from your starting location to your destination are provided in a sedan or lift-equipped van. You will share the vehicle with other paratransit riders. It is not necessary for the rider to wait at a bus stop or go to a BART station.

Where and when are services available?

Service is available in the same area where AC Transit operates—from Richmond/Pinole in the North, to Fremont in the South, and to Castro Valley in the East. Service is available during



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the hours when AC Transit buses or BART trains are running in each particular area. EBP's reservations staff can tell you if service is available when and where you want it.

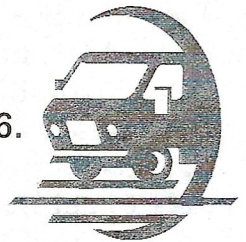
How much does it cost? The fare depends on the length of the trip you are taking. The reservationist and the driver will let you know the amount of the fare.

How can I receive the service? All riders must be certified as eligible to use the program. To receive an application, or for more information, call the Certification Office at

EAST BAY PARATRANSIT:

VOICE: 510-287-5000, press 6.

TTY: 510-287-5065
(for the Hearing Impaired)



Are there other paratransit services besides EBP?

Yes. All of the transit agencies in the Bay Area (MUNI, CCCTA, WestCAT, Union City Transit, and others) offer paratransit services in their areas. ▲

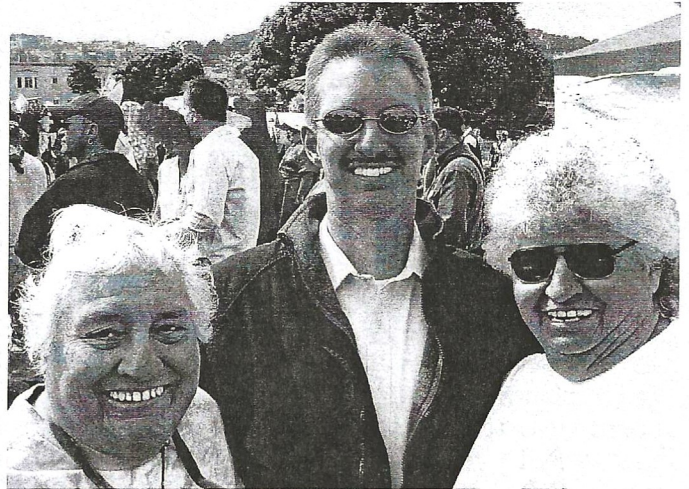
Are you a member of Oakland's LGBT African American, Latino, Native American, Asian, or Pacific Islander Communities?

We want to hear your ideas for improving health and human services in Oakland. (You don't have to be a senior to participate.)

Through a project funded by the City of Oakland, Lavender Seniors is collecting information to make recommendations to city officials for improving services for our community.

Participate in a group discussion, complete a brief, 10-minute survey or do both. We welcome all your ideas.

To share your ideas, or to help with the Project in other ways, call Peggy Moore, Outreach Specialist at Lavender Seniors, 510-667-9655. ▲



L to R: Board Co-Chair Ina Mae Murri, Lavender Seniors Director Jeff Vessels, and Stella Lopez-Armijo accept a \$750 grant at the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence 25th Anniversary Festival. Photo by Rick Horten.

New Grants!

Lavender Seniors has received a \$10,000 grant from The True North Foundation, another grant of nearly \$5,000 from Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, and a \$750 grant from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The True North Foundation's grant will support the overall operation of our organization. The County and Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence grants will help us purchase much-needed office equipment so we can serve everyone more effectively and efficiently. Many, many thanks to The True North Foundation, Alameda County government, and Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for their strong, steadfast support of Lavender Seniors. ▲

The Dollars and Cents of Equality... One Couple's Story

(excerpted from AARP The Magazine Online, March 19, 2004)

When Joan's female partner Lee died at their home, Joan couldn't even sign the death certificate, because Massachusetts law requires "next of kin." Now alone, Joan fears she may have to sell their home because she lacks the legal and financial protections that would come automatically if they had been married. Although they purchased the house in both names with rights of survivorship, Joan must pay taxes on Lee's share of the house, which would not be the case if they were married. Joan won't be able to get her partner's Social Security benefits and pension, either, but the survivor of a married couple would have collected both. Joan might also incur taxes exceeding tens of thousands of dollars after inheriting Lee's retirement plan. ▲

CATHY CADE

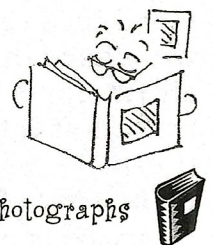
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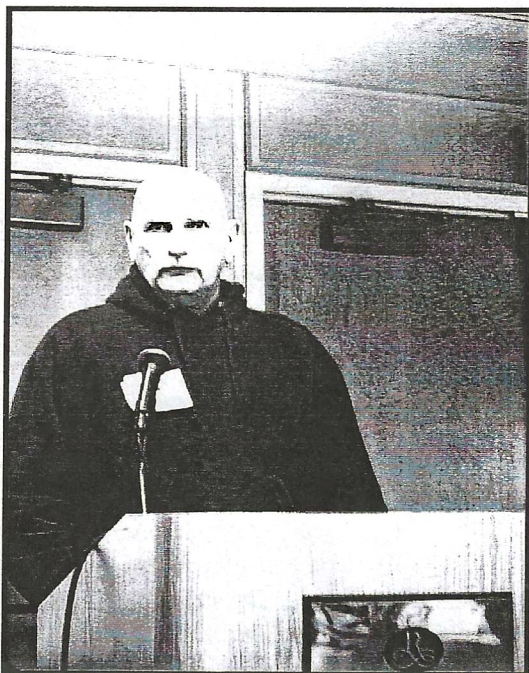
Lavender Seniors Participates in American Society on Aging National Conference

Lavender Seniors representatives were among some 4,000 attendees at the annual national conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) in San Francisco in mid-April. The Lesbian and Gay Aging Information Network (LGAIN), a section of ASA, held special seminars and events for and about lesbian, gay, bisexual,




and transgender seniors. Lavender Seniors hosted an information table at a reception at the LGBT Center, speaking with dozens of people from all over the United States, Canada, and Australia about how to start similar organizations. The conference culminated in a Senior LGBT Community Forum, where Lavender Seniors representatives shared their

expertise and enjoyed making new friends. In the accompanying photos, Lavender Seniors Board member Natalie Zarchin (below right photo) shares good conversation with a friend, Vera, and Lavender Seniors Outreach Specialist Peggy Moore (photo left) and former Board member John Ellefsen (far bottom left) speak to a crowd of nearly 150. ▲



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Fellows of East Bay
 2nd Sunday of each month,
 5:30—8:30 pm.
MAY 9
 Social Club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly potluck dinner and social held at Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market St., Oakland.
 Bring food and drink to share and a \$4 donation.

Seniors Men's Afternoon
 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 1:30—3:30 pm.
MAY 13 & 27
 at Pacific Center,
 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley
 Co-sponsored by
 Lavender Seniors and
 Pacific Center

Senior Support Group
 at Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward is
TAKING A BREAK.
 Co-leaders: Frank Howell and Fred Banuelos.
 Call Frank for more information: **489-0932**

Mama P Does 69
 at Club Rumor in Hayward,
MAY 8, 7 PM. - ?
 To celebrate her birthday, Mama P does a fundraiser for the Ducal Court Charity Account. Auction. Raffle. Food. Entertainment.
 Special Guest MCs: Jackie Best and Rosie Rotten from Reno.

Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus

 presents
Something's in the Air
 with soloist Yulia Ronskaya. **MAY 1, 8 PM**, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave. \$12 in advance or \$15 at door. 1-800-706-2389 or www.eastbayvoice.org/tickets

MONTHLY POTLUCK


THIS MONTH'S POTLUCK FEATURES...

Saturday, May 8
 Meal at Noon ▲ Program at 1 p.m.
 If your name begins with the letter
 N through Z bring a **Main Dish**
 A through G bring a **Salad**
 H through Mbring **Dessert/Fruit**
 Shuttle from San Leandro BART station is available. Call Lavender Seniors one day ahead to arrange pickup: 510-667-9655

Taking Care of Business: What Every LGBT Senior Needs to Know About Having a Will
 Do you know the top 10 biggest myths about having a will? Guest speakers Barbara Beery, attorney at law, and Elizabeth Callaway, fiduciary, will bust the myths at our May potluck. Come and learn about—
 *Practical tips on how to get started with a will
 *How to take advantage of changes in the law
 *How to protect yourself and your loved ones in your will.
 Whether you have a will, are considering updating yours or aren't sure if you need one, Barbara & Betsy have answers to share. ▲

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


ADVERTISE WITH LAVENDER NOTES
 * 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.