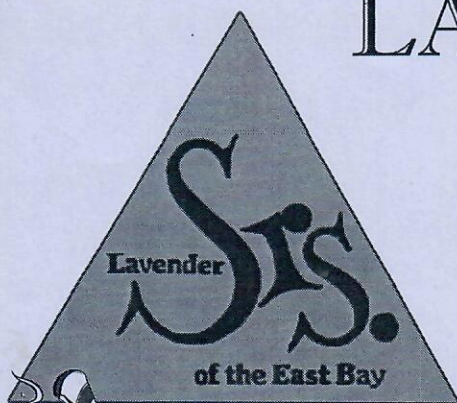


LAVENDER NOTES

Official Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
A Project of the Tides Center



1395 Bancroft Avenue
(510) 667-9655

San Leandro, CA 94577
info@lavenderseniors.org

www.lavenderseniors.org

Volume X, Issue 1

January 2005

Happy New Year!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 8, NOON-2PM: LAVENDER SENIORS MONTHLY POTLUCK. A PERFORMANCE BY MOTHER TONGUE. 1395 BANCROFT AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO.

POTLUCKS ARE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JANUARY 20, 12:30-2:30PM: LAVENDER LUNCH BUNCH. GAME DAY—BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD GAME. LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER, 666 BELLEVUE, IN OAKLAND. CATERED FOOD; FREE. CO-SPONSORED BY OAKLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. OPEN TO ALL LGBT SENIORS.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Reva Ross Becomes First Student Intern at Lavender Seniors

Reva Ross joined the Lavender Seniors staff this fall as the organization's first intern. A student in the Masters of Social Work program at California State University—Hayward, Reva works 20 hours per week for Lavender Seniors and will be with us through May.

A resident of Oakland for the past five years, Reva, 35, is a native of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. From there, she moved to Queens, NY, where she was a student at Molloy College. She then went to Atlanta, where she received her Bachelors in Social Work from Georgia State University.

Reva has particular interest in HIV education and prevention and has been involved in Oakland and Atlanta.

"I have been concerned about under-representation of women – especially lesbians – and elders in HIV education and prevention," Reva says. "I'm also interested in

(Continued on page 7)

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, East Bay Community Foundation & 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, Michael Mitchell, &
Natalie Zarchin, Members at-Large

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Jan. 4, 7 pm., call the office for more information. Interested persons are welcome; public comments take place at 7 pm.

STAFF

Jeff Vessels, MSSW, Director
Peggy Moore, Outreach Specialist
Mitchell Foudray, Care Coordinator
Nancy Fugett, Administrator
Reva Ross, Student Intern

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. ▲

United Way Donors, Remember Lavender Seniors!

Do you donate to United Way of the Bay Area? You can support Lavender Seniors by designating your pledge or gift for us. No special code is necessary—just write in “Lavender Seniors”!

What We Do ...

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

- ▲ The LGBT Seniors of Color 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 the third Thursday of 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. ▲

Susan Levinkind, JD
Lesbian Tax Mom

Don't Worry!

*I have over 20 years of
experience helping
self-employed,
homeowners,
retired folks and
others with their taxes.*

Let me help you.

8008 Winthrop Street
Oakland, CA 94605
510-383-9858

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 1
BETH WILLIAMS

January 2
CAROL BETH

January 4
ROSEMARY C. HYDE
MAGGIE ROCHLIN

January 7
ROMA REHFISCH

January 13
W. PIGMAN

January 15
INA MAE MURRI

January 25
BOB COMPTON

January 27
ELLEN SCHEINER
SUSAN VANDERBURGH

January 31
MARY VOLZ

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

Card #: _____ Expires: ____/____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

Home Telephone:
(____) _____ - _____

Address: _____

Email Address:
_____@_____

City/State/ZIP: _____

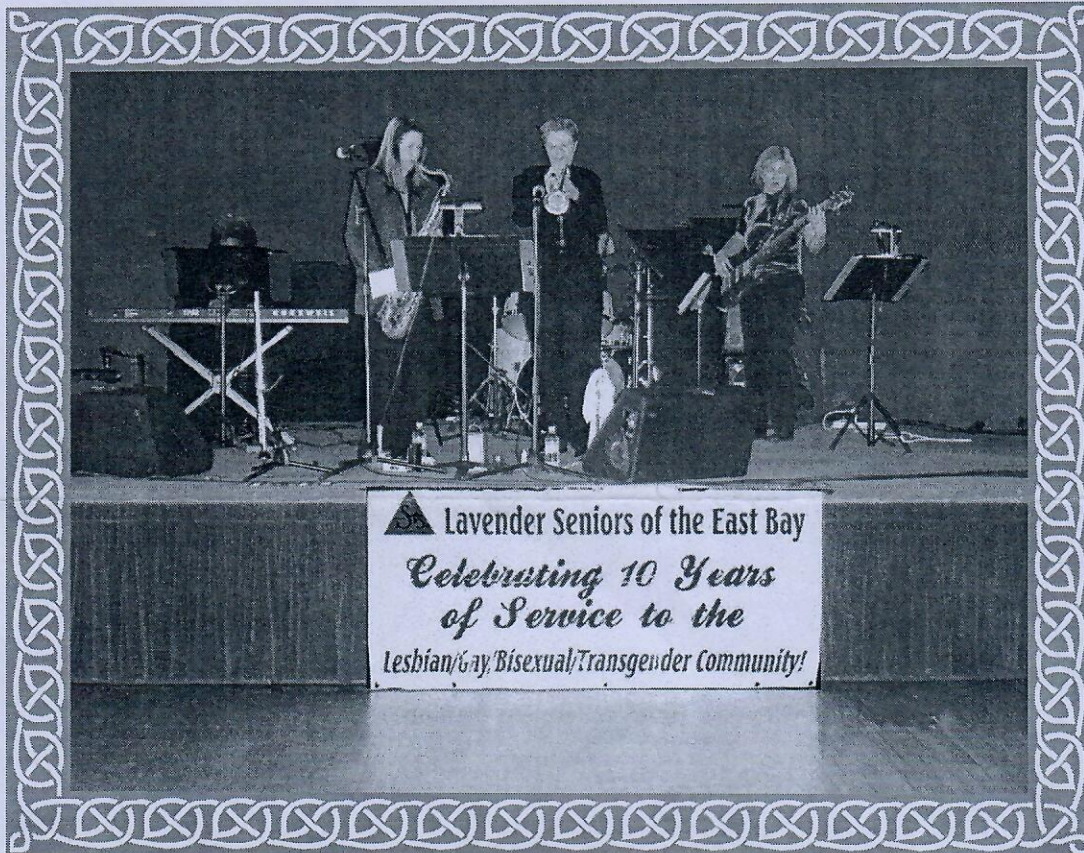
- Please contact me about including Lavender Seniors in my will.
- Please contact me about participating in Lavender Seniors' programs and/or volunteering.
- Please do **not** list me in Lavender Seniors publications as a "Friend of Lavender Seniors."

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.





UPTOWN
BODY & FENDER

Giovanna Tanzillo

TEL: (510) 251-8009

FAX: (510) 251-0605

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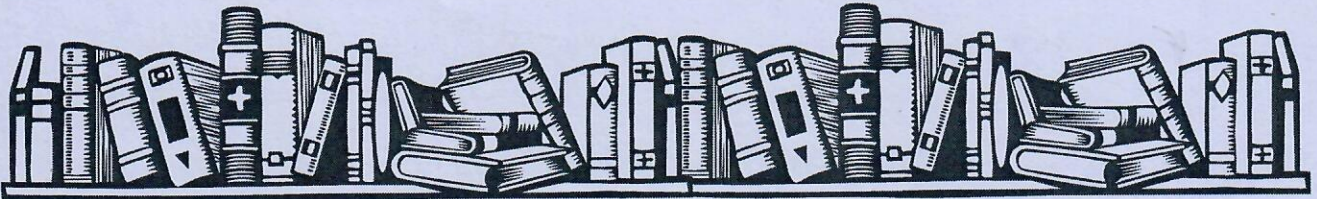
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**GAY AND HEALTHY IN A SICK SOCIETY**

BY ROBERT MINOR

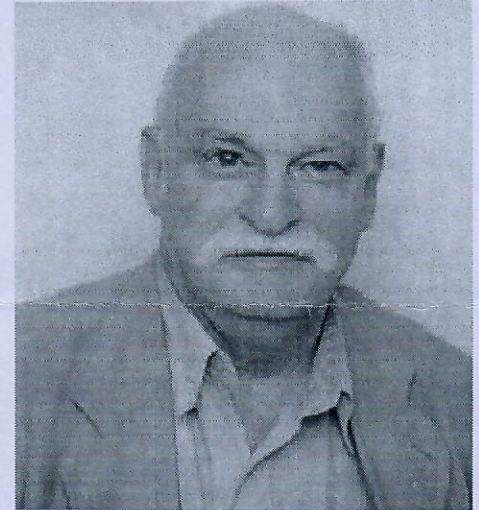
HUMANITY WORKS—\$14.95

4047 BOTANICAL AVENUE, SUITE 200

ST. LOUIS, MO 63110-3905

Philosophers have debated the same nagging questions for centuries: Do we change the system or force the individual to conform to it?

Robert Minor, Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas, jumps in head first and challenges the reader to confront his or her own wrong-headed ideas about homophobia, drag shows, religion and sex.



FRANK HOWELL

The Republican Party brooks no compromise, why should we.

Sometimes people in our community overdo their attempts to fit into society. This doesn't mean we should always expect people to come out of their confining closets. But we still need to develop some backbone and fight back by picking our battles with care.

Minor puts muscle into his vision when he tells us, "The boy who was 'left out' because he didn't fit in was the one most in touch with his humanity."

The same can be said of lesbians who must finally abandon being a tomboy and prepare herself to satisfy men.

Minor provides sound advice on relationship issues. Sample: don't use a new friendship as a means of resolving difficulties left over from old encounters. Work on your own hang-ups first.

Gay marriage presents a vexing dilemma. It is marvelous for solving practical troubles

like taxes and real estate, but the human issues stubbornly remain. Conservatives blame gays and lesbians for their own problems instead of working on them.

Our friendly guide suggests that we demand full citizenship from the Democratic Party. The Republican Party brooks no compromise, why should we.

Minor adores gay street fairs and considers them the ultimate form of democracy.

But he feels we should not bath ourselves in smugness simply because we have it made on the TV shows. There is still much work to do in the area of public education and civil rights.

Gay And Healthy will give us all a fresh shot of adrenalin as we creep into a vigorous old age. It forces us to re-examine worn out ideas that need refreshing.

—Frank Howell

Lavender Seniors is Searching for a New Director

Our current director, Jeff Vessels, will be leaving for a new position on January 31, 2005.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in this position, further information regarding hours, salary and duties of the director will be on our Website at www.lavenderseniors.org.

If you want further information, please call the office at **510-667-9655, ext. 113** or e-mail jeff@lavenderseniors.org.

(Continued from page 1)

learning more about what's appropriate for mothers when it comes to educating them about HIV."

While at Lavender Seniors, Reva will spend much of her time assessing HIV in the East Bay lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender senior populations and conducting general outreach activities in Latino communities.

To reach Reva, call our office at 510-667-9655.

Left to right:
Lavender Seniors
Co-Chairs
Frank Howell
and
Ina Mae Murri
and Director Jeff Vessels
make announcements
and begin a raffle at the
Tenth Anniversary
Gala Celebration.



COMMUNITY LISTINGS

Seniors Men's Afternoon

2nd and 4th Thursdays
of each month, 1:30—3:30 pm.

January 13TH & 27TH

at Pacific Center,
2712 Telegraph Ave.,
Berkeley.

Co-sponsored by Lavender
Seniors and Pacific Center

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Fellows of East Bay

2nd Sunday of each month,
5:30—8:30 pm.

January 9TH

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.

LAVENDER LUNCH BUNCH

January 20, 12:30-2:30 PM:
Lavender Lunch Bunch will be
a game day—bring your favor-
ite board game or a deck of
cards. Free food. Great, diverse
crowd. No reservations neces-
sary.



Saturday, January 8TH

MEAL AT NOON ✕ PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.

If your name begins with the letter

A through G
H through L
M through Z

bring a Main Dish
bring a Salad
bring Dessert/Fruit

San Leandro BART station Shuttle available. Call one day
ahead to arrange: 510-667-9655

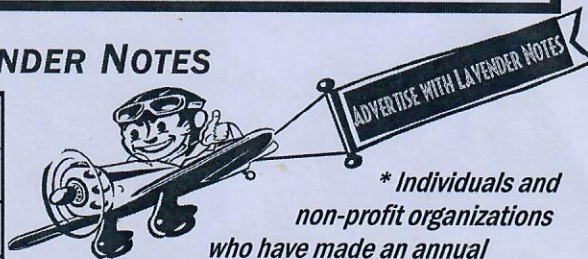
THIS MONTH'S POTLUCK FEATURES...

MOTHER TONGUE PRESENTS THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF AGING

The Mother Tongue group, composed of five women, will explore the world of older people through a series of monologues and other dramatic techniques at the next potluck of the Lavender Seniors. Mother Tongue, well known to Lavender Seniors due to the efforts of Ruth Michaels, has been doing presentations for a number of years.

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.