



# LavenderNotes

*A Project of the Tides Center*

1395 Bancroft Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577

Web: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

Phone: 510-667-9655

Fax: 510-667-9909

e-mail: [Info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:Info@lavenderseniors.org)

Inside this issue:

Medicare, Part D	4
From a New Member	4
Staff Changes	4
Milestones— from Rose White	5
October Book Review— Secret Services	6
Speakers' Panel	7
LGBT Aging Workshop	7
Marriage Equality	8

## Pending Constitutional Amendments to Eliminate California Domestic Partnerships

from *Equality California*  
( [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org) )

At this moment, anti-equality extremists are gathering signatures for a Constitutional amendment that would:

1. permanently *repeal* legally recognized domestic partnership rights, and
2. permanently *ban* access to the state courts and Legislature to redress

marriage discrimination against same-sex couples.

If these state Constitutional Amendments pass in June, 2006, thousands of domestic partners, *both same-sex and opposite-sex couples*, will lose their basic relationship protections such as: elimination of rights to hospital visitation, child cus-

*(Continued on page 4)*

# October 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8 Potluck
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 GLOBE dinner-Hayward
16	17	18 LGBT Aging wkshp	19 Young at Heart-Newark	20 Lavender Lunch Bunch	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### Schedule of Events

- October 5, 7–8:30 PM—LS Board Meeting
- October 8, 12–2 PM—LS Potluck, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. Program is *White House Conference on Aging* with Joyce Pierson.
- October 10—Deadline for absentee ballots for November special election
- October 15, 6 PM—"Coming Out Dinner"—Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church, 27287 Patrick Ave., Hayward—GLOBE dinner honoring United Church of Christ and Hayward Councilman Kevin Dowling. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.
- October 18, Noon–2 PM, Smith Barney (Bank of America Building), 555 California, San Francisco, "LGBT Aging, Are We Prepared?" (see article on page 7)
- October 19, 5–8 PM Night Out, Young at Heart. Newark Hilton, Fwy. 880 & Stephenson Rd. For information contact Barbara Proctor at (510)574-2094 or Joan Bettancourt Newman at 489-3800.
- October 20, 12:30–2:30 PM—Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. FREE catered food. Co-sponsored by Oakland Department of Human Services. Open to ALL LGBT Seniors. Third Thursday of each month.
- October 24— Last day to register to vote in special election (11/8).

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, Sociological Initiatives Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation & Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. *We gratefully acknowledge the support of all Friends of Lavender Seniors.*

# LavenderNotes

is the official 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, Frank Banuelos,  
Rose White & Natalie Zarchin, Members at Large

### Next Advisory Board Meeting

**October 5 at 7PM.** Call the office for more information.

Interested persons are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM.

### Staff

Barbara Faulkner, Director

Mitchell Foudray, Care Coordinator

Christina Cappelletti, Outreach Specialist

Nancy Fugett, Administrator

### Newsletter Editor

Charles A. Aiken

### Webmaster

Bert Hendriksen

Lavender Seniors welcomes all persons age 55 and older, their partners, and guests. Cost of production and 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 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.

*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.** Improves access to health and human services to LGBT seniors in the African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities.
- **Friendly Visitors Program.** Matches volunteers with isolated and/or frail LGBT seniors for social support, light household and shopping assistance, and telephone assurance.
- **Speakers Panel Program.** Educates service providers and urges them to change policies and practices to make services more accessible to LGBT seniors.
- **Monthly Potlucks each 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.** Provides a safe and welcoming social environment and information from invited speakers.
- **Lavender Lunch Bunch.** Provides a social gathering with food and drinks, on the third Thursday of each month.
- **Lavender Juniors.** Organizes support from LGBT non-seniors and guides intergenerational programming.
- **Monthly Discussion Groups.** Co-sponsored and hosted by the Pacific Center (see back page for schedule).
- **Monthly newsletter, *Lavender Notes.***
- **Website.** <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>.

To get involved as a participant or volunteer, contact us at 510-667-9655 or e-mail [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto: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

October Birthdays

October 6

Kenneth Hamilton
Bob Lindeborg
Ron Williams

October 7

Nate Herrington

October 11

Jeanine DeBacker

October 12

Reva Ross

October 13

Julie Lawyer

October 25

Joe Tanzi

October 26

Claire Jeannette

October 27

Edward Franco

Carol Meisner

October 28

Shoshana Kobrin

Lorraine Rosenblatt

October 31

Beverly Hickok

Jaye Scott

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: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail 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

(Continued from page 1)

tody, bereavement leave and health insurance for partners and their children.

EQCA Institute (EQCAI) and other community groups are participating in a "Just Say Know" campaign to educate the public about the impact of these proposed ballot measures before they sign a discriminatory petition. Go to [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org) and [www.equalityforallca.org](http://www.equalityforallca.org) to learn more.

*EQCAI is California's LGBT civil rights advocacy and education organization.*

## What Is Medicare? Part D

from Diane Sickman:

In the coming months, you will hear a lot about the new Medicare Prescription Drug coverage (Medicare Part D) which will be known as Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs). This new coverage is the most significant change to Medicare in the past four decades and you'll probably have a lot of questions on how it will affect you.

The PDPs will be available to everyone enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B. The PDPs are not an automatic benefit. As it is a voluntary program, you must choose to join a PDP. It is important to understand if you are happy with your current coverage you will have the choice to remain on your current Medigap plan just as it is today.

Within the next month an announcement will be made about which companies have been chosen to offer the PDPs. The plan must provide the government's standard prescription drug coverage; they will also offer enhanced coverage as well.

The standard benefit will have an annual deductible of \$250. You pay the first \$250, then you will pay 25% or 25¢ of each dollar spent on prescription drugs including

biological products, insulin, vaccines and certain medical supplies, up to \$2,250. So your part would be \$500. You will then be responsible for 100% of the cost between \$2,250 and \$5,100, which equals an additional \$2,850. This gap in coverage is often referred to as the "donut hole" or "gap." Finally you will either pay 5% or \$2 for generics or \$5 for brand names, whichever is greater, and Medicare will pay for 95% of all prescription drug cost after you have reached \$3600 in out-of-pocket spending.

The initial premiums are expected to be about \$35 per month. People with Medicare whose savings and income fall below a certain level will be able to apply for extra help paying for premiums and out-of-pocket costs. If you think you may qualify for this help call SSA at 1-800-772-1213. The SSAs application process will provide you with the quickest decision.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**November 15, 2005**—First enrollment period begins.

**January 1, 2006**—PDP's take effect.

**May 15, 2006**—First enrollment period ends for 2006.

**November 15, 2006**—Enrollment begins for 2007. You may use this period to switch PDP's.

**December 31, 2006**—Enrollment period ends for 2007.



No one should be rushed into making a choice. There will be plenty of time to learn about the variety of products and services that will be available from a wide number of companies. Specific plan information and rates will be available by October 2005. Even if you don't spend much on prescriptions drugs now, the new coverage can offer you benefits you may need to have in place if something should happen in the future that changes your prescription drug needs. In addition, each year, you may use the November 15—December 31 enrollment period to switch PDPs.

This message was presented to Lavender Seniors by Diane L. Sickman, Certified Senior Advisor, 415-453-4300.

### Staff Changes

As many of you know, **Peggy Moore** has left Lavender Seniors for another job opportunity. She is now working for Bay Area Businesswomen's Magazine. She is thrilled with her new job. She continues to stay in touch with us and help Lavender Seniors in any way that she can. Best of luck to you, Peggy!

We have been fortunate to hire **Christina Cappelletti** as our new Outreach Specialist. Christina comes to Lavender Seniors with five years of local experience in working with the LGBT community as Coordinator of the Lambda Youth Project. Christina holds BA, MA and MSW degrees. Welcome, Christina!

### From a New Member:

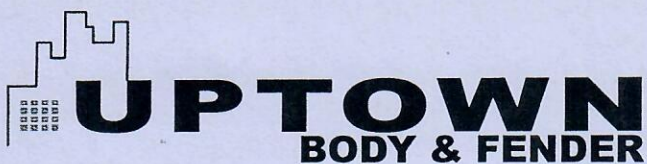
Aloha from Aunty Anita.

I have founded and created a website (**Island Goddess Pages** & my bio: [www.islandgoddess.org](http://www.islandgoddess.org)) full of photos with resources to medical, legal & HIV education for Mahuwahine (transgender) in Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

*Mahalo tee.* (Have a positive day.) Remember to spread the aloha in your world. Embrace & love the goddess within you. Be good to yourself. *Ei ho'okumu maua ka hale puni maua ohana me ka pumehana a me ka oiloi kealoha.* (May we create a home that surrounds our family and friends with warmth, laughter and love.)

May *Akua* bless your family and you,

Auntie Anita



**Giovanna Tanzillo**

TEL: 510-251-8009

FAX: 510-251-0605

401 TWENTY-SIXTH STREET  
 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94609  
 UPTOWN@UPTOWNBODY.COM



**Eriksen Chiropractic**

**Gentle, Effective Care**

- Headaches
- Arthritis
- Back & Neck Pain
- Injury Rehabilitation
- Arm & Leg Pain
- Disk Problems

Dr. Trevor Eriksen, B.A.,D.C.

*Affordable, Friendly*

*Family Practice*

Phone: 510-582-8222

1634 'B' Street, Hayward

**Elizabeth Callaway Trust Services**

*your local fiduciary*

**Trustee                      Executor**

**Conservator of the Estate**

**Bill Paying & Organizing Help**

*I can do it all or provide crucial help*

510-530-1720

elizcall@earthlink.net

*LOVE YOUR CONNECTION TO THE EARTH*

**FOOT MASSAGE AND MORE**

*nationally certified bodywork practitioner*

✿ experience with cancer, paralysis, transsexualism  
 and other physical differences ✿

♥ I COME TO YOU ♥

MARIE KOCHAUER

510-215-1200

**LAVENDER  
 MILESTONES**

**Milestone Notifications**

Our Advisory Board member Rose White has volunteered to field milestone information from members to make sure that they get into Lavender Notes. So please call her at 510-919-5942 or e-mail her at [arrapaho99@aol.com](mailto:arrapaho99@aol.com) to give her any information you may have about births, deaths, major illnesses or other life changes of our members.

**Priscilla Camp**

Attorney at Law, Mediator

**Law Offices of Priscilla Camp**

827 Broadway, Ste 200

Oakland, CA 94607

510-465-3885 fax 465-1732 priscilla@pcamlaw.com

Elder Law, Probates, Conservatorships, MediCal counseling,  
 Wills, Powers of Attorney, Trust Administration,  
 Guardianships of Minors' Estates



**Saint Cuthbert's  
 Episcopal Church**

7900 Mountain Blvd.

Oakland, CA 94605

*A warm, diverse, inclusive, joyous, loving  
 alternative family where you are welcome!*

Sunday Worship 8 & 10AM

Sundays @ St. Cuddy's 7PM

Potluck & Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7PM

## October Book Review

### Secret Service: Untold Stories of Lesbians in the Military

by Zsa Zsa Gershick

Alyson Books—paperback \$14.95

As taxpayers, we are sick and tired of highly trained military personnel being discharged simply because they sleep with the wrong person. Some twenty experts in Middle Eastern languages were separated from the service recently. Millions of dollars in training sacrificed on the altar of political correctness.

Zsa Zsa Gershick knows the territory, having served in the U.S. Army reserves from 1978 to 1983. She has been a nominee for the American Library Association's Best Gay and Lesbian Book. Gershick interviewed 31 women who served in a number of military positions.

Some of the women were kicked out and others managed to survive by remaining tightly shut in the closet until discharge.

The female of the species has a tougher row to hoe because of their gender. It has been said they are harassed without mercy because they are too independent or they refuse to sleep with the men. They are punished for their success by being labeled a dyke.

Army recruiters wanted women who were attractive and feminine but not butch looking. Major Maureen, for example, tells us that lesbians can have a successful career in spite of the pressures, but the psychological price is heavy. Straight military women are more accepting than straight male officers and soldiers. Many women were subject to security investigations because they were playing on the softball team.

There was frequent talk of rape. The commander would lecture the female soldiers, saying the men could not control themselves; travel in groups; don't wear shorts or tight clothing. In her interview, Lara Ballard says, "We'll have to issue soap-on-a-rope."

Lesbians will find Secret Service entertaining and thought provoking. Men will also find some enlightening observations about the attitudes toward males in uniform.

Frank Howell

## TOM LEWENZ & ROB MILLS and The VIP REALTY TEAM *proudly support and salute the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay*

It will be our privilege to make a cash donation to Lavender Seniors from every transaction!

*Serving Sellers, Buyers and Investors throughout the Greater East Bay and The City, we specialize in Trust and Probate transactions and have been with our parents during those difficult times. Striving to attain for you, the best market price through our regional marketing systems and expertise, we will guide you through your Real Estate transactions with skill, dignity, integrity, and most importantly, understanding.*

**Contact us for SERVICE BEYOND the EXPECTED!**

**1-877-VIP-TEAM**



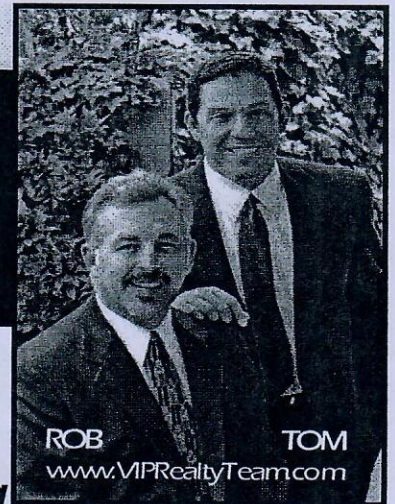
**SENIORS  
Real Estate  
Specialists**



Each Office is Independently Owned & Operated / An Independent Member Broker



**KELLER WILLIAMS.  
REALTY**



# LGBT AGING—Are We Prepared?

**Y**ou have a great opportunity to attend a workshop on this topic on Tuesday, October 18, 12-2PM, Smith Barney in the Bank of America building, 555 California St, 35<sup>th</sup> floor, San Francisco. Lunch will be served at this solicitation-free event. Due to strict building security and limited capacity, RSVP is strictly required. Please RSVP to [hpacheco@horizonsfoundation.org](mailto:hpacheco@horizonsfoundation.org), or 415-398-2333 x 350.

As individuals, couples and community, we need to plan for our senior years. This workshop will explore issues ranging from senior services, housing, long-term care needs and insurance; and provide helpful information on advanced health care directives and durable powers of attorney. You will walk out of this session with a clearer strategy for what you need to do to prepare yourself for aging, as well as for completing those important documents that may need attention.

Presenters will include **Helene Wenzel**, an LGBT elder law specialist. Helene is a solo practitioner in Estate Planning and Elder Law. Her Estate Planning practice includes the preparation of wills and trusts; durable powers of attorney, advance health care directives; trust administration and probate; and charitable giving. Her Elder Law practice includes estate planning as well as conservatorships; special needs trusts; long-term and nursing home care; asset management and Medi-Cal eligibility. Helene also counsels and works with the greater LGBT population and with same sex couples on these issues. Helene is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Chair of the Elder Law Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco and a regular speaker for the National Center of Lesbian Rights Elder Law Forum.

**Patrick Arbore**, Ed.D., is the director and co-founder of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Related Services (CESP), now a program in the Department of Psychology at the Institute on Aging in San Francisco. He is also the Director of Education and Professional Training at the IOA. CESP is also known as the Friendship Line for the Elderly, the only national telephone service for at-risk older adults. Patrick began his work in the fields of crisis intervention, bereavement and aging in 1973 from the Institute on Aging.

**Joyce Pierson, M.A.** from NCLR's Elder Law Project joined NCLR in March 2001 as the Elder Law Project Consultant, overseeing all Project activities. Joyce is a lesbian over 60 with 30 years' experience on a wide range of elder issues, and is a highly respected advocate for LGBT seniors. She has extensive networks with LGBT and mainstream senior organizations including Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, New Leaf Outreach to Elders, the Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Senior Services Collaborative, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, the Greater Bay Area Alzheimer's Association, and various Commissions on Aging throughout California. She also has direct contacts with informal groups of LGBT seniors around the Bay Area.

**Moli Steinert** is the new Executive Director of Open House, a non-profit organization whose primary focus is to create and sustain a residential village with related support services for LGBT seniors and their friends. Moli has worked extensively in non-profit fundraising and management over the past 25 years with LGBT and women's organizations such as National Center for Lesbian Rights, Continuum HIV Day Services. This program is co-sponsored by Open House, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.


## Speakers' Panel Presents to the Northern California Service Coordinators Conference in Walnut Creek

**O**n August 31<sup>st</sup>, Fred Banuelos, Ina Mae Murri and Barbara Faulkner presented the Lavender Seniors Speaker's Panel to about twenty service coordinators in a diversity training panel at the joint AHMA -NCN (Association of Housing Management Agents of Northern California and Nevada) and CA-HSA (California Association of Homes and Services for the Aging). This group manages senior facilities throughout northern California. We were proud to present our stories and answer questions at the event. Our

panel was another huge success with the following results for the Speaker's Panel presentation:

1. 93% of attendees indicated that their knowledge of LGBT seniors had increased.
2. 85% said they would be more comfortable talking with LGBT seniors.
3. 93% would recommend the training to their peers.

# Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

<p>Senior Men's Afternoon 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month, 1:30–3:30PM  October 13 &amp; 27  at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p>	<p><a href="http://www.21st-centurypsychology.com">www.21st-centurypsychology.com</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• psychological/business consulting</li> <li>• psychotherapy—hypnosis—EMDR</li> </ul> <p><b>Carolyn S. Stroebe, PhD</b> Licensed Psychologist #PSY11564 (510) 843-9207 Stroebe@mindspring.com 1200 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 318</p> 	<p>Fellows of East Bay  2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month  5:30–8:30PM  October 9</p> <p>Social club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly potluck dinner and social held at Oak Center Towers, 1515 Market Street, Oakland. Bring food and drink to share and a \$4 donation.</p>
---	---	---

## Marriage Equality Is Important to Seniors

by Marvin Burrows

After 50 years together, Bill and I were married in San Francisco City Hall. What a joyous and memorable day that was for the both of us. When Bill died suddenly of a heart attack this year, I experienced not only the devastating loss of my beloved life partner, but also financial disaster because Bill and I were not considered legally married, even though we had lived and loved since 1953. Because we were not allowed to marry, I was denied his pension, access to his Social Security survivor benefits, and my health insurance was cancelled. Without these protections, I had to move from our home that we

had shared for 36 years to stay financially afloat. Marriage equality matters to seniors like me. It is too late for Bill and I, but if Governor Schwarzenegger signs AB 849 (The Religious Freedom & Civil Marriage Protection Act), other gay and lesbian senior survivors will not have to lose everything like I did this year.

## MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

- |             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| A thru H    | Bring a salad         |
| I through M | Bring a Dessert/Fruit |
| N through Z | Bring a Main Dish     |

## ADVERTISING RATES\* FOR LAVENDER NOTES

Ad Size	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
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 40% on classified ads and 20% on ads of other sizes. Lavender Seniors reserves the right to accept or reject any ad submitted.