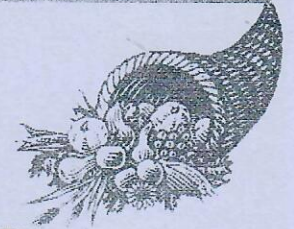




# LavenderNotes



*A Project of the Tides Center*

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## CALIFORNIA'S SPECIAL ELECTION

**V**ote on November 8<sup>TH</sup>, unless you have already sent in your absentee ballot.

There are eight propositions on the special election ballot for November 8<sup>TH</sup>. We wanted to give you a little information about them in case you need it. The Institute of Governmental Studies Library at Cal Berkeley provides you with the following information:

**Prop. 73 - Parental Notification** - would require doctors to notify a minor's parent or legal guardian 48 hours before performing an abortion.

**Prop. 74 - Teacher Tenure** - would raise the amount of time new teachers must wait before they are covered by job protection rules from two years to five years.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### OEBGMC to Entertain at 11th Anniversary Celebration

The 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held on December 10<sup>TH</sup> at our office site at 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus will entertain us at our December Potluck. Our Advisory Board has decided to conduct a fundraiser for Lavender Seniors and split the proceeds with the agency serving LGBT survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Worthy organization serving Katrina survivors will be selected to receive the funds. Help us raise funds for the cause as well as for Lavender Seniors. Put the December potluck on your calendar. More details in next month's *LavenderNotes*.

### Arts and Crafts Faire in 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

We are considering an Arts & Crafts Faire in conjunction with the December 10<sup>TH</sup> Celebration. If you are an artisan or craftsperson who would be interested in presenting your wares (e.g., hand made gifts, Christmas presents, clothing, jams, etc.) at our Faire, please give your name, address, and email address or phone number to Barbara at 510-667-9655 or to [barbara@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:barbara@lavenderseniors.org).

### Schedule of Events

**November 9, 7 - 8:30 PM** - LS Board Meeting

**November 12, 12 - 2 PM** - LS Potluck, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro, program is Kathleen Winkler, MA, presenting an interesting discussion on Pre-Need and At-Need services. (see details pg. 7)

**November 17, 12:30 - 2:30 PM** - Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. (see pg. 7 for details)

**November 9 - 13** - Creating Change Conference, Oakland Marriot, 1001 Broadway, Oakland. (see pg. 5 for details)

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** - HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**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, Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, The San Francisco Foundation, Sociological Initiatives Foundation & Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.**

**We gratefully acknowledge the support of all Friends of Lavender Seniors.**

**We welcome articles from our members. Deadline for December LavenderNotes: Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Submit information to: [barbara@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:barbara@lavenderseniors.org) or call Barbara at 510-667-9655.**

# 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, Fred Banuelos,

Rose White & Natalie Zarchin, Members at Large

### Next Advisory Board Meeting

**November 9<sup>TH</sup> 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

Nancy Fugett, Administrator

Christina Cappelletti, Outreach Specialist

### 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 do 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.

## Time to Renew Your Lavender Notes Subscription

Please use November to renew your Lavender Notes annual subscription, if you haven't done so already. \$15 or greater amounts are welcome.

## 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 urge 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.***



## Friendly Visitors

**Friendly Visitors** is a critical program, funded by *The Area Agency on Aging* and *The California Foundation*, that helps LGBT seniors who are homebound or are living in an institution. Many such seniors have become disconnected from the lifestyle that they are most comfortable living with.

If you know of any such LGBT seniors who are not receiving our **Friendly Visitors**, please contact Mitchell at 510-667-9655.

# November Birthdays

November 1

Fred Jennings

November 11

Robert Yates

November 17

Jay Hoellworth

November 6

Dot Hallinan

November 12

Nancy Thompson

November 20

Roger Dougherty

November 8

Dotty Fowler

November 13

Grant Peterson

November 22

Edd Dundas

November 10

Peggy Moore

November 15

Christina Cappelletti

November 25

Betty Dudley

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_ @

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Prop. 75 - Union Dues for Political Purposes** would require California public employee unions to get, annually, the written consent of members and bargaining unit participants to use dues and fees for political purposes.

**Prop. 76 - Spending Limits and School Funding** - Would empower the governor to impose spending reductions when the legislature fails to act in budget emergencies.

**Prop. 77 - Reapportionment** - Would transfer authority to redraw congressional and legislative district boundaries from the legislature to a panel of retired judges, and would require new districts for the 2006 election.

**Prop. 78 - Prescription Drug Discounts** (State Pharmacy Assistance Program) - would provide discounted prescription drugs for those in financial need. This proposition would allow companies to drop

their prices voluntarily. It is supported by the pharmaceutical industry.

**Prop. 79 - Prescription Drug Discounts** (Cheaper Prescription Drugs Act) – would mandate an agreement between the California Department of Health Services and drug companies which would keep drug prices lower for those in financial need. It is supported by health and consumer groups.

**Prop. 80 - Electricity Regulation** - would repeal key provisions of the 1996 electricity deregulation and restores authority to regulate rates to the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In addition, it requires that 20 percent of electricity be from renewable sources by 2010.

If you have trouble researching these kinds of propositions, you might like to check into what others think of them. The Institute has listed some endorsements below.

Y indicates a positive endorsement; N, negative.

Organizations	Propositions							
	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
CA Chamber	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
CA Teachers	-	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
CA Republican Assembly	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
California Taxpayers Association	Y	Y	Y	-	N	-	-	-
CALPIRG	-	-	N	-	Y	N	Y	Y
California Democratic Party	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Green Party	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
League of Women Voters (CA)	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Libertarian Party (CA)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	-
NOW (CA)	-	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
California Republican Party	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

### Gay Chiropractic Intern Offers Assistance

We recently received a letter from a chiropractic intern who offers possible reduced rates or free chiropractic care to Lavender Seniors depending upon the member's financial status. The letter follows:

*Hello, my name is Martin Loftin. I am a gay, 38-year old, chiropractic intern at Life Chiropractic College West in the city of Hayward. I am writing to offer my help to your members, which would in turn help me to earn clinical requirements necessary for me to graduate with a doctorate in chiropractic health care. Many of your members may be unaware of a chiropractic college (located in the city of Hayward near Chabot Community College) and that the school's health center provides low-cost or free care to those who qualify. Chiropractic care can be beneficial in improving the quality of life for many people. I hope I can be of service to your members. My cell phone number is 510-303-1021. Thank you.*

*Martin Loftin, Chiropractic Intern*

## White House Conference on Aging Public Forum

Thanks to all of you who attended the Public Forum for the White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA)! The Forum was held on September 30. We especially thank the speakers who addressed the group: Joyce Pierson (moderator), Kate Kendall (keynote speaker), Rose White, Marvin Burrows, Lorraine Hall, Brenda Crawford, Bill Kirkpatrick, Dr. Sue Dibble, Nader Shabahangi and Gary Shepard.

The Forum was momentous in that it gave us an opportunity to send our opinions to the 2005 WHCOA this December. This Conference, held once every ten years, received its first "out" LGBT speakers in 1995 when Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon voiced their opinions at it. At our Forum on the 30th, the primary issues and comments from those attending were:

- **Housing** - Loneliness is a big issue for LGBT seniors who are not "out" in their living environments. Many go back into the "closet" because they are afraid to be "out". Some LGBT's are in coöperative arrangements with friends to create a safer living situation as they age. Funding is needed to create positive communities for LGBT seniors.
- **Homelessness** - Gay elders who are homeless are very frightened by their environments.
- **Heath Care** - Training is needed for service providers in senior care to sensitize them to LGBT needs. People should be kept in their homes as long as possible with LGBT friendly/aware caregivers. Meals on Wheels helps people to stay home longer and needs to be supportive of LGBT seniors. Mental health programs are needed to help with traumatic experiences from younger days. Help is needed in adjusting to living in non-LGBT settings. We need to have advocates (such as a friend or provider) when we end up in the hospital.
- **Economic Security** - We need legal recognition for our relationships. We are concerned about financial security for our surviving partners. Don't change social security and control medication costs. Premiums for Medicare are now \$88 per month; this is a considerable increase for

those of us making \$700-800 a month through Social Security.

- **Policy** - The Older American's Act needs to address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors and encourage their participation in contributing to policy development for aging services. Every state should have language in their aging services laws that include and address LGBT seniors. The LGBT population needs to be included in the diversity mandates provisions of federal legislation

WHCOA (Continued on page 6)

## Creating Change Conference

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force annual Creating Change Conference is in Oakland this year. On November 10, the conference holds the "Building a National LGBT Aging Agenda." Come to this all-day institute and help define the most critical issues for LGBTs. The conference will be held at the Oakland Marriot, 1001 Broadway in Oakland. You must be registered for the conference to attend. To reserve a spot for the free lunch on that day call John Ellefson: 510-583-9638. Conference registration information: 202-639-6333 (Washington, DC) or check website: [www.thetaskforce.org/ourprojects/cc/registration.cfm](http://www.thetaskforce.org/ourprojects/cc/registration.cfm)

**Priscilla Camp**  
Attorney at Law, Mediator

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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

Sunday's @ St. Cuddy's 7PM

Potluck & Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7PM

### The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible's Texts of Hate to Reveal the God of Love

by John Shelby Spong  
Harper-\$24.95

In recent years there has been a disturbing trend in the mass media. Whenever ever a religious perspective is needed on such talk shows as Larry King Live on CNN, we invariably are given the right wing views of Jerry Falwell, Billy Graham or Pat Robertson. But where is the theological perspective of the left of center? Missing in action is the unfortunate answer.

During the 1960s, the civil right struggle brought forth the magnetic energies of Martin Luther King and his followers. Since that time, conservative elements have dominated the scene. Fortunately, Jim Wallis and his Sojourners Movement have attempted to challenge the pious opinions of these latter-day clergy.

Retired Bishop John Shelby Spong, author of *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, has risen to the task. The doctrines of the past must give way to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The persuasive impact of science and technology cannot be ignored. "Our job is not to recreate God but to seek a more adequate definition of our experience of God."

Too often the institutional church has been the defender of crippling customs such as slavery, homophobia, and sexism. It is the non-religious armies of change that have led the way.

The early church fathers, Spong points out, greatly feared women because of the natural menstrual cycle. They viewed women as castrated males. The monthly bleeding symbolized the body mourning for its lost organ.

Our Episcopal Bishop of Newark is also not impressed by the myths that cloud the story of Mary Magdalene, who emerges as a typical woman of her time and not a prostitute. He thinks perhaps the feminists of today are right to embrace Wonder Woman instead.

We must confront the controversy shrouding Sodom. The strangers seek refuge from a crowd threatening to gang rape. Why does the Biblical story have Lot defending the safety of his guests but not his daughters? His offspring choose to have sexual relations with their own father. The Bible remains silent on the subject and does not condemn this behavior.

Spong suspects that Paul may well have been gay. He was deeply repressed, angry and in total denial about his own emotions. He projected these feelings onto others.

Spong declares that God's love leads us to give of ourselves and reach out in loving concern to others and not allow ourselves to get caught up in an endless cycle of guilt and shame.

Readers need to take note of the section dealing with anti-Semitism. Christ was born and raised Jewish. Christianity did not develop until the second or third generation. This peculiar type of prejudice first rears its ugly head at the time Christ is on the cross.

Martin Luther did much to promote negative theology about the Jews and the Black Death was frequently blamed on them. Anyone who was different was to blame.

Religion has been employed as a search for security rather than a search for truth. Many of the historical "facts" were not declared until decades after the death of Christ.

Spong believes a humanistic Christianity must now be created and the dogmas of the past discarded. This leads to the conclusion that *all* religious faiths, including Islam, worship the same God.

Spong, who has taught at Harvard and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, throws a refreshing splash of cold water in our faces and awakens us to a new theology that recognizes reality and not outworn dogma.

—Frank Howell

WHCOA (Continued from page 5)

that affects **seniors**. Specifically, change the Older Americans Act to include this language.

- **Recommendations** - The group adopted the recommendations which have been put together by the Lesbian, Gay, Aging Issues Network (LGAIN). These recommendations include:
  - \* Development of federal policies that promote cultural competencies among aging services providers that are beneficial to LGBT seniors.
  - \* Promotion of LGBT access to the same laws and benefits as those received by heterosexuals.
  - \* Eliminate discrimination against LGBTs.
  - \* Encouraging the self-sufficiency of LGBT elders and their caregivers by recognizing financial, legal and social barriers for their care, livelihoods and living conditions.

## Elder Abuse

In the April 11, 2005 edition of the Oakland Tribune, we found the following article passed along from the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

### RECOGNIZING ELDER ABUSE

Look for these warning signs:

#### Financial:

- Lost or stolen personal belongings in a care facility
- Failure to pay for services in home or in care facility or frequently being late on payments
- Failure to provide for personal needs of elder in care home
- Unusual activity in bank account, e.g. sudden withdrawals of large sums, withdrawals from ATM's
- Signature on checks that does not resemble the elder's signature
- Frequent checks written to case, especially to the person who is the caregiver
- Withdrawals from a checking or savings account that has not been used in years
- Reports of stolen or misplaced Social Security, pension or annuity

#### Legal Documents

- Missing important documents such as wills, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.
- Change of title on bank accounts, property or automobile, or change of beneficiary status on bank or brokerage accounts or life insurance policies
- New will or change in will, creation of power of attorney for finances or property transfers when the elder lacks capacity to make decisions

#### Lifestyle Changes

- Personal property missing such as wedding, engagements rings or other jewelry
- Lack of basic amenities when elder has adequate funds
- Utilities or telephone is disconnected

If you become aware of any Elder Abuse issues with friends, contact agencies are:

**Alameda County Adult Protective Services,  
Oakland**-----866-225-5277  
**Elder Abuse Prevention (A consortium of Agencies), Richmond** -----510-233-3427  
**Victim/Witness Assistance Program,  
Oakland**-----510-272-6180

# LAVENDER MILESTONES

## Obituaries:

### FAREWELL TO PAT DURHAM

by Marge Nelson

*Pat* Durham, a co-founder and committed leader of our local chapter of OLOC in the early years, beloved leader and activist for women's, lesbian/gay, and elder rights, passed away on June 3, 2005. Friends and family gathered for a memorial celebrating Pat's life and legacies on Sunday, July 17 at the Women's Building in San Francisco. Pat was a founder and served as Executive Director and fundraiser for Options for Women over 40 from 1979-86. Housed in the Women's Building, Options served a previously ignored and underserved population of midlife women with training, support, and social activities. Leaving Options, she coordinated Meals on Wheels with Dorr Jones, himself a leader and activist.

At Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders from 1987-92, now known as New Leaf Elder Services, Durham served as Co-Director, making sure the lesbian population was visible and the offerings diverse and plentiful. Retiring in 1992, Pat and partner Maggie Burke, artist and activist, traveled for a few years visiting national state parks. They settled in Guerneville. After Maggie's sudden death in 1996, Pat returned to the Bay Area. In 1997 Pat was appointed to the SF Commission on Aging where she served as President from 1998-99. When she moved to Los Osos, CA to live with partner Rosemary Hathaway, also a highly respected activist, Pat became a docent at the Central Coast Natural History Museum. Pat's and Rosemary's love of nature sent them to Alaska, Hawaii and many climates in between.

At Pat's memorial celebration, our community joined Pat's family, friends, and people from many different walks of life sharing our love, grief, and deep appreciation for all the gifts she gave us. We celebrated Pat with old friends like Rusty Brown and Kate Rosenblatt. Ida Red made a huge collage of pictures; her family did the same, illustrating how Pat looked like Pat all her life. Mothertongue Readers Theatre group made a rousing presentation. Jan Couvillon arranged to tape the memorial, creating a precious record to be stored at the GLBT Historical Society.

Pat Durham had a significant and far-reaching impact on attitudes toward women, lesbians, and elder citizens that will continue long into the future. We will miss her deeply.

# Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

<p><b>Senior Men's Afternoon</b></p> <p>2<sup>ND</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Thursdays of each month, 1:30–3:30PM</p> <p>November 11<sup>TH</sup> (CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING NOV. 25)</p> <p>at Pacific Center for Human Growth 2712 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p>		<p><b>Fellows of the East Bay</b></p> <p>2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of each month 5:30–8:30PM</p> <p>November 13<sup>TH</sup></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>
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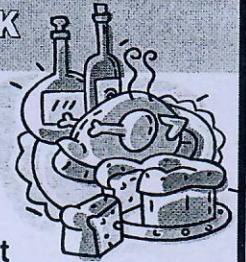
## LAVENDER LUNCH BUNCH

The November Lavender Lunch Bunch will be held at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue in Oakland on November 17 from 12:30PM to 2:30PM. FREE catered food. Co-sponsored by Oakland Department of Human Services, Open to ALL LGBT Seniors. Third Thursday of each month. Program this month is Ana Marie Jones of Community Agencies Responding to Disaster (CARD) to speak about disaster preparedness and share tips for seniors.

## MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, November 12<sup>TH</sup>

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



### This Month's Potluck Features...

Kathleen Winkler, MA, Human Resources Management, presenting a lively and interesting discussion on Pre-Need and At-Need services.

Program subject to change

## ADVERTISING RATES\* FOR LAVENDERNOTES

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.