

# LavenderNotes

*A Project of the Tides Center*

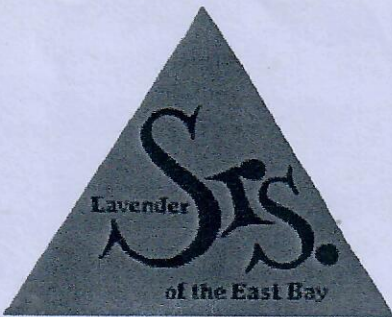
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## 11TH ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Come join us for holiday fun AND giving to Lavender Seniors and the LGBT community affected by the 2005 hurricanes in Louisiana and Florida. The Oakland

East Bay Men's Chorus will, again, honor us at the holidays with their wonderful voices. In addition, enjoy the December Potluck with our own great foods augmented by Richard James of Catspaw Catering (who

(cont. p. 4)

## December 2005

## Schedule of Events

**December 7, 7 - 8:30 PM - LS Board Meeting** – Public is welcome to come. (Fundraising Committee at 6 PM)

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 - 3 PM - 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Holiday Celebration** combined with the LS Potluck, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro, see PAGE 1 for details.

**December 15, 12:30 - 2:30 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch**, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Free catered food, sponsored by the City of Oakland Aging and Adult Services Department. Open to ALL LGBT Seniors and their friends. Third Thursday of each month. Program this month is **Story Circle: Holiday Traditions**. Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Solstice, Navidad, Christmas Wishes! Lunch Bunch attendees are encouraged to bring stories (oral, poetry, etc) about the holiday traditions you celebrate. We'll go around the room and listen to stories, as we enjoy our holiday lunch and treats.

**December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS - FELIZ NAVIDAD**

**December 26 - CHANUKAH - KWANZAA**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8 Sr. Men @ Pacific Center	9	10 11th Anniversary Celebration
11 Fellows of East Bay	12	13	14	15 Lavender Lunch Bunch	16	17
18	19	20	21		23	24
25 Christmas	26 Chanukah Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30	

**Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is funded by individual donors as well as the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, Alameda County Leather Corps, The California Endowment, City of Oakland, The Horizons Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, Sociological Initiatives Foundation, and 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

Fred Banuelos, Meg Bruynell, Rose White, & Natalie Zarchin,

Members at Large

#### Next Advisory Board Meeting

**December 7 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 Coordinator

Nancy Fugett, Administrator

#### Newsletter Editor

Barbara Faulkner

#### 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

### *Help us to find isolated, frail LGBT Seniors !!*

Please help us to find our LGBT friends who are in their homes, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and are **Isolated** from the LGBT community. We have Friendly Visitors wanting to visit with and help them. Call us at 510-667-9655.

#### 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*.
- **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).

December Birthdays

December 1 - Lynne Cutler
December 2 - DeWitt Hoard
December 3 - Richard Riffer
December 4 - Fred Schadick
December 5 - Tory Becker
December 6 - Carl Pearson
December 8 - Nance Rogers
December 9 - Carly Rivers
December 10 - Charles Graff
December 11 - Mel Scontrino

December 13 - Barbara Faulkner and Jim Junkin
December 15 - Joyce Pierson
December 18 - Melba Hansen
December 19 - Mike Mora
December 20 - Bonnie MacKenzie
December 23 - Bobbie Jarvis
December 24 - Brenda Crawford and Gerson Goodkind
December 25 - John M. Rasche
December 26 - Dorothy Taylor
December 28 - Robert Cornwall

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

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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

catered our 2004 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party). To top it off, there will be our First Annual Arts and Crafts Fair, complete with Silent Auction of donated work from our community. We have already received some wonderful gifts for the Silent Auction, including an original soft impressionist oil painting loaded with color by the late Doris Wilkins.



## LAVENDER MILESTONES

### David Barker ~ 1949-2005:

▼ David Barker, longtime Hayward resident, passed away Wednesday morning November 9. He had been battling AIDS for 23 years and, recently, cancer. David was one of the original members of the Alameda County Leather Corps and was President of ACLC twice, 2000 and 2004. He was honored with the title Hayward Leather Daddy in 1999. He also was the Chairmen of the Imperial Star Empire in 1996. He supported the Royal Grand Ducal Council, In Memory Fund, We Care Bay Area and several local charities. Until recently, David managed the Turf Club bar. He his survived by his loving daughters Tabitha Sprague & Sabrina Barker, his

### 11th Anniversary event schedule is:

~ 10 AM—3 PM ~ Arts and Crafts Fair including Silent Auction

~ 12 PM ~ Lunch

A thru L Bring a Main Dish

M thru R Bring a Salad

S thru Z Bring Dessert or Fruit

~ 1:30 PM ~ Oakland East Bay Men's Chorus

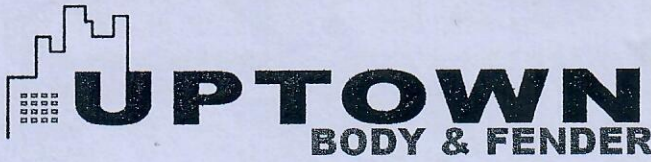
~ 2:00 PM ~ San Leandro Mayor, Sheila Young; San Leandro Community Church Pastor, LeAnn Blackert

~ 2:30 PM ~ Silent Auction Concludes  
Winners Announced

beautiful mother Pat < BR > Barker, and his partner of nearly 12 years, Den Calkins.

A celebration of his life took place on Saturday, November 19th at the Turf Club in HAYWARD. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to GLSEN SF-East Bay, 1924 Grant St., Ste 4, CONCORD, CA 94520. (925) 685-5480

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND THOUGHTS.  
LOVE  
Den



**Giovanna Tanzillo**

TEL: 510-251-8009

FAX: 510-251-0605

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Sunday's @ St. Cuddy's 7PM

Potluck & Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7PM

## ***Straightforward: How To Mobilize Heterosexual Support For Gay Rights***

By Jan Ayres & Jennifer Gerarda Brown  
Princeton University Press

The official buzzword these days is "coalition building" on all fronts. Has the gay community made common cause with other racial and ethnic groups?

In Straightforward, Jan and Jennifer strike out into fresh territory. They suggest that heterosexuals can take their own freedoms for granted. What they possess is simply a given. This is the way things are supposed to be. But those in the mainstream can make for powerful allies.

Some of their suggestions seem off the wall and impractical, but others have distinct merit.

Jan and Jennifer propose that the public be urged not to spend their vacation dollars in states that are not gay friendly (red states?). This could have an impact if enough people did it.

P-Flag is often cited as a crucial bridge between the two communities.

Gays are harassed in the schools; therefore you should join the PTA and check the school library for gay titles.

Religion constitutes a major barrier to civil rights. So, gay parents have formed what are called "reconciling congregations", churches where sexual minorities are welcomed. They ignore official church declarations and use local options.

When it comes to gay marriage, economics comes to the rescue. If gay couples were allowed to embrace martial bliss, the wedding industry could reap huge windfalls. *Forbes* has estimated that over 16 billion dollars would be shelled out by gays and lesbians. Today \$22,000 is spent on the average ceremony and celebration.

Our straight friends could encourage state governments to compete with each other for outside dollars by stressing gay friendly atmospheres. Ayres and Brown spin the powerful tale of Apple Computers. In 1993 Apple planned to construct an 80 million dollar customer support center in Williamson County, Texas. The county commissioners voted to deny Apple's request for tax abatement dollars

because Apple had pro-gay employment policies. This decision could cost the area 1500 jobs and 300 million dollars that could be pumped into the economy. Fortunately, pro-gay pressure was brought by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Texas "politicos" reversed themselves.

Other proposals have included purchasing products from gay-friendly corporations.

Perhaps a catchy symbol could be used to indicate which companies support us. Currently more than 4,000 companies stand behind gay rights.

During World War II, King Christian of Denmark protected the Jews by ordering all citizens to wear the Star of David. In similar fashion, the lavender community could encourage folks in the public eye to stress "ambiguation" (sexual ambiguity) for those who are afraid to emerge totally from their tired old closets.

Ayres and Brown come to the issues of gays in the military with fresh eyes. They suggest that the Pentagon form a special unit in the Army just for gay soldiers. But anyone, including straight soldiers, could join up. This could definitely speed up the integration of the armed forces. A recent poll by CNN/Gallop stated that 79% of the public supported having gays in the military. Ninety-one percent of younger voters agreed.

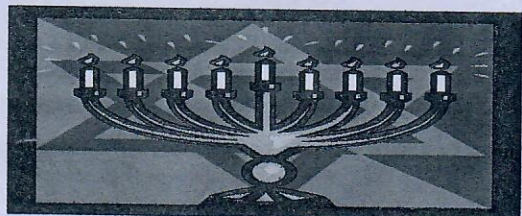
The Boy Scouts brings on another area of rank discrimination. Several major groups have withdrawn financial support from the Scouts. In 2000 the Scouts membership dropped 4.5%.

Some of the suggestions by the authors are a bit on the impractical side. They believe straights and gays could refuse to attend any religious ceremonies.

Ian Ayres is currently a Yale Law professor and columnist for *Forbes*. Jennifer Gerarda Brown is a Law Professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law.

**Straightforward** will excite creative speculation on future courses of action. But only time will tell if any concrete actions will be the outcome.

—Frank Howell



## Help us to stay safe !

▼The letter below was written recently by a Lavender Senior, Piet Bach, to a City of Oakland Councilman expressing concerns about violence in East Oakland. The letter speaks not only to the safety of seniors but also to our need to be vocal to elected officials. We appreciate Piet's interest in sharing his words with all of you.

From: Piet Bach [pietblau60@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2005 10:51 PM  
To: lreid@oaklandnet.com  
Subject: Public Safety and Measure Y

Dear Councilman:

I'm writing for some advice, because you and I have had some brief conversations in the past and I trust that you can point me in the right direction.

This evening as I was coming home from work, I was attacked by a pack of sixth or seventh grade boys on International (Blvd.) between 90th and 89th. The first blow was a kick to the head - something only a student of martial arts could have done. It knocked me to the ground and sent my glasses flying, and then the boys swarmed over me, punching and kicking and trying to get my wallet. I had been on the inside of the sidewalk, nearly against the stores, and by the time the boys backed off they had kicked me all the way across the sidewalk to the curb. The only thing that saved me was the intervention of three or four women who were right there to tell the boys to back off and leave me alone. This happened at 6:00 o'clock, in broad daylight, on a heavily traveled street, in my own neighborhood. I've lived here for the past two years; I ride the 56 from MacArthur to International almost every work night. I'm a secretary; I don't dress well (I was wearing wash trousers and a denim jacket and had a brief-bag slung over my shoulder); I don't make a lot of money and it's evident to anyone who looks.

Measure Y doesn't seem to be helping much, from my current perspective. I have a cheekbone swollen to the size of a medium egg and a contusion two inches by three in front of my right ear, plus a pounding headache. One elbow, both hands, and both knees are scraped and bloody. I consider myself lucky that I don't have worse injuries,

And I am intensely grateful for the intervention of those four women. One ... even drove alongside me in her car to the next corner, tried to call the police on the 911 and the non-emergency numbers without being able to reach an operator, and then escorted me to my home block, where she was able to attract the attention of a patrol car. I am much tougher than I look, and I will be fine in a few days...

The funny thing is that I was on my way to the Elmhurst Branch Library, which is close to my house, to talk with a representative from the Library Board about the Friends of the Elmhurst Library's concerns regarding safety issues, among other things, at the new 81st Avenue branch.

Now, my question is this: If a not particularly well dressed adult male cannot walk safely down a heavily populated city street in broad daylight without being attacked by a gang of juveniles, who can? I've lived in Oakland since 1989. One of the things I've always valued about Oakland is that I felt safer here than I do in San Francisco, where I work. This is the only serious attack I've ever had to go through. When I actually lived in San Francisco, forty years ago, I figure I was mugged, sometimes violently, on average every year and a half. Do these kids have so little education that they don't understand all of us in this neighborhood are pretty equally poor? If I had any kind of money, wouldn't I be living in a more affluent neighborhood?


I don't quite know where to turn the focus of my response. I am a fervent supporter of public libraries, and since the Library Commission is intent on building a branch in an industrial area with infrequent bus service, I want to make sure they provide for the safety of patrons who can't visit during the 9-to-5 business day. That's one direction. Then, if Measure Y is going to turn the focus of the police from beat patrol to more generalized crime reduction but with a long delay time between funding and the actual hiring of more officers, how is that going to help those of us who don't live in Montclair? That's a second turning. Finally, who is teaching kids that young the kind of attack moves they used, without teaching them to be responsible for their actions? ....

So I'm stuck. I don't believe in getting mad and blaming everyone and everything around me without trying to do something that will change the situation for the better. I have written to our liaison with the Library Board about this and asked for her feedback. I gave as complete a police report as I could, and the technical photographer recorded my injuries. I wonder if it would do any good to write to the principals of the schools that serve this neighborhood. ....I am simply puzzled.

Best regards,

Pieter Bach, \_\_\_\_\_ 88th Avenue, Oakland

# 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</p> <p>of each month, 1:30—3:30PM</p> <p>December 13th and 27th</p> <p>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></p> <p>Licensed Psychologist</p> <p>#PSY11564</p> <p>(510) 843-9207</p> <p>Stroebe@mindspring.com</p> <p>1200 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 318 Walnut Creek, CA 94696</p> 	<p><b>Fellows of East Bay</b></p> <p>2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of each month</p> <p>5:30—8:30PM</p> <p>December 11th</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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## A Note to December Lavender Notes Readers:

If you notice some differences in this edition of Lavender Notes from our usual editions, please bear with us. We have a different editor this month. It will be much, much better next month.

Barbara Faulkner, Director

**Email your news about Lavender Seniors Members to Rose White at [arrapaho99@yahoo.com](mailto:arrapaho99@yahoo.com).**

**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, December 10<sup>TH</sup>**

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**This Month's Potluck Features...11 YEARS OF SERVING LGDT SENIORS !! See Page 1 for Details.**

<b>A thru L</b>	<b>bring a Main Dish</b>
<b>M thru R</b>	<b>bring a Salad</b>
<b>S thru Z</b>	<b>bring a Dessert/Fruit</b>

**POTLUCK**

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

## ADVERTISING RATES\* FOR LAVENDER NOTES

Ad Size	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
<b>Classified Ad</b>	\$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.

Our rates will be going up next month, so reserve your Lavender Notes Ad this month.