

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 2

FEBRUARY 2005

WANNA EARN A QUICK \$20 FOR YOUR OPINIONS?

Lavender Seniors is seeking LGBT community members of all ages residing in the East Bay who are willing to share their opinions for a couple of hours in exchange for \$20.

Why do you think LGBT people in the East Bay are sometimes reluctant to go to health and human service agencies when they want or need services? In exchange of your opinions on this question, we are paying \$20 per person. Participants will be invited to one group discussion (sometimes called a focus group) and asked to fill out a brief survey. There are no wrong or right answers—only opinions.

(Continued on page 7)

Transitions

Dear friends:

As my tenure as Director of Lavender Seniors comes to a close, I am filled with many warm thoughts of you and sadness that my relationship with you is changing.

At the same time, I am confident that the future is very bright for Lavender Seniors. The Board and staff have things well in hand. And as I write this, the search for the next Director is in full swing. (The deadline for applications is February 10—see our website for a full job description or call the office for a copy.)

My decision is a very personal one, the result of a lengthy period of soul-searching and assessment of my life and goals.

(Continued on page 7)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Job Announcement	4
February Book Review—Why Marriage?	5
Four New Grants	6
In Memoriam	6
Kudos to Dotty	6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 12, NOON-2 P.M.: LAVENDER SENIORS MONTHLY POTLUCK. 1395 BANCROFT AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO. POTLUCKS ARE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.
FEBRUARY 17, 12:30-2:30 P.M.: LAVENDER LUNCH BUNCH. LAKESIDE PARK GARDEN CENTER, 666 BELLEVUE, IN OAKLAND. CATERED FOOD; FREE. CO-SPONSORED BY OAKLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. OPEN TO ALL LGBT SENIORS. THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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

Feb. 8, 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. ▲

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FEBRUARY 3

LARRY LAIKAM

FEBRUARY 6

FRANK HOWELL

FEBRUARY 7

ERIC LARSON
RENEE WATKINS

FEBRUARY 8

GERALD HYMAN

FEBRUARY 9

LYNN RIORDAN
ANN C. SMITH
CHUCK BAROO

FEBRUARY 12

JESS McVEY

FEBRUARY 15

BARBARA JUE

FEBRUARY 19

MARVIN BURROWS

FEBRUARY 20

DUAINE IMHOFF
ELLEN LEVIN

FEBRUARY 23

ROBERT SCHARFF

FEBRUARY 24

CATHY CADE
CAROL SQUIRES
PIETER M. BACH

FEBRUARY 26

JEAN-RENE LABROUCHE

FEBRUARY 29

ELIZABETH RUTH

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.

Job Announcement

Lavender Seniors is seeking a director who has a working knowledge of and is a passionate advocate for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender senior issues and is eager to provide leadership for a small agency in the process of expanding. The Director is responsible to the Lavender Seniors Advisory Board for the overall direction of the project and to the Tides Center (our fiscal sponsor) for overall management and administration of the project. The full job appears on our website: www.lavenderseniors.org

Duties include but are not limited to:

- supervision of three staff positions (Care Coordinator, Outreach Specialist, and Administrator);
- development and management of the budget;
- compliance with the legal, financial, and personnel reporting requirements of the Tides Center and the legal jurisdictions in which the project operates;
- development and implementation of fundraising efforts, along with Advisory Board members, sufficient to meet budget requirements;
- represents Lavender Seniors, along with Advisory Board members, to other agencies, organizations, funders, donors, and the general public.

To apply, submit a resume as well as a cover letter summarizing relevant knowledge and skills.

UPTOWN
BODY & FENDER

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
- Disc Problems

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

*Affordable, Friendly
Family Practice*

Phone: 510-582-8222
1634 B St... Hayward

Elizabeth Callaway Trust Services

your local fiduciary

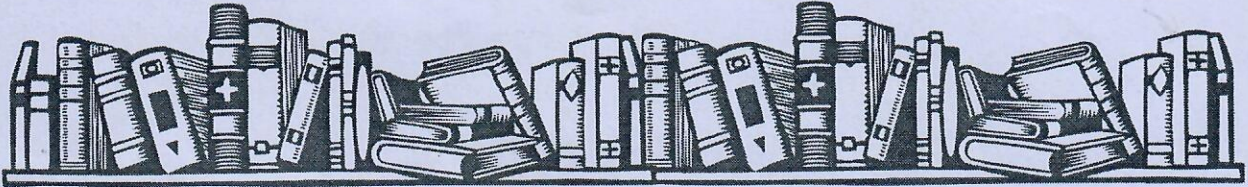
Trustee * Executor

Conservator of the Estate

Bill Paying & Organizing Help

I can do it all or provide crucial help

510-530-1720 elizcall@earthlink.net

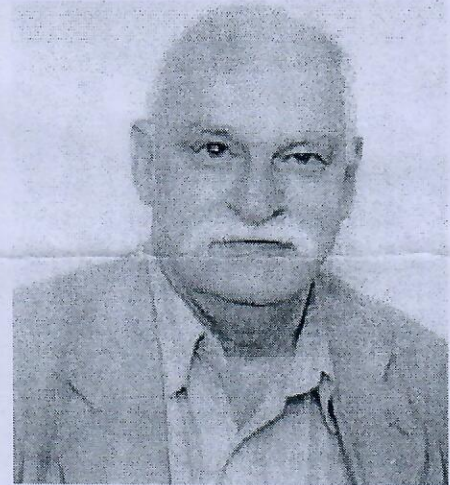


WHY MARRIAGE: THE HISTORY SHAPING TODAY'S DEBATE OVER GAY EQUALITY BY GEORGE CHAUNCEY

Basic Books \$22.00

In 1973 my partner John and I decided to have a "holy union" at Metropolitan Community Church. My parents attended, we served soft drinks and we were both so nervous we even forgot to take any pictures of the great event. It all seems so long ago now. In 1973 gay weddings were considered bizarre and outrageous. We invited my brother and sister and they refused to attend.

Religious conservatives like to think that marriage is a sacred institution that is carved in stone, rigid and never changing. But George Chauncey, Professor of American History at the University of Chicago and author of *Gay New York*, disagrees.



FRANK HOWELL

...marriage...is constantly shifting and evolving. Nothing is settled for eternity.

Applying rigorous scholarship he pulls us into the whirling chronicle of gay struggles and paints a portrait of marriage that is constantly shifting and evolving. Nothing is settled for eternity.

In 1948 at the United Nations the Universal Declaration of Human Rights made it clear that marriage is a basic human right. In that same year the California Supreme Court ruled that racial intermarriage could not be prevented. This was affirmed in 1967 when the U.S. Supreme Court announced (*Loving v. Virginia*) that black-white love was now legitimate.

A major tipping point was reached when Martin Luther opined that marital couplings should be considered civil and not controlled by the church. For centuries before that weddings were an informal affair not looked after by the state.

In our own time many denominations have fought among themselves over the proper definitions of matrimony. But the lavender

community was not to be put off by controversy. We plowed ahead and created our own unique vision of love and community. Metropolitan Community Church now estimates that 85,000 holy unions have been performed.

The New York Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that gay couples have legal standing. Numerous medical and social science groups have filed legal briefs in support of our community.

But the radical right has not been idle. They, with the shameful cooperation of Bill Clinton, succeeded in passing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Chauncey points out that they feared a threat to children and a blurring of gender roles. They believed their own children trod the pink brick road.

The issue of marriage and how it will expand its social boundaries will be settled will be settled piece by piece over a long span of years. We can only wait and hope.

—Frank Howell

In Memoriam

Betty

We are sad to announce the death of Betty, a member of our Lavender Seniors family, on January 8. As a regular at our Saturday potlucks for the past year, it is perhaps fitting that she passed away in a hospital while the rest of us were gathered for our monthly potluck that day.

Betty was a gentle, warm, unassuming spirit. She always said it is wonderful to be part of the potluck and enjoyed the food that everyone shared.

Special thanks to Ina Mae and Stella, who befriended Betty when her partner passed away last year and continued to be her friend and advocate to the very end.

We will miss you, Betty.

**LAVENDER SENIORS AWARDED
FOUR NEW GRANTS**

Lavender Seniors has received four new grants to support its work to improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors. We gratefully acknowledge support from the following:

- East Bay Community Foundation awarded a \$2,500 general support grant.
- Horizons Foundation awarded \$5,000 to support a project to increase outreach to the East Bay's Latino communities by educating Latino community organizations about our programs and developing new ways to encourage more Latino community members to participate in our activities.
- The San Francisco Foundation awarded \$15,000 to support further diversification of our Board and participants, strengthen Lavender Juniors (our under-55 group of supporters), and expand our fundraising efforts.
- Most recently, the Sociological Initiatives Foundation, based in Boston, awarded \$15,000 to support a project to more clearly identify reasons that the East Bay's LGBT seniors are sometimes reluctant to access health and human services, and to learn more about ways that health and human service providers are willing to accommodate LGBT seniors' unique needs.

Lavender Seniors is one of thirteen organizations to receive a grant, from among more than 200 applicants nationwide.



To participate in a one-time discussion group and receive \$20 for offering your opinions, contact Jeff at the office by calling 510-667-9655 or emailing jeff@lavenderseniors.org

KUDOS TO DOTTY

Congratulations to Dotty Fowler, former Director and Board member at Lavender Seniors, for being named one of California's outstanding senior volunteers for 2005!

Dotty is one of 26 senior volunteer leaders receiving the award from UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. The award brings visibility to the often unacknowledged role of older volunteers in their work to advance community building and healthy aging in California. More than 70 people were nominated for this year's award.

As an award winner, Dotty will participate in a two-day training event funded by the California Wellness Foundation.

Congratulations, Dotty, for this much-deserved award!

While earning \$20, you will also be contributing to knowledge about how agencies can make their services more available to LGBT people. By participating, you are helping the entire LGBT community.

Most discussion groups will be for LGBT seniors (age 55 and older), but we also will have group discussions for those under age 55.

This project is made possible by a grant from the Sociological Initiatives Foundation.

To participate, contact Jeff at the office by calling 510-667-9655 or emailing jeff@lavenderseniors.org

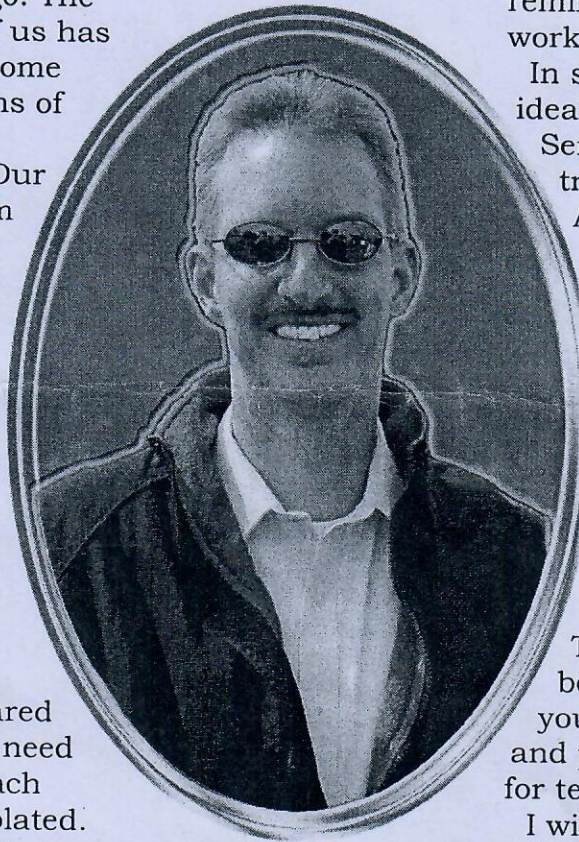


(Continued from page 1)

I am not far away. You will still see me around. I will be helping part-time in the transition for several weeks, well into the spring. My new position as Program Manager at Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns in Marin is focused on working with LGBT seniors. Spectrum and Lavender Seniors have collaborated throughout Lavender Seniors' ten-year history, and the close relationship will continue.

I am proud of Lavender Seniors' accomplishments since I arrived about two years ago. The community's knowledge of us has grown. Our family has become much more diverse in terms of ethnicity and age. Our programs are expanding. Our mailing list has grown from 150 to more than 500 people. Our budget continues to grow and diversify, with more individual and business donors, and more foundations supporting our vital work. The Tenth Anniversary Gala Celebration was an enormous success, with more than 200 attendees.

Michael's suicide last fall was a tragedy. As he prepared his end, he recognized the need for Lavender Seniors to reach others who are severely isolated. Michael named us as beneficiary of his entire estate—a humbling



Jeff Vessels

Susan Levinkind, JD
Lesbian Tax Mom

Don't Worry!

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

Let me help you.

8008 Winthrop Street
Oakland, CA 94605

510-383-9858

taxmomsusan@yahoo.com

compliment and a stark reminder of the essential work we do.

In so many ways, now is an ideal time for Lavender Seniors to make a transition in its director. A new director will bring renewing energy to take the organization to its next level of development. Lavender Seniors is ready for the next chapter of its history.

I am immensely grateful to you and all who have supported me and Lavender Seniors. The organization and I both need and ask for your continuing support and participation. Thank you for teaching me so much.

I will always think fondly of my Lavender Seniors family.
—Jeff Vessels

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

Seniors Men's Afternoon

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

February 10TH & 24TH

at Pacific Center,
2712 Telegraph Ave.,
Berkeley.

Co-sponsored by Lavender
Seniors and Pacific Center

CATHY CADE

PERSONAL HISTORIES,
PHOTO ORGANIZING &
PHOTOGRAPHY

Record Your Life Story
Organize Your Photographs
Have Fun With Me Making New Photos

Natural Light Photography
in the Comfort of Your
Home

Fellows of East Bay

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

February 13TH

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

The February 17 Lavender Lunch Bunch features a showing of the film *Butch Mystique*, and cast members will be present to lead a discussion. *Butch Mystique* is an award-winning documentary exploring the lives of a group of butch-identified African American lesbians of all ages in Oakland and the Bay Area. The film won the Audience Award for Best Short at the 2003 San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and spent most of 2003 touring gay and lesbian film festivals across the US.



MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, February 12TH

MEAL AT NOON ✨ PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.

If your name begins with the letter

M through Z

bring a Main Dish

A through G

bring a Salad

H through L

bring Dessert/Fruit

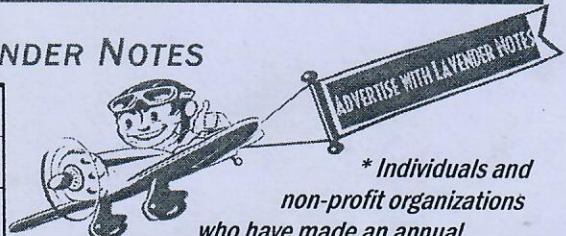
San Leandro BART station Shuttle available. Call one day ahead to arrange: 510-667-9655

THIS MONTH'S FEBRUARY 12 POTLUCK FEATURES...

a presentation by Mama Portugal (aka Don Silva), the East Bay's most famous female impersonator. In addition to being a founder of Lavender Seniors, Mama 'P' is a leader in the Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County and Alameda County Leather Corps. This is a fun and educational presentation you won't want to miss!

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.