

LAVENDER NOTES

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



1395 Bancroft Avenue
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www.lavenderseniors.org

Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2005

Ina Mae and Stella Travel to Celebrate Their Family



Ina Mae Murri and Stella Lopez-Armijo spent a week's vacation in Hawaii recently. They were there for two occasions: Ina Mae's son, Eric Sanders, completed 24½ years in the Navy and was honored at a retirement ceremony on board the USS Missouri Battleship on January 12; and Ina Mae turned 70 years old on January 15. Attending the retirement ceremony, in addition to Ina Mae and Stella, were Stella's two daughters, one son, one son-in-law, and a friend of the family. Eric's father and half-sister, and his wife and her parents also attended. It was a beautiful ceremony with Navy traditions, music with a live Navy band, and many good words about Eric's time with the Navy. He

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Lavender Seniors Seeks Opinions About Our Activities



How are we doing? Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter is a copy of our annual survey of members of our Lavender Seniors family.

Please take a moment to complete it, drop it in a stamped envelope, and mail it back to us. The survey is completely anonymous, so tell us what you think.

Your feedback is very important to the board and staff. They review the information to improve

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3-6 and 13: Tenth Annual Women of Color Film Festival. Berkeley and San Francisco locations. For tickets and information, call 510-642-1412 or visit www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/pfa_programs/women_of_color/

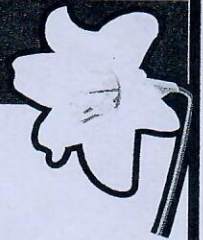
Admission is \$5 for seniors (age 65+) and the disabled; \$8 general admission.

March 12, Noon-2PM: Lavender Seniors monthly potluck. 1395 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro. Game day! See back page for more details. Potlucks are second Saturday of each month.

March 17, 12:30-2:30PM. Lavender Lunch Bunch celebrates its First Anniversary! Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. See back page for more details. 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, Sociological Initiatives 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

March 9TH 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. ▲

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH 3

Charlotte Hamilton

MARCH 4

Charles Betcher
Steven Maluka
Kelly Van Meter

MARCH 5

Patricia Sarant

MARCH 6

Brendalynn Goodall

MARCH 7

Rita Kresha

MARCH 9

Laurence Stickney
Betty Will

MARCH 11

Jerry Holmes
Carl Norris

MARCH 12

Barbara Gould

MARCH 16

Bob Davis

MARCH 19

Joe Vanderkooy

MARCH 20

Arlene De La Mora

MARCH 21

Stella Lopez-Armijo

MARCH 22

Pnina Tobin

MARCH 23

Daryl Halverson
Carrie Oyama
Thomas Packard

MARCH 24

Dee Nagy

MARCH 25

Glenn P. Lee, Jr.

MARCH 26

Roberta M. Hutchison
(a.k.a. 'Bert')

MARCH 27

Doreen Brand
Robert Carr
Rob McCallum

MARCH 28

Ken Bradley

MARCH 29

James H. Thomas
Evelyn C. White

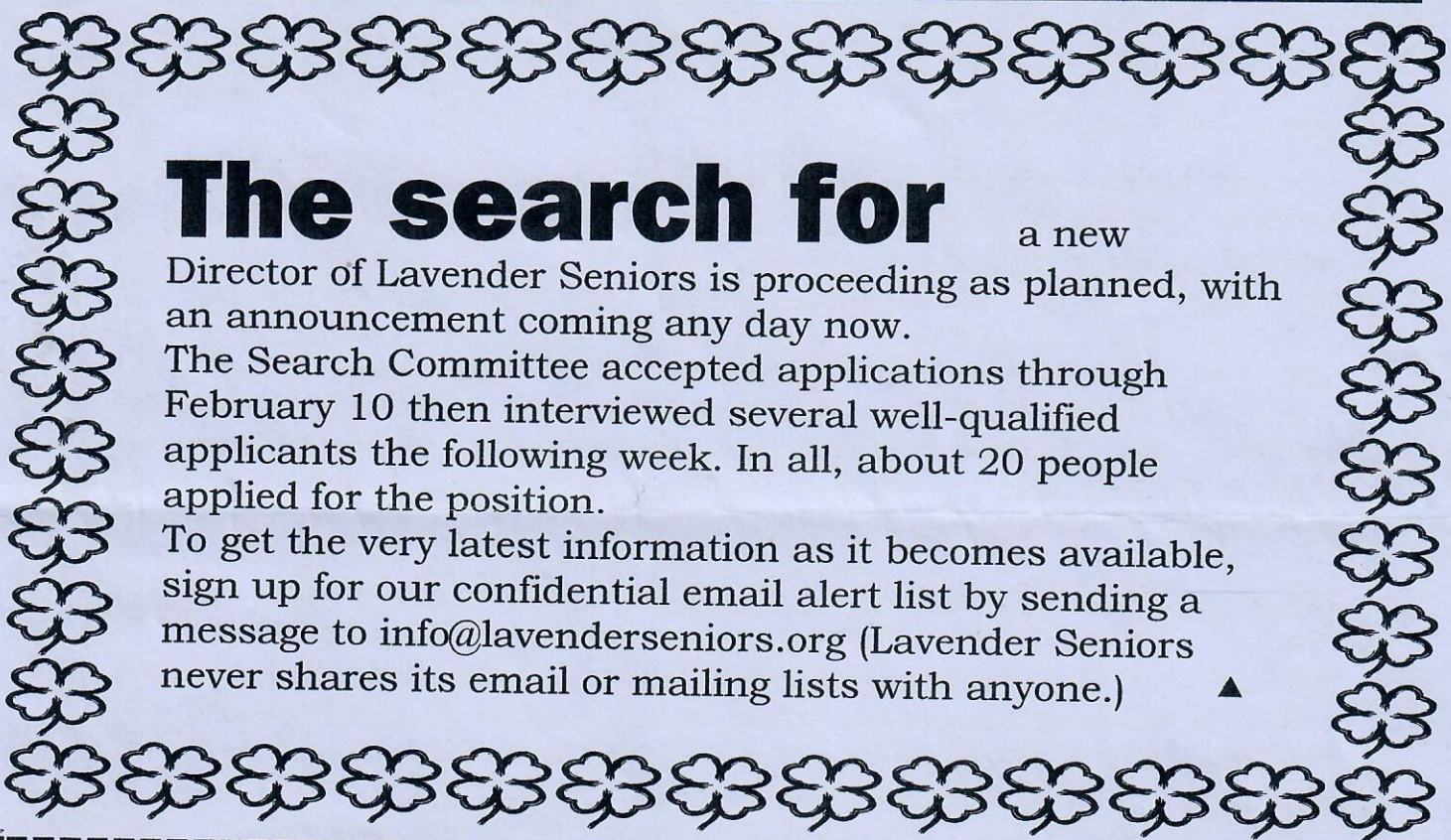
MARCH 30

John Mogi

(Continued from page 1)

what we do and to plan upcoming activities and programs. We welcome constructive criticism and suggestions. And, of course, we appreciate any positive comments as well, because they tell us when we are on the right track.

If you would rather give your comments orally, please call our office at 510-667-9655 and Nancy, our administrator, will be happy to conduct a brief interview by phone. Nancy is typically in the office on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and you can leave a voice message if she isn't in when you call. ▲



The search for

a new

Director of Lavender Seniors is proceeding as planned, with an announcement coming any day now.

The Search Committee accepted applications through February 10 then interviewed several well-qualified applicants the following week. In all, about 20 people applied for the position.

To get the very latest information as it becomes available, sign up for our confidential email alert list by sending a message to info@lavenderseniors.org (Lavender Seniors never shares its email or mailing lists with anyone.) ▲

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: _____

(____)____-_____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Email Address:

_____@_____

- 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.

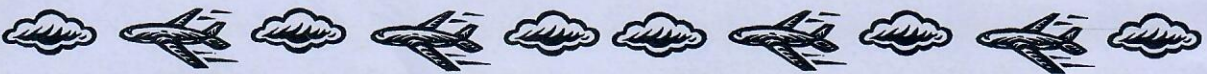


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presented commendations from the Navy to his parents, Stella (whom he referred to as his "second mom"), Stella's children (his "second brother and sisters"), and his work mates.

Ina Mae's birthday was celebrated at a luau on the grounds of the Hale Koa Hotel. The luau was beautiful and moving. The hotel is part of a military rest and recreation facility for active duty and retired personnel.

Eric and Karen have purchased a home in Oahu to make their permanent residence there. They have lived there for seven years, so it appears Ina Mae, Stella, and others in the family will have good reason to visit in the Aloha State in the future. ▲



[Editor's Note: Want to share your travels and your family moments with the rest of the Lavender Seniors family? Write an article for the newsletter and email it to info@lavenderseniors.org or mail it to Lavender Seniors, Attn.: Newsletter, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577.] ▲



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.

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STRANGERS: HOMOSEXUAL LOVE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

BY GRAHAM ROBB

NORTON-\$26.95



Graham Robb doesn't buy a lot of the mythology that has traditionally passed for authentic history of lavender life in 1800's. The era has been portrayed as a harsh, repressive time for gays and lesbians. He backs his thesis up with extensive bibliography, charts and graphs. He is not pulling ideas out of thin air.

Robb lives in Oxford and has written biographies of Balzac and Victor Hugo. The author's first target is the sodomy convictions which were more rare than we are led to believe. The belief at the time was that publicity about sex crimes would only encourage the public to engage in such evil activity. Gay life thrived during this time.

Robb sees the 20th century as the true time of terror for being yourself. Before 1870,

anybody on Earth. I couldn't tell you that in New York. It'd mean I was a faggot."

The psychiatric literature was made respectable by the invention of the "case history." It appealed to the curious public as well as the medical establishment. The cases were enveloped in a highly moralistic tone with a certain dry detachment. Pornographic novels flourished alongside the medical tomes. Controversy swirled around the figure of Christ. He was usually painted as soft, feminine and dressed in silky white. But toward the end of the

"MORE THAN ONCE, WHILE WORKING ON THIS BOOK, I LEFT THE AGE OF TOP-HATS AND BUSTLES TO FIND THE WORLD OUTSIDE STRANGELY SIMILAR..." —GRAHAM ROBB, OPENING LINE FROM STRANGERS

homosexuality was a sin. Afterwards, such behavior was a disease.

Some gay couples were accepted in European society and we see the rise of the "Boston Marriages" among lesbian couples. Some people even came out to their families. Camp displays of deviant flaunting was merely laughed at.

The first gay liberation group was founded in Germany by Karl Heinrich Ulrichs. There were, of course, dark clouds here and there. Significant pink papers were destroyed by close relatives. A prime case was the archives of Sir Richard Burton, burned by his widow, and the art of Edward Lear.

The Dark Ages of sexuality arose with the trials of Oscar Wilde. The sentimental relations gave way to the hypermasculinity of Teddy Roosevelt and Ernest Hemingway. In the macho stalker's *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), Bill Gorton remarks to a close male friend, "Listen. You're a hell of a good guy, and I'm fonder of you than

century, Charles Kingsley developed a "muscular Christianity" and Thomas Hughes produced *The Manliness of Christ* (1894).

Robb has given the reader a valuable historical perspective on our history. I urge you to enjoy his findings.

—Frank Howell



Saint Cuthbert's Episcopal Church

7900 Mountain Blvd.
Oakland, California 94605

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

Sunday Worship 8 & 10 a.m.
Sundays @ St. Cuddy's, 7 p.m.
Potluck & Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

Seniors Men's Afternoon

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

March 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.

March 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

Celebrate the First Anniversary of
Lavender Lunch Bunch! March 17,
12:30-2:30 PM. Join in the fun!
We'll review all we've done in the
past year and get everyone's ideas
for 2005. Bring a friend!
Lakeside Park Garden Center,
666 Bellevue, in Oakland. Catered
food; free. Co-sponsored by Oak-
land Department of Human Ser-
vices. Open to all LGBT seniors.



Saturday, March 12th

MEAL AT NOON ✕ PROGRAM AT 1 P.M.

If your name begins with the letter

H through L

bring a Main Dish

M through Z

bring a Salad

A through G

bring Dessert/Fruit

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

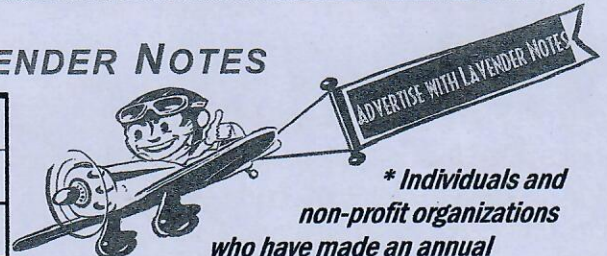
THIS MONTH'S POTLUCK FEATURES...

GAME DAY!

We'll have cards, checkers, dominos, Scrabble, and more available.
Or bring a favorite game. And bring a friend! Don't miss out on the
fun!

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.