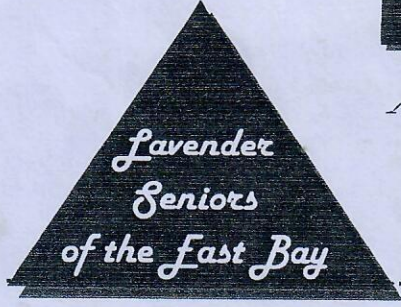


LavenderNotes

A Project of the Tides Center



1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

Phone: 510-677-9655
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Web: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

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Many Questions Answered About Domestic Partnerships

On June, 15th, Attorney Rachel Ginsberg spoke to a group of Lavender Seniors about the benefits and liabilities of the Domestic Partnership Commitment Agreements. For those who registered as domestic partners with the state of California prior to January 1st, 2005, these written agreements were required to be com-

pleted prior to June 30, 2005. Due to interest expressed by several Lavender Seniors who read the domestic partnership article in the May, 2005 edition of Lavender Notes, this presentation was hastily set up. Rachel explained that the current California state law for domestic partnerships is the product of

various attempts to resolve the "marriage" issue for the LGBT community in California (similar efforts were made in many other states). The LGBT marriage issue in this state has been attempted to be defined by both sides of the issue for well over a decade. Pro-marriage legislators and advocates

(Continued on page 4)

July 2005

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8 Healthy Living	9 Monthly Potluck
10	11	12	13 LGBT Caregiver	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Lunch Bunch	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- July 5, 7-8:30 PM** - Lavender Advisory Board Meeting, 1395 Bancroft. San Leandro. All are welcome.
- July 8, 10 AM - 2 PM** - Healthy Living Festival, Lake Merritt Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland.
- July 9, 12 PM - 2 PM** - Lavender Seniors Potluck, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro.
- July 13, 7 - 8:30 PM** - Caring for Yourself as an LGBT Caregiver, Alzheimer's Assn. - San Francisco Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St., San Francisco - Contact 650-962-8111 with questions.
- July 21, 12:30 - 2:30 PM** - Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Catered Food: FREE. Co-sponsored by Oakland Department of Human Services. Open to ALL GLBT 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, 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 May Murri, Co-Chairs
Jeanine DeBacker, Secretary
Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer
Meg Bruynell, Michael Mitchell &
Natalie Zarchin, Members at Large

Next Advisory Board Meeting

July 5 at 7PM. Call the office for more information.

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

Staff

Barbara Faulkner, Director
Peggy Moore, Outreach Specialist
Mitchell Foudray, Care Coordinator
Nancy Fugett, Administrator

Newsletter Editor

Charles A. Aiken

Webmaster

Bert Hendricksen

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.

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 urge them to change policies and practices to make services more accessible to LGBT seniors.
- **Monthly Potlucks each 2nd 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.

Susan Levinkind, JD
Lesbian Tax Mom

Don't Worry!

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experience helping
self-employed,
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retired folks and
others with their taxes.*

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July Birthdays

July 1

Patty Overland
Jerry Washington

July 9

Toni Langfield

July 10

Dick Colton
Edward Majal
Verne Nelson

July 12

Patricia Sousa

July 13

Bea Howard

July 14

Daniel Burr

July 15

Tom Long
Suzanne Templeton

July 16

Abel Foster
Nancy Fugett
Marie Kochaver
Emiko Midori

July 19

Cynthia Dunn
Paul Martinez, Jr.

July 24

Susan De Nault

July 25

Grant Brown

July 26

Jennifer Sprinkles

July 27

Thomas Daniels

July 28

Patricia Mahaffey

July 30

Johnnie Gameros

July 31

Rick Bolton

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

Thank you!

Lavender Seniors never lends, sells or gives away its mailing list.

(Continued from page 1)

have attempted to pass laws that would enable California to provide marriage-type benefits to the same-sex couples community. Adversaries won a partial victory by passing a voter-approved law, the Knight Amendment, to define marriage as being between only a man and woman. Later, pro-LGBT legislators passed, and former Governor Gray Davis signed, the current domestic partnership law that gave State recognition to LGBT domestic partnerships.

As Rachel and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have pointed out, changes in the law are creating new realities for same-sex couples. A pre-marital agreement (i.e., written commitment agreement) can address concerns the couple may have about community property, spousal support and inheritance rights. Federal law remains unchanged: the domestic partnership laws pertain only to state laws, which govern family law: e.g., divorce, hence the need for the commitment agreements. These pre-nuptial-like agreements clarify ownership of property and other assets held by the individual partners and can be withheld them from the domestic partnership.

If the couple does *not* want to stipulate the assets that should be governed by a written commitment agreement, it does *not* need to complete the agreement. In that case, all assets of the family are considered mutually beneficial. If the couple breaks up in the future, the assumption is that the assets are split equally between the two partners.

Some of the questions asked by the group attending the meeting included:

Q: I have willed some stocks in Individual Retirement Accounts to my partner. If I die before my partner

does, will Medi-Cal (the partner's health insurance provider) require that money to be spent down?

A: Yes, your partner cannot possess more than \$2,000 and remain as a Medi-Cal member. By receiving the inheritance in those inherited stocks, your partner would have to leave Medi-Cal until those dollars are spent down. Any attempts to hide the stocks would be considered Medi-Cal fraud.

Q: Another couple had registered as domestic partners in Berkeley and in San Francisco. Do we have to complete the commitment agreement?

A: Several cities such as San Francisco and Berkeley attempted to legalize domestic partnerships for the benefits of residents of those cities. These city ordinances did not supersede the state laws of domestic partnership that were created by the legislature. Therefore, the written agreements are not required for LGBT community members who received that recognition from those cities. So, where does that leave us? Well, it boils down to the fact that we, as individuals, have to make the decision that is best for us in our particular relationship. We can see now why many "in the know" have chosen not to complete the written agreements portion of the domestic partnership laws.

Rachel left the group with the Guide to Legal Services for Gay and Lesbian Relationships:

"Many people who are in long-term relationships are finding it helpful and sometimes necessary to obtain the services of an attorney. Below are described some of the legal services that are available to gay and lesbian couples:

Wills A person may not inherit her or his partner's property upon death unless a properly-prepared will pro-

vides for this. If no will has been made, relatives can take everything, no matter how distant the relatives may be. A will can be simple and inexpensive, and is absolutely essential as insurance against unexpected death.

Power of Attorney for Health Care This document enables your partner or friend to act as your "next of kin" in emergency situations. Hospitals and doctors can refuse to acknowledge your partner if he or she has not been given a Power of Attorney in advance.

Power of Attorney for Asset Management If one partner becomes disabled or incapacitated, this document allows the other to manage her or his financial affairs without going to court.

Property Agreements A property agreement is a legally binding contract between two people, which governs your financial obligations to each other and clarifies your ownership of property. It can help prevent palimony suits, eliminate unspoken expectations and specify your financial commitments.

Domestic Partnership & Marriage Planning Rapid changes in the law are creating new rights and obligations for same-sex couples, as well as uncertainty. For those planning to marry, a pre-marital agreement can address your concerns about community property, spousal support and inheritance rights. For domestic partners, new laws took effect on January 1, 2005 and a registration agreement may be needed."

Thank you, Rachel, for so graciously giving your knowledge and your time to Lavender Seniors!

UPTOWN

Body & Fender

Giovanna Tanzillo

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New Intern

Please welcome Paige Markham who has volunteered with Lavender Seniors as part of an Introduction to Human Services class at Holy Names University in Oakland, where she is a senior at the end of her 2005 trimester. The class is part of the fulfillment for her bachelor's degree in Human Services which she plans to receive in 2006. Upon the completion of her B.A. degree, she hopes to work with seniors of color in the East Bay. Part of her commitment to seniors of color is due largely in part to the lack of people of color that many seniors of color encounter in health care and human services.

Her current work as an MRI technologist in Oakland has allowed her to observe the positive impact that her presence as an African-American woman has had on many seniors of color, especially African-American seniors.

Paige completed her volunteer requirements for her internship in June and was instrumental in researching LGBT statistics that we will use in future funding proposals. We hope she stays in touch with Lavender Seniors.

Editor's Note—Newsletter Changes

You have undoubtedly noticed the 'new' look of *Lavender Notes*. Some advertisers will see differences in the layout and appearance of their ads.

The editor's newsletter computer suffered a boot sector virus locking all files on all three drives. Until repairs are made to restore the drives (including backups), *Notes* will look a bit different until the editor is able to restore and/or re-create inaccessible files.

Please bear with us until things back to normal.

Thanks for your patience & understanding. *editor*

Saint Cuthbert's Episcopal Church

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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 German Officer's Boy
by Harlan Greene
University of Wisconsin Press

It is ironic how seemingly private events collide with history to produce grimly tragic events. In November, 1938 a German employee of the German Embassy in Paris was shot and killed by a young Jewish refugee from Poland. Harlan Greene has fashioned an arresting narrative revolving around the relationship between Ernst von Rath, the diplomat and the fourteen year old Herschel Grynspan.

We are not told how Greene did research on the incident but we are pulled into the drama in spite of ourselves. The boy is imprisoned and finds himself being represented by two attorneys who were well known for taking on cases of this sort.

Herschel is a boy without proper papers and hence, without a country. He and Ernest meet and fall deeply in love. Herschel's parents discover the affair and he is kicked out of the house. Ernest takes him in.

Some historians claim the event help to kick start World War II. Hitler sought revenge for the death of von Rath by launching the infamous "Night of Broken Glass." In 1940 the German army marched into Paris. Herschel was still awaiting trial in 1942. He simply vanished from the pages of time.

Greene is the author of *Why We Danced The Charleston and What The Death Remember* (winner of a Lambda Literary Award). His parents were victims of the Holocaust. His novel is memorable and will haunt the reader long after reading it.

—Frank Howell

Anonymous Questionnaire Results

Thirty-seven Lavender Seniors responded to the Anonymous Questionnaire that was sent to them this year. The survey was distributed in the March 2005 newsletter which we mailed to approximately 450 people. 37 people responded to the survey. The results of the survey are in:

Gender: 75% female, 25% male. Sexual orientation: 71% lesbian, 21%, gay, 5% bisexual and 3% heterosexual. Their ages are 5% <55, 54% 55-65, 24% 66-75, 13% 75-85, 2% age not given. Ethnicity: 73% Caucasian, 8% African-American, 8% Latino, 3% Asian-American, 8% not specified. Almost everyone (95%) reads the newsletter. 58% attended at least one LS activity. 11% received phone calls inviting them to activities or to see how they are doing and 18% volunteer. 66% responded they had the opportunity to interact with other LGBT's. 50% felt less alone as an LGBT senior. 63% reported that they felt more connected to the LGBT community. 53% felt more informed about issues that affect LGBT seniors. 39% felt more informed

(Continued on page 7)

Meg's Notes

- ☑ *As representatives of Two Lavender Seniors, Meg & BJ (with their granddaughter, Katie) and Ina Mae & Stella, attended the Annual Celebration by PFLAG Newark. It was a great party complete with a band made up from the Newark Police Department and the City Offices. There were platters of food and a silent auction. Our friend, Pat Skilton, is President this year. She and her staff did a terrific job!*
- ☑ *Ina Mae & Stella and Meg & BJ also attended Mana Portugal's 70th birthday party hosted at Club Room. Everyone had a fabulous time, enjoyed the MC and all the entertainers from San Francisco. They went home with bags of goodies from the "grab bag" selection and the auction.*

(Continued from page 6)

about resources for LGBT seniors. 32% felt more informed about other programs and services.

Some of the comments included for the things that people like most were: "wonderful people, Lunch Bunch, sense of community, focus on aging & aging issues, and that it exists!"

Included among the things that people liked least about Lavender Seniors included food at activities high fat and sugar, location is too far from Berkeley and El Cerrito, very white need more outreach, you'll never reach all the seniors, too many "cliques," the reluctance of LGBT seniors to participate actively in running Lavender Seniors especially becoming Board members.

The highlights of biggest needs that people wrote about included, "we still discriminate within our own ranks, knowingly or not! We are not yet reaching the minority LGBT community as we committed we would, more social events to meet people, programs in Contra Costa County, lending library of gay books & films, free help, board members of all ages, outreach to LGBT who are either bed or home bound, senior housing for low-income LGBT, more money."

Some ideas offered to improve LS included, "more social events, connect with those who can't make meetings, bring pets to activities, do things that encourage people to mix, fundraising events to create visibility and offer social interaction, more varied programs, articles from NGTF, HRC, etc. for newsletter, range of motion and dieting for seniors."

There were several comments for improvement of programs that we will incorporate into our future planning. Not all comments were included in this description of the response; however, the highlights of the comments were.

18th Annual Creating Change Conference

The 18th Annual Creating Change Conference, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is returning to Oakland November 9—13, 2005, at the Oakland Marriott City Center hotel. You are invited to join the Senior Host Committee to help prepare for the conference!

Building on the success of the Creating Change Conference last held in Oakland in November 1999, the Senior Host Committee will focus on making arrangements for a Senior Hospitality Room in the hotel to be available to all senior conference attendees. We're also planning to have a luncheon and program for local seniors (55+) who will be able to attend the conference free on that day provided reservations are made with us ahead of time.

Volunteers on our Senior Host Committee will be entitled to attend free of charge the entire conference. Over 130 workshops are being planned including those of particular interest to seniors: keynote speeches, discussion groups, caucuses, films, social and cultural events, and a great opportunity to meet and interact with GLBTQ activists from all across the country. Further information on the conference is available on the Task Force website: www.creatingchange.org.

The Senior Host Committee meets the 3rd Monday of every month at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. (corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) from 3:00PM to 4:30. For more information on our local Senior Host Committee, call John at 510-583-9638 or Marion at 510-223-9034.

Volunteers Are Needed at Lavender Seniors

Lavender Seniors is asking for help you to represent Lavender Seniors at meetings of various fund sources and other groups that provide services to seniors in the East Bay. These groups are meeting with community representatives to identify services that are needed in the community. LGBT issues need to be addressed at these meetings. You can support us by volunteering your time to attend these meetings and represent the interests of the LGBT community.

If that activity is not your cup of tea, remember that we are always looking for volunteers for our critical program of Friendly Visitors. We can also use volunteers to assist at Potlucks, Lunch Bunch, and other Lavender Seniors activities. Just let staff know that you would like to help. Thank you!

Official Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

<p>Senior Men's Afternoon 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 1:30-3:30PM July 14th & 28th at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p>	<p>Cathy Cade Personal Histories, Photo Organizing & Photography <i>Record Your Life Story Organize Your Photographs Have Fun With Me Making New Photos</i> Natural Light Photography in the Comfort of Your Home</p>	<p>Fellows of East Bay 2nd Sunday of each month 5:30-8:30PM July 10th 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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WHCO UPDATE

The planning session for the WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE on Aging is tentatively scheduled for September 16 or September 23. The session will run from 9AM to 1PM. The actual date and more details will be released in subsequent editions of Lavender Notes.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, July 12

Meal at Noon  Program at 1 o'clock

A through K bring a salad

L through N bring dessert

O through Z bring main dish

This Month's Potluck Features...

Dave Alexander, an attorney, will speak and answer questions about personal wills, advanced health care directives, and legislation affecting the LGBT community.

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.