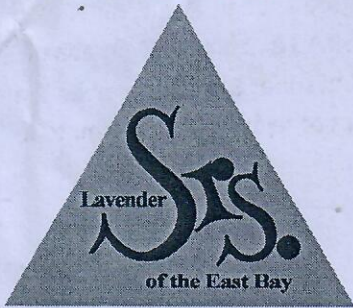


LavenderNotes

A Project of the Tides Center

1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
Web: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

Phone: 510-667-9655
Fax: 510-667-9909
E-mail: Info@lavenderseniors.org



| | |
|--|---|
| Inside this issue: | |
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| Book Review: Three reviews by Frank Howell | 6 |
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11TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY SUCCESS

Thanks for Making our Holiday Celebration a Huge Success!

We estimate that there were about 250 of you who attended our 11th Anniversary Holiday Celebration. The food was pretty wonderful. The sounds of the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus were fabulous. Lots of you enjoyed the Arts and Crafts Fair and bought their wares. Thank you ALL for helping to support Lavender Seniors and the LGBT survivors of the devastating hurricanes in Louisiana and Florida.

We want to recognize ALL of the

craftspeople who came to our FIRST crafts event and presented their beautiful products. They all donated items to our Silent Auction and are not all listed above:

Cynthia Ernest Sylvester, Deb Paschke, Ms. Lovey, Bert Hutchinson, Tomi Smith, Shirley Runco, and Natalie Zarchin. Thank you for making our celebration even more exciting!

Barbara Faulkner
Director,

(Silent Auction Winners—page 4)

January 2006

Schedule of Events

January 11, 7:00PM-8:30PM. LS Board Meeting. 1395 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro. Public is welcome
January 14, 12:00PM-2:00PM. LS monthly Potluck, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. See potluck schedule on page 8.

January 13, 9:00AM-11:00AM. Coming Out Again Group. 1801 Hearst St, Berkeley. See article inside.

January 19, 12:30PM-2:30PM. Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. FREE catered food. Co-sponsored by Oakland Department of Human Services, Open to ALL LGBT Seniors. Third Thursday of each month.

JANUARY 24, LAVENDER JUNIORS. Time and place TBD. Lavender Juniors is getting together with Lavender Seniors to share some stories. For time and location contact Barbara at 667-9655.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|-----|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 New Year | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Board Mtg | 12 | 13 Coming Out Again | 14 Potluck |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Lunch Bunch | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Lav. Juniors | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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 Mae Murri, Co-Chairs

Jeanine DeBacker, Secretary

Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Fred Banuelos D'Anne Bruetsch, Meg Bruynell,
Rose White & Natalie Zarchin Members at Large

Next Advisory Board Meeting

January 11th 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 Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

D'Anne Bruetsch

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.

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.

January Birthdays

January 1
BETH WILLIAMS

January 2
CAROL BETH

January 4
ROSEMARY C. HYDE
MAGGIE ROCHLIN

January 7
ROMA REHFISCH

January 12
GENE PARGHALL

January 13
W. PIGMAN

January 15
INA MAE MURRI

January 22
EDD DUNDAS

January 25
BOB COMPTON

January 27
ELLEN SCHEINER
SUSAN VANDERBURGH

January 31
MARY VOLZ

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."

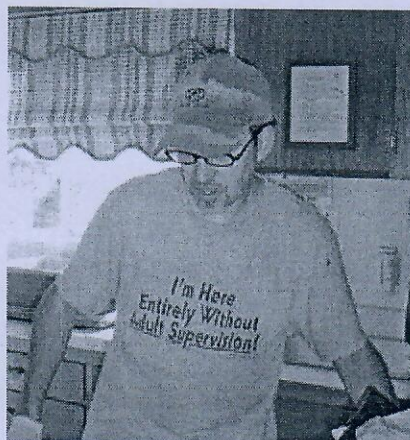
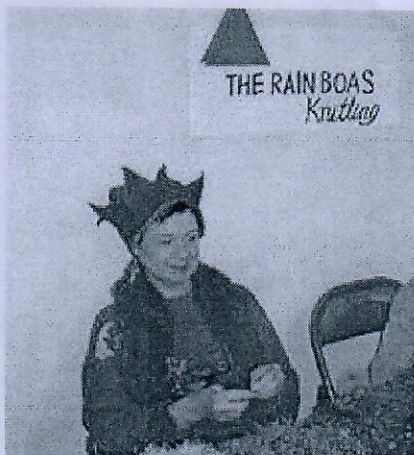
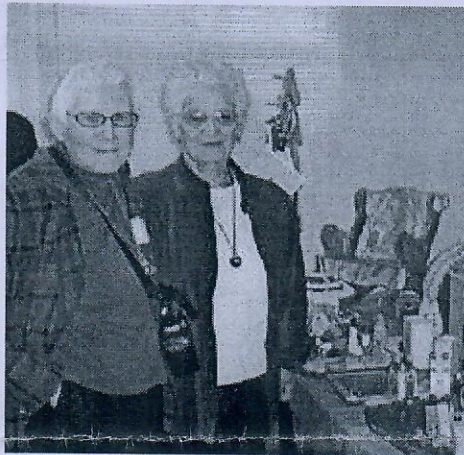
Please mail to: Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, 1395 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

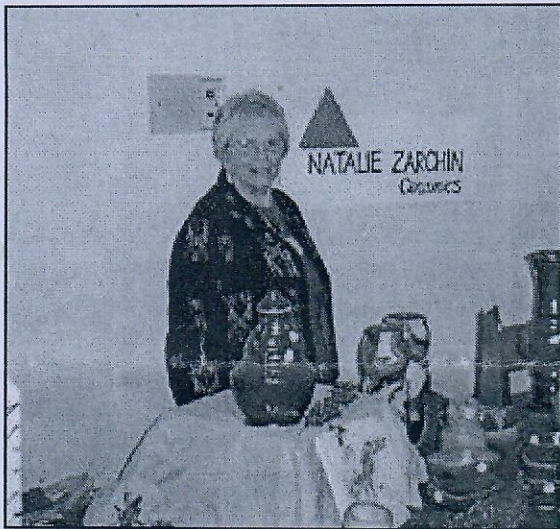
(Anniversary Party—continued from page 1)

The Silent Auction winners were:

1. Marie Kochaver won the 1 hour dance lesson from Laurie Ann Lepoff and "Dances on Toes" Dance Lessons
2. Jerry Torres – Rainbow Beaded Bowl from Cynthia Sylvester
3. Barbara Faulkner – Handmade Sachet Pillows from Reid Wilgoren
4. Ms. Lovey – Decorated Christmas Tree from Fred Banuelos and Nacho Aguirre
5. D'Anne Bruetsch – Necklace
6. Kate Rosenblatt -- Sterling Silver by Dancing Rainbows
7. Lee Williamson – Yosemite Bug Lodge by Laurie Henry
8. Marvin Burrows – Graphics Consultation by Christina Cappelletti
9. Cynthia Sylvester – Angel
10. Shirley Kuneo – Fancy Teddy Bear from Reid Wilgoren
11. David Sylvester – Homemade Jams from Bill Baillie and Don Silva
12. Cher Reis – Crocheted Poncho Shat
13. Cindy T. Smith – Jardinaire
14. Cher Reis – Mobile
15. Cher Reis – Snowman Lighted Decoration

Happy 11th Anniversary Lavender Seniors of the East Bay






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3506 Woodruff at MacArthur in Oakland's Fruitvale

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\$200-300 sliding scale, some scholarships available.

For info: 510-562-2605, or dykewomon@yahoo.com

Aug. 1st-20th: call 510-383-9858 or taxmomsusan@yahoo.com

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Attorney at Law, Mediator

Law Offices of Priscilla Camp

827 Broadway, Ste 200

Oakland, CA 94607

510-465-3885 fax 465-1732 priscilla@pcamlaw.com

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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.*

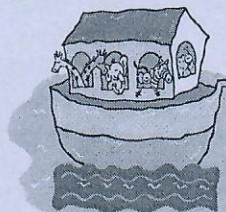
Let Me Help You

8008 Winthroe Street

Oakland, CA 94605

510-383-9858

taxmomsusan@yahoo.com



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

We Have Three Great Book Reviews This Month:

Harvard's Secret Court: The Savage 1920 Purge of Campus Homosexuals

By William Wright

St. Martin's Press-\$25.95

It is well that from time to time we revisit our lavender past to measure the progress that has been achieved. A kangaroo court of sorts emerged in 1920 on the Harvard campus. A scandal erupted when Cyril Wilcox, a Harvard student, took his own life by turning on the gas. Apparently word was about to leak out that an informal sex ring was flourishing and the price for such merriment was about to be paid. Lester Wilcox, brother of Cyril, vowed to take legal action against the University.

The president of this distinguished institution, Lawrence Lowell, launched an immediate investigation and convened a secret panel of university officials to call in all the students involved and grill them into confessing. Civil rights were completely beside the point as the witch hunt unfolded. You were guilty until proved otherwise. Only the reputation of grand old Harvard mattered.

The attitudes expressed by the five man board were characteristic of the 1920s. The freedom to indulge in consenting adult sexual relations in private was a novel concept yet to see the light of day. It was open season on the private lives of students or anyone else touched by disgrace.

The board of inquiry consisted of President Lowell, three deans, a regent and the head of the university health department. Some twenty boys were questioned on such matters as how often did they masturbate. Nothing was considered out of bounds.

As a result of the investigation most of the boys were terminated. A few were reinstated at a later date. One associate professor was destroyed professionally. His PhD degree was denied. Another student committed suicide in addition to Cyril Wilcox.

The court was determined that the entire affair was kept under wraps, never to be revealed.

It is ironic that President Lowell was the brother of Amy Lowell, noted poet and cigar smoking lesbian.

Some of the men managed to lead successful lives in later years, especially Ernest Roberts, a flamboyant gay, who married happily and achieved success as an interior decorator and Joe Lumbard, a prominent attorney who died in the 1990's at age 97.

The whole sordid affair was buried in the back files of the Harvard University Library until the papers were accidentally discovered and re-cataloged. Over 500 pages of documents and letters were the only witness to this incredible episode.

William Wright does a scholarly job of setting all events and characters in historical context. He graduated from Yale University in 1952 and has written for the New York Times, Vanity Fair and Town And Country.

The Harvard University of today stands in dramatic contrast to the institution of the 1920s. In 1983 the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Caucus was established and the **Gay And Lesbian Review Worldwide** is published on campus.

Over the years this world renowned university was considered by social observers as tolerant of alternate life styles. At Princeton there was a song popular in the 1950s, - "You can tell a Harvard man a mile away cause he looks (clap,clap) just like he'll blow away..."

Frank Howell

Also, Noted in Passing

101 Must See Movies For Gay Men,

By Alonso Duralde,

Advocate Books-Paperback-\$14.95

This is a really fun book for the holidays and includes commentary on such gay classics as **Big Eden, Beautiful Thing, Cabaret, Hedwig and The Angry Inch.**

Duralde is the entertainment editor of the **Advocate**. He provides quotes to remember from each of these films and which titles are available on DVD and VHS..

When I Knew,

Edited by Robert Trachtenberg,

Reagan Books-Paperback-\$22.95

Oprah Winfrey built an entire show around this delightful collection of folks who confess the first time they exposed their gayness or released that they were different from their friends.

When a woman informed her grandmother of her being a lesbian, she replied, "No you're not, you're Romanian on your fathers side."

A gay man relates, "My father was watching the evening news. The announcer said that Judy Garland had died. I fainted. I was nine."

Submitted by Frank Howell

Who did you hang out with 10 years ago? AND... Where are they now?

We have Friendly Visitors who want to visit with you and help them to stay connected. Call us at 510-667-9655.

Coming Out Again Groups

Why "Coming Out Again" Groups?

A Story from the Project Founder Reed Wilgoren

Hi, I'm Reed and I volunteer at the North Berkeley Senior Center. I attended a great event there called Gay Day Celebration that was well-attended by LGBT seniors and non-LGBT seniors alike!

After attending the celebration, however, I wondered where all the LGBT's over 55 disappeared to. Speaking for myself at 56, being disabled, I'm not exactly mainstream any more in gay life but still want to be social, politically aware, have fun, and perhaps meet a special person again. I certainly do not want to go back in the closet.

I went to a Lunch Bunch in October where we had a group discussion about things we can do in the community as LGBT elders to reach out to people who need connection. I decided to start a group at the North Berkeley Senior Center, to bring out all those folks who had come to the celebration, but seemed now to have gone back into hiding! I thought Coming Out Again might be a good name,

since so many of us end up back in the closet.

Bea Howard joined me as co-facilitator; we just had our first meeting in December. Although it was small, I truly believe this group will take off, with patience. All LGBTs 55 and older really need this in senior centers as well as senior housing and retirement communities.

I hope you can come to the group sometime! Or maybe you'll want to start one of these groups in your senior center or community.

Reed Wilborn

LGBT'S: Coming Out Again

We Invite all LGBT Elders and Friends to come together to talk about issues of diversity and community every 2nd Friday each month, 9-11 AM in the Health Room at North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St., Berkeley. These monthly drop-in meetings for LGBT elders and friends help break down silences and depression in the individual. It will give people a place to be able to talk freely about partners and other LGBT concerns. It is a place open to anyone who welcomes a diverse community of ideas and friendships. It offers a place to learn more about LGBT life, share stories of coming out, share concerns about bias, offer support, and plan fun things to do! It is co-facilitated by Reed Wilgoren and Bea Howard, co-sponsored by North Berkeley Senior Center and the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. Contact Reed Wilgoren for more info: 510.530.3062 or reedfurbybear@aol.com.

Christina Cappelletti, MSW, MA
Outreach Specialist

Alameda County

Alameda County Board of Supervisors met and passed the Mental Health Services Act planning document which is the implementation of Prop. 63, passed by the voters of California last year. The document does not take into account the comments and inputs made by the Native American and LGBTQ communities, in spite extensive participation in their early planning process and at least two Public Hearings on the final draft document.

One of the speakers before the County Board of Supervisors was the Chairperson of the County Mental Health Advisory Committee who reviews this document on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. We have an opportunity to influence the direction and the scope of the Prop.

63 implementation because there are **nine (9) vacancies** on that Mental Health Advisory Committee. If you plan to apply for one of those vacancies, please let Barbara Jue know of your plans such that she may alert one of the Board members. Write her at her email address: jue-birdy@aol.com Include your city, County District number (if you know it), and a brief sketch of your background. AND, go ahead and make the application. Contact Barbara Faulkner at barbara@lavenderseniors.org if you need assistance finding the County contact information for these positions..

Please note also that there are also two vacancies on the County's Human Relations Commission. This would be another great opportunity to get the LGBTQ agenda in front of local elected officials.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Senior Men's Afternoon 2ND and 4TH Thursdays of each month, 1:30–3:30PM January 12th and 26th at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p> | <p>Coming Out Again 2ND Friday of each month 9 to 11 AM January 13th at North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St., Berkeley. Reed Wilgoren and Bea Howard, co-facilitators</p> | <p>Fellows of East Bay 2ND Sunday of each month 5:30–8:30PM January 15th 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> |
|--|--|---|

Housing Announcements

Fair Housing is your Right!

It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of: Sexual Orientation, Race, Color, National Origin, Ancestry, Religion, Mental or Physical Disability. If you feel that your rights have been violated, ECHO can help! Call 510-581-9380 for more information.

St Patrick's Terrace, 1212 Center St., Oakland, CA

The waiting list for studio apartments is open for St. Patrick's Terrace. Rental assistance is available through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Section 8 program. The building has a community room and a laundry room. Each apartment is equipped with an electric stove, refrigerator, carpeting and drapes. The head of household must be at least 62 years or older. The household's annual income cannot exceed \$29,000 for a single person or \$33,100 for two people. Call 510-251-8135.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, January 14th

This Month's Potluck Features... Molly McKay of Equality California to bring us up-to-date on Gay Marriage initiatives

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



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

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 | \$30 | \$75 | \$140 | \$250 |
| Quarter Page | \$50 | \$125 | \$225 | \$400 |
| Half Page | \$90 | \$220 | \$400 | \$750 |
| Full Page | \$200 | \$450 | \$800 | \$1400 |

* 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.