

LavenderNotes

A Project of the Tides Center

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Friendly Visitors Help Others

Lavender Seniors was contacted by a Social Worker from Adult Protective Services about Ted. A single man, living alone in a house he owned underneath a freeway overpass in North Oakland, Ted had been diagnosed with beginning stage Alzheimer's disease and depression.

When I met Ted, he told me the area where he lived once boasted an amusement park with rides and was known as Idora Park. His collection of movie tapes, compact and laser disks

was impressive and must have numbered in the thousands. Plans for a basement theater had recently been aborted because of his problems with Alzheimer's. Ted claimed to be on good terms with his ex wife and three adult children who all lived out of town. He loved traveling and told me his last trip was in 2003 when he went to Europe with his gay grandson.

Ted's partner of 26 years died

(Continued on page 4)

February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 LS Brd Mtg	9	10 Coming Out	11 Pot Luck+
12	13 Focus Grp 2	14	15	16 Lunch Bunch	17	18
19	20	21	22 Lavender Jr	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Schedule of Events

February 8, 7:00PM-8:30PM. LS Board Meeting, 1395 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro. Public is welcome

February 10, 10:00AM-12:00 PM. Coming Out Again Group. 1801 Hearst St, Berkeley. See inside.

February 11, 10:30 AM-11:45AM. LS Friendly visitor volunteers meeting.

February 11, 12:00PM-2:00PM. LS monthly Potluck, 1395 Bancroft, San Leandro. See potluck schedule on page 8.

FEB 11 AND FEB 13. SENIOR ACCESS PROJECT FOCUS GROUPS. SEE ARTICLE PAGE 5.

February 16, 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. Program: Black History Month with Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley.

February 22, 6:30-8:30 PM-Lavender Juniors, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Story sharing with the Seniors.

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, The Horizons Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, 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

February 8th 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 Specialist

Charlie Wilson, Asst Case Coordinator

Newsletter

Barbara Faulkner, Editor

D'Anne Bruetsch, Publisher

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.

If you would like a "Friendly Phone Caller" to check in on you or chat with on a regular basis, just give Lavender Seniors a call at 667-9655 and we'll hook you up!

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.

February Birthdays

February 3
Larry Laikam

February 6
Frank Howell

February 7
Eric Larson
Renee Watkins

February 8
Gerald Hyman

February 9
Chuck Baroo
Lynn Riordan

February 9
Ann D. Smith, Ph.D.

February 12
Jess McVey

February 15
Barbara Jue

February 19
Marvin Burrows

February 20
Duane Imhoff
Ellen Levin
Corky Wick

February 23
Robert C. Scharff

February 24
Cathy Cade
Carol Squires

February 26
Jean-Rene Labrousche
Dorothy Taylor

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**

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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

(Friendly Visitors: from page 1)

several years ago from cancer. "That's when my depression began" he reported. He was currently letting a young man live in his basement and confessed that the youth gave him sexual favors in exchange for money. The social worker advised him to kick the man out, and Ted knew he should (the young man had been caught cashing Ted's checks that he had stolen). But Ted was lonely and believed that at his age, he would have to pay for physical intimacy if he wanted it. And he felt sorry for the kid, he said. "His dad told him that he'd rather see his kids dead than have them be gay. He feels like a loser". Eventually, his adult children filed for a restraining order against the youth.

It was hoped that a weekly visit from a Lavender Seniors volunteer would alleviate some of Ted's loneliness and help him make the break from this bad relationship. On the first visit, Ted did not answer the friendly visitor's knock on the door. The visitor noticed one or more young men coming from

the back of Ted's house carrying goods. After repeated knocking, Ted answered the door in his robe, saying he had forgotten about the visit and it was not a good time for him. Apparently, Ted was being "entertained" by his former tenant while others were cleaning him out. The volunteer was not prepared for this kind of situation! Fortunately, he did the right thing and called the Lavender Seniors office.

Lavender Seniors contacted the caseworker at APS about the incident. Ted's Alzheimer's and depression were making it impossible for him to exercise good judgment and it was clear that he was not safe living alone. His family decided to sell Ted's house and use the profits to build additions onto their homes and take turns having their dad live with them. Ted has lost a good deal of his independence, but because APS, Lavender Seniors, his family were watching out for his welfare, Ted is safe and being cared for.

Submitted by Mitchell Foudray, Care Coordinator.

First Lavender Seniors Speaking Gig of the Year is a Great Success!

On New Year's Day, a University of Phoenix student called the Lavender Seniors' office, to request an interview about our services for a presentation she was making to her Human Services class two days later. Christina took the call, did the interview, and then suggested that one of our Lavender Seniors speakers join her as a guest presenter. She was thrilled, and Fred Banuelos, LS Board Member and Speaker's Bureau Member, rose swiftly to the task!

Fred was to speak for just ten minutes. Off he went with his arms full of our handouts, and gave his ten minutes story...and suddenly the room was filled with so many questions that Fred got to talk for another HOUR to the class!

Teresa, the student, later told Fred and Christina the following feedback:

- She was amazed at how many questions her classmates had and how well the conversation between Fred and the class unfolded.
- The class specifically took all the extra handouts to continue to pass along to others.
- The class went out for dinner afterward, and talked for another two hours about Fred and what they

learned about LGBT issues.

- She has noticed how easily her classmates now talk about LGBT issues, having had the opportunity to learn about the LGBT community and language.
- Her professor took our Celebration Flier to her "other" job at Alameda County Behavioral Services, and made copies for her colleagues to post in their cubicles.

Teresa and several of her classmates plan to encourage the University of Phoenix to invite the Lavender Seniors Speakers Bureau to become a regular part of their Cultural Diversity curriculum.

This kind of impact does so much toward raising awareness and comfort levels about LGBT issues and improving the services our community receives from current and future service providers. Kudos to Fred for doing a great speaking job (and helping our student friend get an A+, we're sure)! What an excellent start to the 2006 Season of Lavender Seniors Cultural Competency Presentations!

Submitted by Christina Cappelletti, Outreach Specialist

Seniors Access Project Focus Groups to Meet space.

The Seniors Access Project Focus Groups will meet in February to study LGBT seniors' concerns about accessing mainstream aging services. The purpose of the study is to improve access to these services by identifying key agency enhancements that would identify the agency as being LGBT-friendly. **Participants will receive a \$25 stipend for their participation.**

If you would like to participate in the study, please RSVP to Barbara at 667-9655 by February 8th. Only groups of 10 to 15 participants will be allowed to participate, so please RSVP early while there is still

The Focus Groups will be held:
February 11th – from 2:15 PM to 3:15 PM – after the potluck at 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro.

February 13th – from 1:30 to 2:30 PM – 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro.


It is our hope to create a culture of community interest in creating agencies and businesses that welcome members of the LGBT community. This study will help us move toward that goal.

Charlie Wilson

Lavender Seniors has welcomed Charlie Wilson formerly of AIDS Project East Bay to our staff as Assistant Case Coordinator. Charlie was hired to help us find people like Ted who are reluctant to find us. Please contact Charlie or Mitchell at 667-9655 if you know of anyone who may be in need of a friendly LGBT face.



*Happy Valentines Day
To All of Our Friends*



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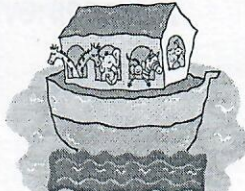
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February Book Review

The Commitment: Love, Sex, Marriage, And My Family

By Dan Savage

Dutton-\$24.00

Books and article on gay couples come and go; but, seldom has there been one which offers such an intimate glimpse as Dan Savage's account of a drive he takes with his lover, Terry, and their six year old son, DJ, as they journey from Seattle to Michigan to visit relatives.

There are spirited exchanges between the two husbands and DJ. They are lukewarm about the idea of tying the wedding knot. DJ is definitely not for it. "You can love each other because you're not married," says he.

Dan and Terry don't care to attend camps catering to gay couples. The kids are too old or too young and these affairs seemed to be dominated by lesbians.

Dan performs a thought provoking analysis of Irish-Catholic heterosexual unions, his parents in particular. His mother was pregnant on their wedding day; they later divorced.

Savage observes that divorce rates are highest in the red states and lowest in the blue states. He also notes that wedding celebrations are designed for the enjoyment of women and not men, straight or gay. The ceremonies need special adaptations for gays and lesbians. He cannot stand the idea of two men dancing. (Non-issue?)

Here the reader will find a vigorous pro and con on gay marriage and politics and the everyday dilemmas facing a same sex couple.

But Dan and Terry finally exchange vows in Canada, complete with wedding rings. In Canada, you can obtain the required license at the local drug store. How convenient.

Dan Savage is a columnist for The Stranger, an alternative newspaper. He is the author of **Skipping toward Gomorrah, The Kid** (about adopting DJ), and **Savage Love**, a collection of his columns. He has also contributed his ideas for numerous media, including the **New York Times** and **Rolling Stone**. He can be heard from time to time on National Public Radio.

Savage has provided a most engaging journey for us, as he, along with Terry and DJ face a brave new world of joy and challenge. - Frank Howell

Rob Mills Advertisement

All the Letters of the Rainbow

Adapted from *Thanksgiving Letters* By Sally Sheklow

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www.lesbiannews.com

Once long ago some remote intellectual
Decided to label us all "homosexual"
The doctors and shrinks found themselves very
pleased
To categorize us and call us diseased
They gave us the closet and hoped we'd keep quiet
But Gay Pride came out in the great Stonewall riot
We called ourselves Gay and we thought that was
swell
Then Lesbians wanted their name in as well
Soon the Bisexuals brought us the B
And along came the Trannies to give us a T
Then Queer kids and Questioning youth called for Q
With an I for the Intersex folks added, too
For Two-spirit people we've added T-S
Who else will step up now is anyone's guess

Our list keeps on growing, though some are afraid
That too many letters will spoil the parade
But most folks are glad and don't mind the intrusion
Of more and more outcasts now seeking inclusion
Everyone's safer when everyone's in
The crowd that the 'phobes say is burning with sin
With you and with me and with all our diversity
We'll stay out and proud despite any adversity

I'm glad for our list and it makes me feel stronger
The more that it grows and gets longer and longer
L-G-B-T-Q plus T-S and an I
And that's just the start, there'll be more by and by
I hope no one cares and nobody gets pissed
If I go right ahead and make up my own list
A romp through the alphabet seems apropos
I'm ready, I'm set, so hang on, here I go

A is for Allies who Always Adore us
B for the Bi's and the Bois in the chorus
C our Community pride Celebrations
D for us Dykes against Discrimination
E for Enlightening ourselves toward Equality
F is for Freedom, Fine Friends and Frivolity
G is for Gay, which is Good, Goddess knows
H being Happy in comfortable clothes
I is for Intersex and all In-betweens
J is for Justice for bull dykes and queens
K is for Kinky, for Kisses, and Kegels
L is for Lesbians, Love, Lox and bagels
M is our Movement for Marital rights
N is for Networking mornings and Nights
O is for Orgasms, Open, and Out
P for Political Power and clout
Q is for Queer and we're here so get used to it.
R Rude Girls' music and being seduced to it
S is for Sisters and Sex, we revere it
T for Transgender and also Two-spirit
U is for Uppity women United
V is our Vulvas all plump and excited
W for Wife, my favorite by far
X the two X'es my chromosomes are
Y for the Yearning to be out, proud, and free
Ze is the pronoun beyond He or She

This is my alphabet, ev-er-y letter
I hope that just hearing it makes you feel better
It may be a mouthful, a car full, a tank full,
But we are all awesome and I'm truly thankful
To be at this place in our historic struggle
(And also to have a sweet lover to snuggle)
But mostly to witness the progress we're making
Toward justice and freedom, that's some undertaking

The more we come out and express what's inside us
The more we make friends who will march right be-
side us

Then more and more people start seeing us clearly
Which ups our potential to love more sincerely
We open our hearts and we open our minds
When we stop to acknowledge that love takes all
kinds!

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

<p>Senior Men's Afternoon 2ND and 4TH Thursdays of each month, 1:30—3:30PM February 9th and 23rd 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 10 AM to 12 PM February 10th 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 February 12th 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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Milestones

I have some sad news to convey; Ruth Morales, who was the social worker for New Leaf Outreach to Elders and a longtime member of the San Francisco lesbian community, passed away on Wednesday evening, January 4th in Bakersfield, CA. A memorial was held on January 14 at the Women's Center in San Francisco.— Natalie Zarchin

Please submit any Lavender Milestones to Rose White at 261-8766 or email her at arrapaho99@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, February 11th

This Month's Potluck Features... Frank Rose and Quincy Campbell on African-American History month

- A thru H bring a Dessert/Fruit
- I thru R bring a Main Dish
- S thru Z bring a Salad



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.