

March 2006

Volume 11, Issue 3

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

# LavenderNotes

*A Project of the Tides Center*

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San Leandro, CA 94577

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## Californians Unaware of Gay Tax Break

From the Jan. 16, 2006

Tri-City Voice newspaper

"In the heart of Silicone Valley, Santa Clara is one of the wealthiest areas of the country with some of the nation's most highly educated people. But County Assessor Larry Stone says same-sex couples often don't realize the property tax benefits that the law provides.

Stone this week (January 7, 2006) began mailing out the property details under the

law to 2000 domestic partners registered in Santa Clara County. He also has updated the Assessor's Website where same-sex couple can get detailed information.

California began recognizing domestic partnerships in 1999. In 2001, the Legislature gave registered partners the right to make medical decisions for incapacitated partners, to sue for a partner's wrongful death and to adopt a

*(Continued on page 4)*

## March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Brd Mtg	9 Senior Men	10 Coming Out	11 Potluck
12	13	14	15	16 Lunch Bunch	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Senior Men	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Schedule of Events

**March 8, 7:00PM-8:30PM.** LS Board Meeting, 1395 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro. Public is invited

**March 9 & 23, 1:30-3:30 PM,** Senior Men's Afternoons, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley.

**March 10, 10:00AM-12:00 PM.** Coming Out Again Group. 1801 Hearst St, Berkeley. See back page.

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

**March 16, 12:30PM-2:30PM.** Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Co-sponsored by Oakland Department of Human Services, open to ALL LGBT Seniors. Third Thursday of each month. Spring in your step! Healthy Living tips by Barbara Faulkner.

**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, Berkeley Community Fund. 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

**March 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 Care 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.

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

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

### What We Do...

Founded in 1994, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay provides the following:

- **The LGBT Seniors of Color:** 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.
- **Cultural Competency Trainings:** Through LGBT Senior panelists, educates service providers to comply with state laws to change policies and practices to make service more accessible to LGBT seniors.
- **Monthly Potlucks each 2<sup>ND</sup> 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:** Coming Out Again and Seniors Men's Afternoon co-sponsored and co-hosted by the North Berkeley Senior Center and Pacific Center (see back page for schedules).
- **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](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).

*March Birthdays*

March 3  
Charlotte Hamilton  
March 4  
Charles Betcher  
Steve Mahuka  
Kelly Van Meter  
March 5  
Patricia Sarant  
March 6  
Saundra Fractious  
Brendalynn Goodall  
March 7  
Rita Kresha  
March 9  
Laurence Stickney  
Betty Will  
March 11  
Carl Norris

March 12  
Barbara Gould  
March 16  
Glen Arbuckle  
Bob Davis  
March 19  
Joe Vanderkooy  
Charlie Wilson  
March 20  
Arlene De La Mora  
March 21  
Stella Lopez-Armijo  
March 22  
Pnina Tobin  
March 23  
Daryle Halverson  
Thomas Packard  
Carrie Oyama

March 24  
Dee Nagy  
March 25  
Glenn P. Lee, Jr.  
March 26  
Bert Hutchinson  
March 27  
Doreen Brand  
Robert Carr  
Rob McCallum  
March 28  
Ken Bradley  
March 29  
James Thomas  
Evelyn White  
March 30  
John Mogi

**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  
REMEMBER THAT YOUR DONATIONS TO LAVENDER SENIORS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

*(Tax Breaks: from page 1)*

partner's child. The law was expanded last January, and this year, lesbian Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) spearheaded legislation making land community property.

The revision takes effect January 1, 2006.

A registered domestic partner now will be excluded from reassessment when one partner is added or removed from property title, whether by deed or by death, provided that the property interest is conveyed to the registered Domestic Partner remaining on title.

'The change in the law will particularly benefit older couples on fixed incomes,' Stone said. Transfers prior to the January 1, 2006 effective date are not covered by the new law.

'Excluding registered Domestic Partners from property tax benefits available to married couples was unfair and I am pleased the legislature has finally corrected this deficiency. Domestic partners should not be taxed from their homes when one partner dies,' Stone said.

Beginning with the deeds recorded January 3, 2006, the Assessor's office will identify transfers between registered

Domestic Partners by reviewing the Preliminary Change in Ownership Report (PCOR) that is typically filed with the Recorder's Office at the same time a deed is recorded.

PCOR is reviewed by the Assessor to determine whether or not the property transfer requires reappraisal to current market value for assessment purposes. Stone is urging domestic partners to fully complete the PCOR. To the extent that the Assessor can identify that the transfer was between registered Domestic Partners, it will be excluded from reassessment.

As will all new laws, contemplating transferring real property or a mobile home to contact their attorney or accountant prior to the transfer. Transferring an ownership interest may have unintended and potentially unwelcome financial and legal consequences, he said. That could be an issue if a couple breaks up. Under community property law, the land could be split between both partners."

**Editor's comment:** This article references the San Mateo County Assessor. The law applies, however, to all of the residents of California. All registered Domestic Partners qualify for this benefit. Check with your county assessor to verify what you need to do next, if you haven't heard from them already.

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## Annual Member Survey

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We want your opinions and ideas about our programs. So, please fill out the enclosed survey and mail it back to us at 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577 by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Yes, we are conducting another survey to find out your opinions on the work that we do for you. We want to give you programs that you like and that help you to figure out how you can live better as you get older. Each year, we give you a survey similar to the one that is on the enclosed page.

Please remember that all the information you provide will be confidential, whether you put your name on the Survey or not. We are only reporting aggregate (or total) data groups. Please don't put your name on the survey if you have any concerns about anonymity. Remember that all information you provide will remain anonymous.

You may or may not know, but there is very little information out there about us LGBT folks. This is good and bad for us. We may think it's good for us because we think that we are safer if there is less information out there about us. For those of us who write grants to get money for Lavender Seniors' programs, it's not good, because we don't have much research to reflect the needs of our people. If you have any questions or concerns about the questions on the survey, don't hesitate to call Barbara at 667-9655.

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### Home Cares Equipment Recyclers

Do you need a cane, walker, shower chair, ostomy supplies, gauze, oxygen equipment, crutches, portable commodes, blood pressure kits, bandages, liquid nutrition, and wheel chairs? If you do, Home Cares may have one for you. Home Cares recycles home healthcare equipment.

Home Cares is a non-profit organization which means that they probably won't have to charge for this equipment. For more information, call: 510-251-2273

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### Consumer News

Are you sick of telephone calls from salespeople? Here are some tips:

Call the Do Not Call Program at 888-398-7867 to register on the California Attorney General's Do Not Call list.

Tell companies that call to add you to their "do not call" list. Federal regulations prohibit them from calling once you've asked them not to.

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### Laughline

For a good (?) laugh, dial (888) 424-2424. submitted by Judy Hungerford.

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**The New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:  
What the LGBT Community Needs to Know**

**How does the new Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage work?**

**How much will it cost me?**

**Do I really need to sign up?**

**What if I use HIV/AIDS related medication?**

**Does everyone on Medicare qualify?**

Find out the answers to these and other important questions by joining Ernie Powell, AARP California Associate State Director of Advocacy for a talk on the New Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit. All are welcome, regardless of age. There is no charge.

**Please RSVP by contacting: Reverend Melody Wolder at 415-863-4434**

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
MCC – San Francisco

**Ain't Dead Yet Kick Ass Events**

Ain't Dead Yet Kick-Ass Events (A.D.Y.K.E.) is an internet list to facilitate the creation of community for lesbians 40 and over living in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The East Bay ADYKE brunch will be held the 4th Sunday of March. It will be at noon at La Pena on Shattuck near Ashby (and the Ashby BART). La Pena is part of the La Pena Community Center. RSVP to [mickey\\_94114@yahoo.com](mailto:mickey_94114@yahoo.com). La Pena is very reasonably priced.

There is no such thing as too old on this list. Part of our mission is to remove the stigmas, both internal and external, associated with age.

Carpooling is sometimes an option.

If anyone knows of any other great social groups that are interested in gaining more members, send the information in to [barbara@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:barbara@lavenderseniors.org).

FOUNTAIN GROVE  
**LODGE**

■ AN LGBT ELDERS COMMUNITY

**WES WINTER**  
SENIOR MARKETING DIRECTOR

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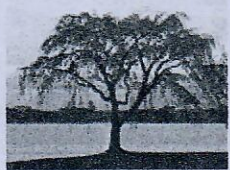
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**Elder Law, Probates, Conservatorships, MediCal counseling,  
Wills, Powers of Attorney, Trust Administration,  
Guardianships of Minors' Estates**



**Daw Acupuncture and Healing**  
Specializing in Traditional Japanese Acupuncture

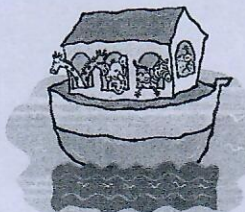
**Wendy L. Daw**  
Licensed Acupuncturist



**Examples of treatable Conditions:**  
Chronic pain, headache, High blood pressure, menopausal symptoms,  
insomnia, sciatica, gastrointestinal issues, diabetes, stress & anxiety

**Senior Discount on Tuesdays**

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Fax: 510-667-9909



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Sunday's @ St. Cuddy's 7PM  
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### The Whole World Is Watching: Living In The Light of Matthew Shepard

By Romaine Patterson

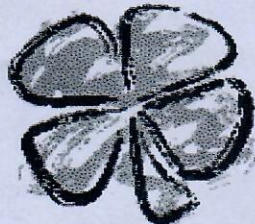
Advocate Books - \$24.95

The memory of Matthew Shepard resurfaces from time to time as if to remind us that tragedy is an ongoing part of life. Romaine Patterson has been a part of the Shepard legacy from the beginning. She was one of the crucial characters in the **Laramie Project**, the dramatic play staged by Moises Kaufman on Broadway. She was a close friend of Shepard and tried to encourage him. She had three brothers, one of whom was HIV+. She grew up as a tom boy and fought hard for her identity.

Judy Shepard, Matt's mother, pleaded with Romaine to portray him as a flawed human being and not a glorious martyr. He smoked pot and tended to be a spoiled rich kid. He put too much trust in people and was too free with his money. When Matt came to Wyoming, he was on his own for the first time.

Romaine found herself deeply engrossed in the

Happy  
St. Paddy's  
Day



### Please Welcome Brenda Williams!

Brenda Williams has joined the Lavender Seniors staff as an intern from Cal-State-East Bay. She is volunteering in the office part-time on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Her background is in caring for Developmentally Disabled persons, managing their care plan and advocating for them. She is transitioning in her career with this graduate work in Social Work. She will be working with Lavender Seniors with the Speaker's Panel, outreach, cultural differences of clients and client support work.

Please welcome Brenda Williams to Lavender Seniors!

aftermath of Matt's death. She helped organize the funeral and resulting rally. She learned how to handle the demands of the media when they commandeered her living room. But her shining moment came when Rev Fred Phelps swept into town with his hate signs and words of venom. She designed huge cloth angels' wings that completely blocked out Rev, Fred's band of protesters. At the funeral, Patterson delivered a memorable three-minute impassioned speech against intolerance. Thousands attended the funeral and loud speakers were used for the overflowing crowd.

Romaine went on to do public relations work with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She was employed by GLAAD, the organization that attempts to enhance the public understanding of human rights issues.

The Advocate declared Romaine to be "one of the gay community's brightest activists."

Romaine Patterson provides the reader with an intimate view of what occurred at the tragedy of Matthew Shepard's death. Now is the time for the rest of us to join the struggle.

Submitted by Frank Howell

### *Let's Give Gwen Avery a Hand*

Gwen Avery, a working blues musician in the Bay Area for 35 years, has suffered the loss of her Section VIII housing and her music management. The combination is very serious. Gwen, 63, is looking for a very low-cost housing solution with sufficient space for her music equipment and possessions now in storage. (In the meantime, a dry, safe storage area of approx. 8' x 10' would be a god/dess-send to eliminate this monthly expense.)

In order to resume the music that has delighted and sustained so many of us over the years, Gwen currently needs a manager for publicity, venues and a musician to chart her music for those gigs.

Please send any donations that you can to bridge these challenging circumstances to Gwen Avery, 2821 Park Blvd., Oakland, CA 94610. In cyberspace, Gwen resides at [g.avery@worldnet.att.net](mailto:g.avery@worldnet.att.net). Thank you for your support of this veteran blueswoman who is our community's treasure and gift to us all.

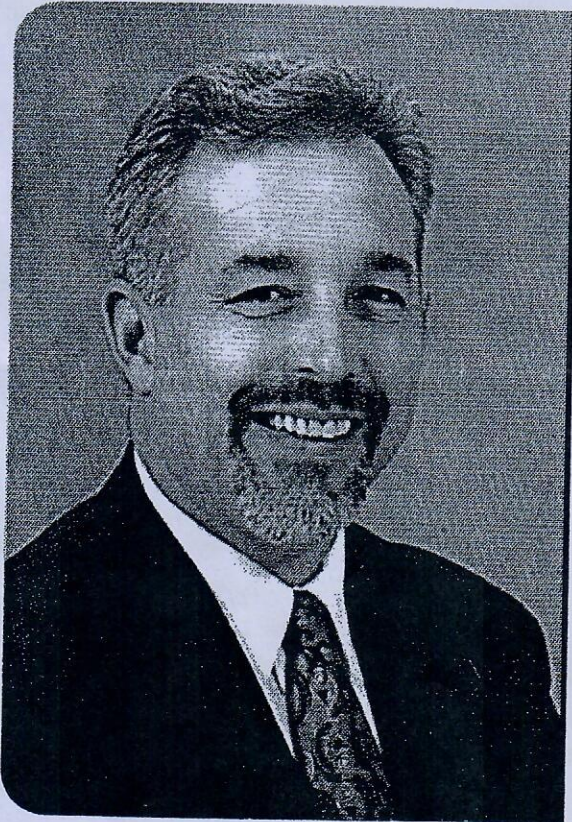
### Homeward Bound Bringing Alameda County Library to you !

Volunteers bring the riches of Alameda County Library to seniors and other home- and institution-bound of any age who live independently or in senior housing facilities in Alban, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont, Newark, San Lorenzo, Union City and Additional unincorporated areas in Alameda County.

Lots of materials are available:

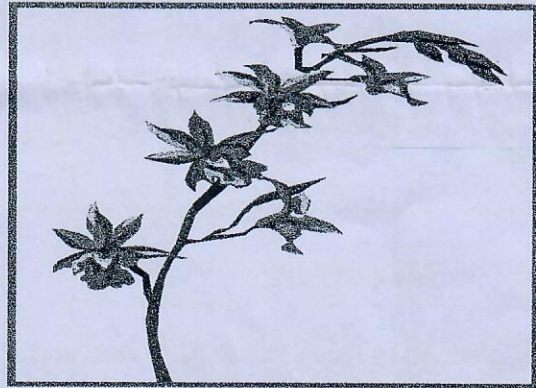
- Regular and large-print books, CD, Audio and video tapes, feature films, documentaries, and descriptive videos with background narration during breaks in dialogue for those who are blind or have low vision.
- Bi-Focal senior activity kits – activity directors: these are perfect for senior groups and may be borrowed from Senior Services.
- Talking Books – books on tape and cassette available free from the State Library for the visually impaired. Applications are available at all Alameda County Library Branches or call 510-745-1499,

If you do not live in any of the cities or unincorporated areas mentioned above, call the number listed and request contact information for the library in your city.



### Advertisement

Looking for an aide to work with lesbian senior in early stages of Alzheimer's. 2 hrs/day, 5 days/week. Contact Marilyn Dickman Telephone: 510-909-0032. Email: [mdickman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mdickman@sbcglobal.net).




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**KELLER WILLIAMS.**  
R E A L T Y  
An Independent Member Broker

# Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

<p><b>Senior Men's Afternoon</b>                  2<sup>ND</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Thursdays                  of each month, 1:30–3:30PM                  March 9th and 23rd                  at Pacific Center,                  2712 Telegraph Avenue                  Berkeley</p> <p>Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and Pacific Center</p>	<p><b>Coming Out Again</b>                  2<sup>ND</sup> Friday of each month                  10 AM to 12 PM                  March 10th                  at North Berkeley Senior Center,                  1901 Hearst St., Berkeley.</p> <p>Reed Wilgoren and Bea Howard, co-facilitators</p>	<p><b>Fellows of East Bay</b>                  2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of each month                  5:30–8:30PM                  March 12th</p> <p>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

Condolences to Rose White has been under the weather and just had a car accident. She is doing fine now, just cleaning up the car insurance mess that comes from an accident which fortunately wasn't her fault.

Lillian Meyer in Morgan Hill would like phone calls and letters from other OLOC members. She does not have email. Her closest friend and former partner died in June. Her phone is 408-778-9991; her address is 2 Spring Lane, Morgan Hill, CA 95037.

Please submit any Lavender Milestones to Rose White at 261-8766 or email her at [arrapaho99@yahoo.com](mailto:arrapaho99@yahoo.com).

## MONTHLY POTLUCK

### Saturday, March 11th

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**This Month's Potluck Features...** Barbara Faulkner on Healthy Living (Can you get too much of it?)

A thru L	bring a Main Dish
M thru R	bring a Salad
S thru Z	bring a Desert/Fruit

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
<b>Classified Ad</b>	\$2 per line (per month) on a 3-column page			
<b>Business Card</b>	\$30	\$75	\$140	\$250
<b>Quarter Page</b>	\$50	\$125	\$225	\$400
<b>Half Page</b>	\$90	\$220	\$400	\$750
<b>Full Page</b>	\$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.