

LavenderNotes

A Project of the Tides Center



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DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON JUNE 6th Many important primary election candidates and propositions

'Brokeback' Takes Top Film at Gay Awards

Mar 28, 1:32 PM EST
The Associated Press

NEW YORK -- "Brokeback Mountain" lost out in the best-picture Oscar race, but the film, about the troubled love affair between two cowboys, has taken the top film prize from a leading gay organization that monitors the media. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation presented the award Monday at a ceremony recognizing mainstream media for "fair, accurate and

inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," the group said in a statement.

"To end our 'Brokeback' journey here tonight is like coming home," Ang Lee, the film's Oscar-winning director said in his acceptance speech. "The fact is this: that 'Brokeback Mountain' has helped to change the world. And it is such a privilege and honor to have joined you, and all the people all over the world, who struggle for compassion and equality." "Brokeback

(Continued on page 4)

June 2006

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Brd Mtg	8 Sr Mens	9 ComingOut	10 Pot Luck
11 Fellows	12	13	14	15 LunchBunch	16	17
18 VolApprec	19 Tomatino's	20 Tomatino's	21	22 Sr Mens	23	24
25 SF Pride	26	27	28	29	30	

- Jun 7 - 7 - 8:30 PM - LS Board Meeting - 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Public is welcome.
- Jun 8 and 22- 1:30 - 3:30 PM - Senior Men's Afternoon - 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley at Pacific Center
- Jun 9 - 10 - 12 PM - Coming Out Again Group - 1801 Hearst St., Berkeley.
- Jun 10 - 12 - 2 PM - LS Potluck - 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Surprise !!
- Jun 11 - 5:30 - 8:30 PM - Fellows of the East Bay. 1823 9th St., Berkeley. \$4 donation.
- Jun 15 12:30 - 2:30 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Shades of Lavender: Show your Colors! Share a story from a Pride event, a Pride memento of some kind, or some proud moment in your life that celebrates being LGBT.
- Jun 18th, 1:30-4pm-Volunteer Appreciation Day and farewell for Nancy Fugett (page 4).
- Jun 19th and 20th. Tomatina's Fundraiser. (See p. side)
- Jun 20th, 1:30-4pm. Gay Day Celebration. North Berkeley Senior Center.
- Jun 25th-San Francisco Gay Pride Parade

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 Honell & 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

June 7th at 7PM. Call the office for more information. Interested persons are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM. Fundraising committee meeting at 6pm.

Staff

Barbara Faulkner, Director

Mitchell Fondray, Care Coordinator

Nancy Fugett, Administrator

Christina Cappelletti, Outreach Specialist

Newsletter

Barbara Faulkner, Editor

D'Anne Bruetsch, Publisher

Webmaster

Bert Hendriksen

Lavender Seniors welcomes all persons age 55 and older, their partners, allies, 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 them to help them stay connected to the LGBT community. Call: 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 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.
 - **Community Involvement:** Engages in community building and partnering processes in order to insert LGBT elders' needs into local community planning efforts.
 - **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.

June Birthdays

June 2

Jane Buerger

June 3

Kathy McCarter

Michael Wilson

June 7

Nona Hungate

D'Anne Bruetsch

June 9

Bill Austin

June 12

Dolores Huff

Jeff Vessels

June 13

James Silva

June 15

Bayla Bower

Babs Smith

June 20

Donna Leonard

June 23

Morris Simpson

June 29

Cotys Winston

June 30

Pat Pothier

Lunch Bunch Poetry

The April Lunch Bunch had a great poetry program on April 21st. The highlight was published poet and author, Jewell Gomez, who read several pieces of her work. Her "Our Own Vietnam" was especially poignant and her monologue of "Gilda sings Desire" hit chords with many of us. Many of our members shared their own works: among them, Joe Worthington, Virginia Burgos-Law, Ina Mae Murri, Leeza Gomez, Patty Overland, Dotty Fowler, P L, and Barbara Jue and others shared their own poetry and that of other poets. Thanks to all of you for making our luncheon an especially interesting and moving one.

Would you like to receive your Lavender Notes by Email?

If so, please send your email address to: info@lavenderseniors.org. It will help us to reduce our printing and postage costs.

Consumer News:

Be careful as you use ATM machines. ATM's outside of banks have been rigged by crooks to steal your passcode by placing devices by the camera to record you as you put in your password. Protect your password as you use these machines.

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!

June / Pride Fundraiser for Lavender Seniors

Enjoy lunch or dinner with your friends AND help to raise money for Lavender Seniors.

Tomatina Restaurant at 1336 Park St. in Alameda is helping Lavender Seniors to raise funds to support our important work for LGBT elders. For meals purchased on June 19th and June 20th, they will contribute 10% of all sales accompanied by the coupon below to Lavender Seniors. Come start your San Francisco Pride Week Celebration with us at TOMATINAS!!!

**Have lunch or dinner at
Tomatina Restaurant at 1336 Park St.
in Alameda on June 19 & 20 and**

**10% of your meal costs will
be donated to Lavender Seniors of
the East Bay!**

Be sure to bring this coupon!

(GLAAD Awards, page 1)

Mountain" won numerous awards in the run-up to the Academy Awards, and was considered the front-runner for the best-picture Oscar, but it was "Crash" that took home the big prize.

Other winners at the GLAAD awards included Newsweek for magazine reporting; "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for an episode focused on gay people's coming-out stories; USA Today for newspaper coverage; and Melissa Etheridge for best music artist. Presenters, performers and guests at the event included Sandra Bernhard, the pop band Erasure, and Czech model Petra Nemcova, who presented an award for photographer David LaChapelle."

Nancy Fugett Is Leaving Lavender Seniors

Our long-time, trusted employee, Nancy Fugett, office-tender, will be leaving Lavender Seniors on June 30th to enter her retirement. She has been the part-time Office Administrator at Lavender Seniors for 6 years, the first paid employee. She has been THE ONE to un-jam the copier, create the Lavender Notes mailing labels for our mailing crew, make sure the time-sheets were turned in, pay the bills, fill in wherever need and just be there to support those of us who needed support. We want to wish Nancy well on June 18th at the Volunteer Appreciation event. The event will be held at the Bates House 399 Bellevue, Oakland. If you would like to celebrate Nancy's full entrance into retirement with us, please come. The party will run from 1:30 to 4 PM.

AND.. Our MSW Intern, Brenda Williams....

Please help us to wish Brenda Williams off to her SECOND year in grad school at Cal State, East Bay. Yes, she is already leaving us and will start her next internship at the Tri-City Homeless Coalition in Fremont. She has been a great help to us and a terrific member of our team. THANK YOU, BRENDA !!!

Would you like to receive your Lavender Notes by Email?

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New Lavender Seniors Yahoo Newsgroups

Join the new Yahoo newsgroups for Lavender Seniors. Visit these websites to join and for more information:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lavenderseniors>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lavenderseniorsnews>

Responses to 2005 Questionnaire

First, we would like to thank all of you who responded to our annual Anonymous Questionnaire that was sent to you in the newsletter earlier this year. It is important for us to hear from you about your experiences with Lavender Seniors. It is also helpful for us to learn more about who you are as an aging LGBT elder, because there is so little information out there about us. We added some extra questions in this year's survey to gather some additional information about you.

I would like to share some of the findings of the survey with you. About our services:

94% of you said that participating in Lavender Seniors helps you to enjoy life as an LGBT senior (some of our non-LGBT allies completed the survey)

75%, that you made new friends and / or connected with old ones

65% of you are "out" to everyone; 35% are not out to everyone

49% of you are lesbian, 44%, gay, 4%, bisexual, 3% heterosexual (our allies). Sadly, none of our transgender members responded.

54% of you are age 65 or under; 31%, age 66 to 75; 13%, over age 75

38% of you have monthly incomes or \$1500 or less; 34%, incomes between \$1501 and \$3000 per month; and 28%, more than \$3000 per month.

Our most important services to you are the gatherings, the reaching out, and the informative newsletter. The top three concerns you have as an aging LGBT person were concerns about your health, a need for social support, and concerns that LGBT-friendly housing and long-term care might not be available when you need it.

The major benefits of Lavender Seniors for you were the social support, the information and Friendly Visiting.

You offered the following ideas to improve or expand Lavender Seniors: more activities; more phone visitors; activities to promote our strength and balance; identifying LGBT-friendly care givers and housing; speakers on political issues of concern to LGBT seniors; informing the wider community that LGBT seniors live among us all; becoming more active with our local and county governments; emergency preparedness; and transportation to events.

Drug Industry Works to Impede Marketing of Generic Drugs

From Alliance for Retired Americans weekly Alert (May):

The brand-name drug industry is fighting in Congress, state legislatures, and courtrooms across the country make the process of bringing generic drugs to market more difficult. As a result, discount drug makers may not be able to sell many drugs commonly used by seniors in cheaper generic versions as soon as the drugs' brand name patents expire, the organization that represents pharmacy benefit managers warned this week. "There's an agenda to prevent generics from getting to the market as soon as they could," said Mark Merritt, president of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association in *The Washington Post*. With several top-selling drugs scheduled to go off patent within five years, the organization reported, "branded drug companies are creating roadblocks to possible savings of \$23 billion to seniors and the Medicare system." Together, the cholesterol drugs Zocor and Pravachol, the anti-depressant Zoloft and the prostate medication Proscar would save Medicare \$13 billion if generic competitors come on the market as scheduled. After discovery of a new drug, drug makers currently have the legal right for 20 years to sell it exclusively. Slightly more than 53 percent of all U.S. prescriptions are filled with generics. "There is no need to give brand-name drug makers more than twenty years of exclusive rights," said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "Twenty is more than enough."

www.retiredamericans.org/join



Care Management
Money Management
Affordable Home Care

BACS Senior Home Services helps elders in Alameda County remain in their homes by providing in-home assessments and assistance to arrange services that improve current living conditions and prevent future injury. Services include:

- Home modifications (grab bars, shower heads, etc.)
- Referrals to reliable homecare workers
- Volunteers to advocate and protect against financial abuse

BACS is sensitive to the needs of the LGBT community.

For information, please contact:
510/271-8826 ~ www.BayAreaCS.org

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Chronic pain, headache, High blood pressure, menopausal symptoms, insomnia, sciatica, gastrointestinal issues, diabetes, stress & anxiety

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June Book Review

Gay Marriage, Real Life

By Michelle Bates Deakin
Skinner House Books-Paperback, \$14.00

The controversy over same sex marriage continues to embroil the public attention as politicians shamelessly exploit the issue to distract us from other pressing issues. Books and articles continue to spill much ink as every possible angle is explored.

Two more titles have joined the tumultuous shouting and agitation.

Michelle Deakin, has written for a number of publications, including the *Boston Globe*, *UU World*, Inc. Magazine, and *Boston Magazine*.

Deakin has taken ten gay and lesbian couples and encouraged them to relate their own deeply personal experiences.

Anne and Heather, an Oklahoma couple have thrown themselves squarely into the fray by allowing themselves to be used as a test case in the courts. Their parents have gradually adjusted to their unique situation, but they are even more worried about the possibility of the state of Oklahoma taking their two girls away from them.

Gary and Rich have a twelve year old daughter and they are also embroiled in a court case in Massachusetts.

Perry and Richard live in North Carolina and failed in their attempt to obtain a marriage license. They belong to a church where the gay men in the black choir are out, but Richard's sister rejects any compromise. "I'm not comfortable with homosexuality because it's a sin. It trivializes my own marriage."

Jonathan and Dean have tied the knot three times: an Episcopal blessing, a brief ceremony at San Francisco City Hall and a lavish wedding at an Episcopal Church in San Jose. The reception lasted seven hours. They are awaiting a court ruling from Washington State.

Deakin has succeeded in putting a vivid human face on gay and lesbian people who struggle to make human liberation an everyday reality and not a vague abstraction.

(Next month—*What God Has Joined Together? A Christian Case for Gay Marriage*)

-Frank Howell

Lavender Seniors News

Our new LavenderSeniorsNews newgroup is where you can receive email notification about events of interest to LGBT seniors in the bay area. Sign up today at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lavenderseniorsnews>

Community News:

- **Supporting Each other – A telephone support group for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Elders begins June 5th.** Our own Marilyn Gentile will start an LGBT telephone support group for home-bound elders through the program, Seniors Center without Walls. Marilyn is a retired counselor of LGBT students at the University of California, Berkeley. For more information, call Terry or Jennifer at 510-444-0243.
- **Gay Day, June 20th at North Berkeley Senior Center** Join them for an afternoon of entertainment (including Mary Watkins), music, refreshments, speakers, and information. 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. Telephone: 520-981-5190.
- **Compton's Cafeteria Riots 40th Anniversary Commemoration June 22nd, Noon to 1 PM,** Oshun Center, 101 Taylor St. at Turk and Taylor, San Francisco. Celebrating the Transgender struggle against police harassment. Free.
- **Trans March – Friday, June 23rd 3 PM to 7 PM.** Dolores Park, Dolores St. at 19th St. The Third Annual Trans March with live bands, transgender and gender-variant activities, political speakers, drag kings, and musicians. March begins at 7 PM. Free
- **San Francisco Dyke March, June 24th.** The Dykes will have special senior / disabled services at Dolores Park for their March. Stage begins at 3 PM, March takes off at 7 PM. The senior / disabled no-smoking area will be near 19th St. with an accessible porta-potty and a few chairs. In addition, their Great Senior / Disabled Cable Car will board and leave from Dolores St. opposite 19th St. at 6 PM to get into the line of the March. The cable car is only for lesbians who cannot walk the length of the March. Friends and family are invited to walk alongside. They need wheel monitors volunteers as well! Please contact them at 510-383-9858. The senior / disabled viewing stand will be in front of the Sha'ar Zahav at 16th and Dolores; chairs, refreshments and porta-potties will be available by 6 PM.
- **San Francisco Pride – June 25th March and Festival.** Join Lavender Seniors at the San Francisco Pride Parade. We will march in the Parade and have a booth at the Festival near Civic Center. Contact Barbara at Lavender Seniors (510-667-9655) as soon as possible to get a reservation for the New Leaf cable car to ride in the parade – first come, first serve. It is available only for elders unable to walk the distance of the Parade.
- **Come Visit the LGBT collection at Oakland Public Library's Piedmont Avenue Branch Library, 160 41st St., Oakland.** They have an entertaining and comprehensive collection for your reading pleasure. Fiction, Nonfiction, Mysteries, Biographies, Humor, Poetry, DVD's and Magazines. Telephone: 510-597-5011.

Friendly Visitor's Corner

At the Friendly Visitors volunteer meeting on May 13th, eleven current and future volunteers met to talk about the needs of the Friendly Visitor participants. It was fun to find out the varying ways that we enjoy the company of our friends. Exploring these relationships can be especially rewarding when the participants share the exciting stories of their lives. They have some fascinating histories:

- A holocaust survivor
- Publisher of Gay and Lesbian books
- A nuclear physicist
- A university LGBT counselor

....And that's just the beginning of the story...

These meetings have been instrumental for volunteers to enjoy the camaraderie of their peers and learn more about how to be better "Friendly Visitors". Thanks to all for attending. For more information about Friendly Visitors contact Mitchell or Barbara at 5101-667-9655.

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!

Lavender Seniors Chat

Our new Lavender Seniors newsgroup is where you can chat and discuss things of interest with people having similar interests. Sign up today at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lavenderseniors>

Job Opening: Office Administrator

If you are a detail-oriented, technical savvy person, please consider applying for the position that Nancy Fugett is leaving – Office Administrator. The pay is \$13.00 DOE and part-time, 8 – 12 hours per week. If you are interested please submit your resume to Barbara Faulkner, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA

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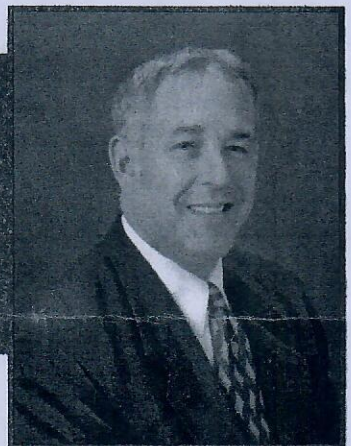
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KELLER WILLIAMS

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

<p>Senior Men's Afternoon 2ND and 4TH Thursdays of each month, 1:30–3:30PM June 8th and 22nd 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 June 9th 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 June 11th Social club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly potluck dinner and social held at Fellowship Hall, at the back of the Church of the Good Shepard, 1823 9th St., Berkeley. Bring food and drink to share and a \$4 donation.</p>
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Milestones

We regret to inform you that Rick Bolton, Friendly Visitor participant, passed away in May.

Marvin Burrows is recuperating at home from a hospitalization due pain in his abdomen. He was scheduled for follow up surgery in late May. This is the first time he's been significantly in the hospital since Bill passed away. His phone number is 510-489-0932.

Jerry Hyman, of San Leandro, passed away on May 23rd of Cancer.

Rose White's father-in-law passed away on May 15th.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, June 10th

This Month's Potluck Features...HELP:UNKNOWN.

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| A thru L | bring a Main Dish |
| M thru R | bring a Salad |
| S thru Z | bring a Dessert/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
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.