

Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

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Hello I'm Irene Casanova

I am Irene Casanova M.A., M.S.W. I am the new Project Director for Lavender Seniors of the East Bay and I began on May 23, 2007. I am excited to join the organization and work with the Board and membership to lead the organization into the future.

I have approximately 20 years of professional experience in social and health service organizations including one of the bay area counties, Kaiser Permanente, Diablo Service area and a variety of other organizations serving older adults. Also, I was the start up director of

one of the Bay Area bi-lingual, bi-cultural mental health agencies and a Head Start program. I also have numerous interests ranging from the arts to social justice causes and many more.

I have personal and voluntary experience in LGBT organizations such as N.C.L.R., B.A.C.W., Equality, a group previously known as the De Castro Sisters, plus a variety of other LGBT organizations such as the AIDS walk.

The new Outreach Specialist is Leslie

(Continued on page 4)

July 2007

Schedule of Events

July 8th - 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM - Fellows of the East Bay - Social and Potluck, 1515 Market St., Oakland. \$4 donation requested

July 11th - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Coming Out Again Group -1901 Hearst St., Berkeley.

July 11th - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - Lavender Seniors Board Meeting - 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro.

July 14th - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Potluck -1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Program: Alex Cleghorn, from the ACLU

July 12th and 26th - 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM - Senior Men's Afternoon - 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley at the Pacific Center.

July 20th - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch, NEW LOCATION! Oakland Sr. Center, 5714 MLK.Jr Way. (57th St).

July 25th - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Trans Health Care Access Town Hall Meeting. Elihu Harris State Office Bldg, Oakland.

July 27th - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM - South County Lunch and TalkAbout, 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, Co-Sponsor: City of Fremont, Human Services Dept. \$6 to non-members Fremont Senior Center, \$4, members.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Fellows	9	10	11 Coming Out BrdMtg	12 Sr Mens	13	14 Potluck
15	16	17	18	19	20 LunchBunch	21
22	23	24	25 HCAP Mtg	26 Sr Mens	27 SoCounty	28
29	30	31				

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is funded by individuals as well as Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, Alameda County Leather Corps, California Council for the Humanities, The California Endowment, City of Oakland, City of Fremont, Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging, East Bay Community Foundation, Gay Chemists Support Fund, Horizons Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council/Alameda County, San Francisco Foundation, Bay Area Physicians/ Human Rights, and 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 through direct service, community outreach, advocacy, and education.

Advisory Board

Frank Howell & Ina Mae Murri, Co-Chairs

Dan Ashbrook, Secretary

Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Fred Banuelos D'Anne Bruetsch,

Meg Bruynell, Jeanine DeBacker, Mike Mora, Tomi Smith, Rose White

Members at Large

Next Advisory Board Meeting

July 11th - 7PM. Call 510-677-9655 for more information. All are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM.

Staff

Irene Casanova, Director

Pat Cull, Care Coordinator

Leslie Bonett, Outreach Specialist

Tomi Smith, Office Administrator

Newsletter

Tomi Smith, Editor

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 \$20 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.

ARE YOU CONFINED TO YOUR HOME OR YOUR ROOM?

If you are or you know someone who is, let us know. We have Friendly Visitor volunteers who want to meet you!! Call Pat, 510-667-9655

What We Do...

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

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 Training: 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 Informative Social Gatherings: Help build informal social networks and individual's knowledge of issues affecting seniors at the Monthly Potluck in San Leandro, Lavender Lunch Bunch in Oakland, and South County Lunch and TalkAbout at the Fremont Senior Center.

Community Involvement: Engages in community building and partnering processes with local governments in order to insert LGBT elders' needs into their planning efforts.

Monthly Discussion Groups: Coming Out Again, Fellows of East Bay and Seniors Men's Afternoon co-sponsored and co-hosted by the North Berkeley Senior Center and Pacific Center (see back page for schedules) provide LGBT support group settings to elders in the North County.

Monthly newsletter: *Lavender Notes.*

Website: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

To get involved as a participant or volunteer, contact us at 510-667-9655, press 1, or go to: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

July Birthdays

Joke of the Month

July 1 Patty Overland	July 13 Bea Howard	July 22 Toby McGrath
Will Oliver	July 14 Daniel Burr	July 24 Marion Abdullah Pat Cull
July 7 Nina A. Torcoletti	July 15 Bill Kepner	July 26 Reed Wilgoren
July 9 Toni Langfield J.O. DePoe	Suzanne Templeton	Jennifer Sprinkles
July 11 Verne Nelson	July 16 Nancy Fugett Marie Kochaver	July 27 Thomas A. Daniels
July 12 Paul Minar Patricia Sousa	July 17 Brenda Williams	July 30 Nacho Aguirre
	July 19 Paul Martinez, Jr. Cynthia Dunn	

A man walked into a Supermarket with his zipper down. A Lady cashier walked up to him and said, "Your barracks door is open." This is not a phrase men normally use, so he went away looking a bit puzzled. When he was about done shopping, a man came up to him and says, "Your fly is open." He zipped up and finished his shopping. He then intentionally got in the line to check out where the lady was that told him about his "barracks door." He was planning to have a little fun with her. When he reached her counter he said, "When you saw my barracks door open, did you see a soldier in there at attention?" The Lady (being smarter than a man) thought for a moment and said, "No, I didn't. All I saw was a disabled veteran sitting on two duffle bags." From BJ

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: \$20 \$35* \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 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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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

(Continued from page 1)

Bonett .

Please welcome Leslie to Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. She began work on June 8, 2007. You can learn more about Leslie in next month's newsletter.

I hope to meet some of you in the future and work together to improve the quality of life of older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender LGBT residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties through our outreach, advocacy and educational activities and events. Happy PRIDE month!

HASTA LUEGO ! - Irene

Alameda 4th of July Parade

OOTI (Out on the Island) is looking for volunteers to walk along in front of the car carrying the OOTI banner or anyone else who would like to join in the festivities. Lee Tierney of OOTI, will be driving her 61 Lincoln Continental convertible (decorated appropriately) for this occasion. Please contact her at 510-337-1533 or Ltiern@alamedanet.net if you would like to participate in this important even.

Focus Group Considers Romantic Love

Seven gay seniors met with Dr. Rashmi Gupta following the June potluck for a focus group on romantic love. It was a delightful session where we related our own unique stories of love, attachment and sometimes disappointment.

Dr. Gupta, Assistant Professor of Social Work at San Francisco State University hopes to transform the information gained from the focus groups into a book on different life styles among the sexual minorities.

Following the July potluck, Dr. Gupta is planning a focus group on the same subject with lesbians. She is looking for ten volunteers. Each participant will receive a gift certificate. For further information call her at 415-405-0311 or e-mail her at rgupta@sfsu.edu. Frank Howell

Life Long Love as a Play?

Rumor has it that a graduate playwright at the University of Ohio is intrigued by the 51 year saga of love and pathos that drove the relationship of Marvin Burrows and Bill Swenor. He wants to interview Marvin and transform that dramatic storyline into a play. Who can tell where this will lead?

Burrows has been active in Lavender Seniors, Lighthouse Community Center and Marriage Equality USA.-Frank Howell

Assembly Measure Passes

Excerpts from an article about AB43 written in the Bee Capitol Bureau by Jim Sanders

Please read the entire article for more information.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who vetoed the 2005 legislation, said earlier this year that he would do so again. But Schwarzenegger's opposition did not dampen more than 90 minutes of emotional debate. Tuesday on the Assembly floor the final vote was 42-34, one more than necessary to send the measure to the Senate. Republicans opposed the legislation.

Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, characterized his Assembly Bill 43 as "marriage equality." "Why would we want government dictating affairs of the heart?" he asked. But Assemblyman Anthony Adams, R-Hesperia, said that supporting the notion of gay marriage violates his religious beliefs. "As a Christian, I do believe that the act of homosexuality is immoral," he said. Unlike two years ago, Tuesday's debate was not angry or hurtful, though both sides were passionate in their views. California law does not permit gay marriage, but nearly identical rights and responsibilities are granted to homosexual couples who register with the state as domestic partners.

Leno has likened California's current system to "separate but equal" accommodations. The San Francisco Democrat, who is openly gay, questioned why the state should deem his love any less intense, sincere or meaningful than that of heterosexual couples.

Leno told the story of a gay man, Marvin Burrows, who had been involved in a 50-year love relationship. But when his partner died, Burrows found he was unable to pay the rent and ineligible for his partner's health, veterans or Social Security benefits. "This is what our public policymaking is doing," Leno said. But critics of AB 43 noted that Californians overwhelmingly passed a ballot measure seven years ago that said only marriage between a man and woman would be valid in the state.

Leno said Tuesday he has requested that Schwarzenegger hear from gays and lesbians affected by the current ban on gay marriage. Leno expressed hope that Schwarzenegger would change his mind. "I'm certain that he's an open-minded and open-hearted individual," Leno said. "And that when he learns more, he'll

THE LAVENDER SENIORS OF THE EAST BAY
& THE CITY OF SAN LEANDRO'S SENIOR SERVICES
PRESENT



'AGING IN PLACE' A SYMPOSIUM FOR SENIORS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
9AM TO NOON

MARINA COMMUNITY CENTER
15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro

Come to this FREE event and listen to a panel of experts discuss issues regarding *Aging in Place*. This is your chance to ask questions about topics such as:

- Home Modification
- Reverse Mortgages
- Transportation
- Financial Planning
- Fitness
- Health Care
- Food Delivery
- Long Term Care Insurance
- Communication Systems
- And much more!

Light Refreshments Served

Please call (510) 577-3462 to reserve space.

Trans Health Access Project

In the summer of 2006, the Transgender Law Center, the Lighthouse Community Center and East Bay activists expanded our health care access programs to include working on transforming health care services offered at Alameda County based community clinics. It is estimated that up to 50% of Transgender individuals do not have health insurance.

Come to a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, July 25th, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the State Office Building Auditorium in Oakland, 1515 Clay Street, where major medical and political stakeholders will demonstrate their support for this effort. Transgender community members will share personal stories on accessing health care in Alameda County.

Volunteers Needed! Contact Tiffany Woods at (510) 713 6690 ext 6121.

The Health Care Access Program and this event are sponsored by the Lighthouse Community Center and by the Transgender Law Center. Funding is provided in part by the California Endowment and

Free Computer Training

Free Computer Training for Older Adults (60+)

Fremont Library will provide trained teen volunteers to help you learn to use the library's website, surf the web, use email, word processing, computer basics, and more. Drop in any time from 2 – 5 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: 7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/21. No registration required.

Fremont Main Library, vanDoorn Meeting Room, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont. For more information, ask at the Information Desk or call 510-745-1401.

Wet Your Whistle

Drink 48 to 64 ounces (six to eight glasses) of water every day to help your body's digestive and circulatory systems function at their best.

"Dehydration is a common problem because older people feel less thirsty," says Lalita Kaul, Ph.D., R.D., a professor of nutrition at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and a spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association. "Without enough water, nutrients won't be absorbed efficiently," she adds. Hint: constipation is one clue you're not drinking enough.

A glass of water before a meal moistens the mouth, making chewing and swallowing easier, adds Rasmussen. If your goal is weight gain, consider drinking a class of appetite-stimulating wine or brandy.

Article by Sid Kirchheimer

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July Book Review

Same Sex, Different States: When Same Sex Marriages Cross State Lines

By Andrew Koppelman

Yale University Press

Back in the 1970's we lived in a sexual free fall. Anything goes sexual liberation was at its height. Marriage and family were considered old fashioned and the true enemy of human liberation. Live life to the full and damn the consequences. Into this confusing mix came Metropolitan Community Church and the notion of gay marriage. Several of us decided to hold our own versions of ceremonies honoring our relationships. Some of it was thrown together and haphazard. At our ceremony we even forgot to have pictures taken! But gradually certificates were issued and a system evolved.

Now we are discovering that "holy unions" as we now call them can lead to a brave new world of contradictions and ironies. What if other states refuse to honor the same sex coupling? How is divorce arranged? What are the financial issues?

Andrew Koppelman, professor of law at Northwestern University School of Law and author of *The Gay Rights Question in*

Contemporary American Law, tackles the issue head on. Like many other writers in the field, Koppelman believes that the problems encountered in inter-racial marriage provide the best model to work from. Whites and blacks, in particular faced taunting opposition in several states and the issue was not resolved until the 1967 Supreme Court ruling that said such discrimination did not provide equal protection under the law.

Other dilemmas stood in the way. There was the infamous Kaufman case of the 1950s. Robert Kaufman and Walter Weiss became lovers in 1948. Starting in 1951 Kaufman executed a series of wills that granted Weiss complete control of his estate and all financial matters. A New York City law firm drafted the documents. In 1959 Robert Kaufman died but the family strongly opposed any part of the family fortune going to Robert's partner. Two jury trials took place and the New York courts finally ruled that the wills were... "the end result of an unnatural, insidious influence operating on a weak willed, trusting, inexperienced Robert." His partner lost everything. It seems we have made some progress since then!

Flash forward to the 2000 Census where we find there are 600,000 same sex couples. Thirty-four per cent of the lesbian couples have children, twenty-two per cent of the male couples are raising children and forty-six percent of the straights have offspring.

In 1996, Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was passed by Congress. This bill was designed to discourage any form of lavender unions. But now the battle seems to be shifting to the states.

Koppelman believes that ultimately DOMA will be declared unconstitutional. Each state should honor the laws of other

states. The Lawrence v. Texas decision also enters into the equation. The state cannot brand any class of citizens as inferior.

Koppelman observes two distinct types of debates here. The **normative factor**-What relationships are intrinsically good or bad. Then there is the **administrative factor**-What financial benefits will be awarded and how?

The conservatives are pushing for a constitutional amendment in case DOMA is over-ruled. Some states have attempted to fashion mini-DOMAS.

Koppelman feels that in the long arc of history (to quote Martin Luther King) the civil rights of minorities will prevail. When we examine the chronology of social conflicts it usually takes 50-100 years for justice to prevail for any group of citizens. Koppelman helps light the way with his thoughtful analysis of love and the legal process. Let the politicians pay heed.-Frank Howell.

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PROTECT *your* DREAMS for the FUTURE

Too often concerns and fears for our well-being get in the way of our enjoyment of life.
Don't waste another minute agonizing over the necessary tasks unique to seniors.

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- Long Term Care Insurance
- Guidance in Financial Decisions
- Develop and Restructure Safe Financial Strategies



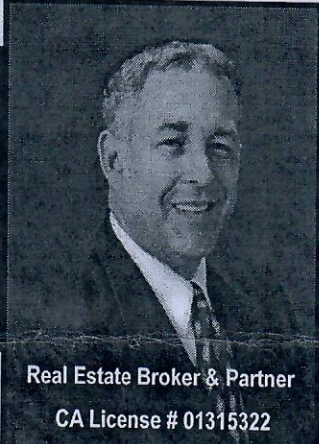
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KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Official Newsletter

<p>Senior Men's Afternoon</p> <p>2ND and 4TH Thursdays of each month, 1:30–3:30PM</p> <p>July 12th and 26th</p> <p>at Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue Berkeley</p> <p>For more info, call 510 548-8283. Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and the Pacific Center.</p>	<p>Coming Out Again</p> <p>1st Wednesdays of each month 1 PM to 3PM</p> <p>July 11th (Note special date!)</p> <p>at North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St., Berkeley.</p> <p>Bayla Bower, Coordinator</p>	<p>Fellows of East Bay</p> <p>Meeting/Potlucks are held every second Sunday of the Month</p> <p>at 1515 Market St. in Oakland</p> <p>Next Date is July 8th</p> <p>Social Hour: 5:30 to 6:30 – Dinner: 6:30 to 8 PM</p> <p>\$4 Donation at the Door</p> <p>Bring Food for Yourself and to Share with Others</p>
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LUNCH BUNCH NEW LOCATION

The North Oakland Senior Center will be hosting our Lunch Bunch on the **THIRD FRIDAYS** of each month, 12:30 to 2:30 in the lunch room of their senior center at 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (on the corner of 57th St.) There is plenty of parking in back of the building. Please pass the word to your Lunch Bunch friends. The first lunch will be on Friday, July 20th, 2007.

Quote from Hilary Clinton


A woman is like a tea bag. You never know how strong she is until you put her in hot water.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, July 14th 12 noon to 2pm

Program: The speaker will be Alex Cleghorn, staff attorney for the ACLU who specializes in LGBT civil liberties issues.

A thru K	bring a Dessert/Fruit
L thru N	bring a Main Dish
O 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.

* A one-page insert to Lavender Notes for one month may be purchased for the fee of: Non-Profits, \$250; For-Profits, \$500; ½ half page inserts are the same amount. Must be received by 10th of preceding month.