



**LAVENDER  
SENIORS**  
*of the East Bay*

# Lavender Notes

*A Project of the Tides Center*

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## CELEBRATING AGING IN PLACE WEEK OCTOBER 1-7!

In 2007 Lavender Seniors was responsible for having the Mayor's of San Leandro, Hayward, Alameda, and San Francisco declare the first week of October as Aging in Place week in their cities. Aging in Place Week is again upon us and Lavender Seniors is hosting our annual symposium with vendor fair and free health checks on Friday October 3, from 10am to 1pm, at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd in San Leandro. The purpose of this important week and event is to inspire seniors to create a plan for living longer at home. Attendees of the symposium will get a chance to listen to experts and ask questions about products and services that can help prolong the need for nursing homes. Avoiding the need for nursing homes requires careful consideration of home modification, in-home care, health and wellness, injury prevention, mobility, communications, security, insurance and finance. Aging in Place planning also requires engaging loved ones in the discussion. Family, friends, and neighbors can play a critical role in helping seniors live at home. They are vital for preparing our communities for the "silver tsunami" which will create a demand for more in-home support services in the coming decades. A big thank you goes out to our event sponsor Kaiser as well as the City of San Leandro's Senior Services and to all our community event partners that are working together to help our seniors live longer at home!

### Aging in Place Tips

Typically individuals plan for college, careers, parenting, and vocations, etc. But not for the inevitable mobility and sight issues they may have to contend with in older life. When considering "Aging-in-Place," it is best to be proactive, and start as early as possible. It is unfortunate that many seniors wait until they've had a fall, or are hospitalized

before they begin a pre-plan. When denying the inevitable changes in our bodies, we are truly planning for failure.

If you want to maximize your chances of living at home until you are 100+, I recommend you have an assessment of your living environment by a professional. I also recommend you familiarize yourself with the newest and latest services available from your local community based facilities. With both of those tools, you will be able to create a realistic plan for "Aging-in-Place." One simple way to start your plan is to attend the "Aging-In-Place symposium at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro on October 3rd. -Donna Christner-Life

### Win a Luxurious Weekend for 2 in SF!

Lavender Seniors is thrilled to announce its fall raffle. This is your chance to win a 2 night weekend stay with deluxe accommodations for 2 at the Galleria Park Hotel, a Joie de Vivre hotel in the heart of downtown San Francisco. Winners will also receive a \$750 allowance for dinner entertainment, and frivolous spending. Tickets are just \$10.00 and are available at the Lavender Senior's office and all outreach events. To purchase tickets, mail in a check for the amount of raffle tickets you wish to purchase and we will mail you the tickets.

Checks should be made out to Lavender Seniors/The Tides Center and sent to, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA. 94577. The lucky winner will be announced at the November potluck on Saturday November 8, between noon and 2:pm.

**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

### Advisory Board

Mike Mora, Chairman  
D'Anne Bruetsch, Vice-Chair  
Mitch Foudray, Secretary  
Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer  
  
Marvin Burrows, Gabriel Delgado,  
Meg Bruynell, Frank Howell,  
Ina Mae Murri, Pat Skillen, Tomi Smith  
Members-at-large

### Next Advisory Board Meeting

Oct 8th - 7PM. Call 510-667-9655 for more information. All are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM.

### Staff

Dan Ashbrook, Director  
Melissa Taylor, Outreach Coordinator  
Tomi Smith, Project Administrator  
  
Alpha Mulugeta, Intern

### Newsletter

Tomi Smith, Editor  
D'Anne Bruetsch, Layout

### Webmaster

Bert Hendriksen

Lavender Seniors welcomes all LGBT persons, 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 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 Melissa, 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>

# October Birthdays

Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Abigail G.	Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup> Dennis B.	Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup> Linda S.
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tommie K.	Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> Reva R.	Judy S.
Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup> Kenneth H. Ron W.	Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> Pamela E. Steven R.	Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> Joe T.
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> Rose C.	Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> Debra M.	Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> Carol M. Allen G.
		Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> Lorraine R.

# MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Donna Christner-Life, Author of Aging In Place

- A thru K bring a Dessert/Fruit
- L thru R bring a Main Dish
- S thru Z bring a Salad

Donate to Lavender Seniors online! Now you can go to [www.lavenderseniors.org](http://www.lavenderseniors.org) and click the **Donate Now link**. This is an easy way to make a difference in your community.



## Become a "Friend of Lavender Seniors" Today!

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay need your help! LGBT seniors are among the most overlooked and underserved population. Your donation provides general operating support for programs that help LGBT seniors live better lives by addressing issues of stigmas based on age and sexual orientation, limited biological families and social support, health disparities, insensitive health and human services providers, and economic insecurity exacerbated by ineligibility for spousal or survivor's benefits.

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Courtesy Giving Levels

- Lavender Leader \$10,000
- Lavender Supporter \$5,000
- Lavender Friend \$1,000

(\* 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**

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## Friendly Visitor Volunteer Meeting! LAVENDER SENIOR FLEA MARKET

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There will be a meeting of the Friendly Visitor volunteers on Saturday October 11 from 10am to 11:30. The meeting will consist of client updates and continued discussion on the concept of developing social networks around program participants. This will be a great time to meet Alpha Mulugeta from UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. Alpha will be evaluating the Friendly Visitor program and providing technical assistance for expanding services and increasing participant levels.

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### Computer Classes At The Lighthouse

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The Lighthouse Youth Group will be teaching Lavender Seniors and others in the Community how to use the computer. The classes will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. For more information call 510-881-8167

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## Dorothy L. (Del) Martin

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(May 5, 1921 - August 27, 2008)

An eloquent organizer for civil rights, civil liberties, and human dignity, Del Martin created and helped shape the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and feminist movements. She was a woman of extraordinary courage, persistence, intelligence, humor, and fundamental decency, who refused to be silenced by fear and never stopped fighting for equality.

Del Martin met the love of her life, Phyllis Lyon, in Seattle in 1950 when they worked for the same publication company. They became lovers in 1952 and formalized their partnership on Valentine's Day in 1953 when they moved in together in San Francisco. In 1955, they bought the small home that has been theirs ever since.

Del will be missed by all.

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**Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets!!!!**

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IT'S TIME TO GO BACK IN THE CLOSET!

(And clean out all that old stuff you left there.)

**When: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

**Where: North Oakland Senior Center**

**5714 MLK Jr. Way. (58<sup>th</sup>), Oakland, (Rear Parking Lot)**

Folks, here is your chance to unload unwanted treasures for a good cause. Box up your goods and drop them off at the Lavender Seniors office in San Leandro, or have them picked up! We also need tables, boxes, bags and volunteers willing to help out. Call Mitch - 652-2228, Gabriel - 636-0721, or Tomi at the office - 667-9655.

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### NEW INTERN

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Lavender Seniors of the East Bay has a new intern from UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. Alpha Mulugeta is a second year Master's student in the management and planning track of Berkeley's MSW program. Alpha received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. While at USC, Alpha worked with special needs youth at a local elementary school, was heavily involved in the school's LGBT community, and also worked on HIV-prevention research. Consequently, Alpha was honored with the LGBT Service award for his outstanding dedication to the campus' LGBT community upon graduation.

Alpha is thrilled to have the opportunity to complete his second year internship at Lavender Seniors of the East Bay where he will build upon his management and planning skills and learn the ins-and-outs of running a nonprofit organization. Alpha hopes to take the skills that he will develop at Lavender Seniors with him as he continues to build a career working on behalf of the LGBT community.

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### Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road

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**Dr. Seuss:** Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Did he cross it with a hare? Did he cross it with a bear? Did he check if the road was hot? I kinda doubt it, I think Not! Ye!'s, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed, I've not been told. Just one more thing I have to say, it's been bugging me to this very day. If the chicken is a she, why do we keep saying HE?

**Colonel Sanders:** Did I miss one?

**Bill Gates:** I have just released eChicken2008, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your checkbook. Internet Explorer is an integral part of eChicken2008. This new platform is much more stable.

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## Brad Pitt donates to marriage fight

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### Conservative group fights utility contribution.

By 354gay Newscenter Staff

09.18.2008 11:50am EDT

(Los Angeles, California)

Actor Brad Pitt has donated \$1000,000 to the group fighting a proposed amendment to the California constitution to ban gay marriage.

Pitt's donation to "No on 8" is the largest to date by a major celebrity. Gay rights supporters say they hope it encourages other A-List stars to follow.

In a statement, Pitt said he was contributing to the fight against the proposed amendment "because no one has the right to deny another their life, even though they disagree with it, because everyone has the right to live the life they so desire if it doesn't harm another and because discrimination has no place in America, my vote will be for equality and against Proposition 8."

A similar check from the state's biggest utility has raised the ire of conservatives.

The head of the Pacific justice Institute has filed a complaint with the California Public Utilities commission over the \$250,000 contribution by Pacific Gas and electric Company to the group fighting to maintain the right for gays to marry.

PG&E turned the check over to "NO on 8" in July.

"It is outrageous that a mammoth utility used my money to undermine the values of families in my community," said Brad Dacus, who is the president of the Pacific Justice Institute.

"Proposition 8 has no relevance to the supply and distribution of energy services to its customers. As a corporation which has been given near monopoly status, its use of money extracted from customers to influence an item appearing on the ballot that does not promote the welfare of customers relative to energy is an abuse of trust," the complaint states.

It asks the Public Utilities Commission to conduct an investigation and hold hearings as to the lawfulness of the contribution. In addition, the complaint requests that the "Commission take all appropriate actions to remedy this matter, including fines, available under the law."

Under the California constitution, the commission has the power to conduct such an inquire.

### Thank You from Stella Lopez-Armijo

I want to thank everyone for their phone calls and cards. My recovery is going well and I am now on a regular schedule of activities

### Congratulations to -

Tomi & Cindy Smith who celebrated their 22nd anniversary on September 8, 2008.

### Anyone celebrating an anniversary?

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## Friendship

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If I could catch a rainbow  
 ... I would do it just for you  
 .....and share with you its beauty  
 .....on the days you're felling blue.  
 If I could build a mountain  
 ... you could call your very own;  
 .....a place to find serenity,  
 .....a place to be alone.  
 If I could take your troubles  
 ... I would toss them in the sea,  
 .....but all these things I'm finding  
 .....are impossible for me.  
 I cannot build a mountain,  
 ... or catch a rainbow fair,  
 .....but let me be what I know best,  
 .....a friend who's always there.

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## Legislation Action

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**Senate Bill 1729**, authored by Sen. Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, would ensure that health care providers in nursing homes are properly trained on how to create an environment that is free from bias against LGBT seniors. The bill would help guarantee that LGBT seniors can age with social support and respect.

**Senate Bill 153**, also authored by Sen. Migden, would allow two people, including same-gender couples, who co-own a home together to avoid an unfair property tax increase upon the death of one co-owner. The bill would protect unmarried LGBT seniors who may otherwise be at risk of losing their homes during their time of grief.

These bills are critical to the future of every LGBT Californian. **Please write the Appropriations Committee members today** to let them know that all seniors deserve dignity and fairness, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

# Oct Book Review

## Bohemian Los Angeles and the Making of Modern Politics

By Daniel Hurewitz

University of California Press--Paperback

There has long been a tug of war between Northern California and our neighbors to the south. Each views itself as the cultural capitol of the Golden State. The present volume will probably do nothing to calm the controversy, but Hurewitz does present us with a compelling account of the characters that populate the land below us.

Of course there is the founding of the Mattachine Society and Harry Hay's courageous battle to establish gay rights as a solid force. But there are lesser known, but equally compelling figures such as Julian Eltinge, a wildly popular female impersonator during the early part of the 20th century. He first gained fame in New York in 1904 in **The Crinoline Girl**, where he played both the male and female roles. Two years later he was gaining fame in the City of the Angeles. He was known for wearing clothes that were the last word in fashion and impeccable taste. But

by the 1930s the crowds grew tired of him and he died during World War II almost totally forgotten.

Edendale emerged as the Castro Street of L. A., where artists and social outcasts flourished. A gay community slowly asserted itself in the 1930s and 1940s.

But the World War transformed the entire west coast, with a swarm of racial minority's pouring into the area in search of factory work. This created the Zoot Suit wars and ethnic tensions were difficult to ignore.

After the war, conservative voices lashed out against the lavender menace. The **Los Angeles Times** and other newspapers launched crusades against vice. Gays were viewed as somehow associated with communism. In 1938 Los Angeles established a sex bureau which employed three psychiatrists. Their basic attitude was that "each minor sex offender is a potential major sex criminal."

In the 1950s Hurewitz tells us that a subculture of hyper masculinity fought back against the "sissies". This would keep communism at bay! But the American Communist Party frequently expelled gays.

The Mattachine Society won a major victory when Dale Jennings, member of their group, won an entrapment case in the Los Angeles courts. Paul Coates, a noted news columnist warned, in discussing the influence of the Mattachine that, "they might swing tremendous political power." Ah, a prophet before his time! Mr. Hurewitz gives us a captivating and enthralling account of gay old Los Angeles that provides a number of little known historical sidelights. A compelling journey awaits the curious reader.

-Frank Howell

## African American Lesbians 40+

Monthly meetings for social activities, potluck, card & board games, theatre outings and sports events.

For more Information  
email [tsmith3565@comcast.net](mailto:tsmith3565@comcast.net)



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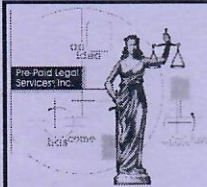
**Vicki Harris, RDHAP**

Fax/Phone 510-639-7702 1271 Washington Ave  
Cell: 510-427-2021 San Leandro, CA 94577

## Susan Levinkind J.D.

**Lesbian Tax Mom**  
8008 Winthrop Street  
Oakland CA 94605  
Ph: 510-383-9858  
Fax: 510-383-9045

Email: [taxmomsusan@yahoo.com](mailto:taxmomsusan@yahoo.com)



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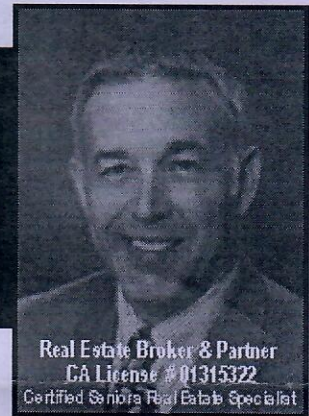
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# October 2008

## Schedule of Events

**Oct. 6th - 1:00 to 3:00 PM – Coming Out Again Group** – (1<sup>st</sup> Mon.) 1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, in the library. Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and North Berkeley Senior Center

**Oct. 8th - 7:00 to 8:30PM – Lavender Seniors Board Meeting** – (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro.

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 1:30 to 3:30PM Seniors Men's Afternoon.** (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs) 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center  
Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center 510-548-8283

**Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 to 2:00 PM – Lavender Potluck** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.)1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro- Program: Donna Christner-Lile-Author of Aging in Place.

**Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 to 6:30 PM – Fellows of the East Bay** – (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.) 1288 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Berkeley. Please bring \$4.00 (Donation) Door Charge, Plus Food, Dessert or Drink to Share. Social Hour 5:30, Dinner 6:30.

**Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 to 2:30 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch**, (3<sup>rd</sup> Fri.) North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way. (58<sup>th</sup> St.) Oakland. Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging and Adult Services. Program: Lydia Gonzales – “Laughing Lydia”

**Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 – 2:00PM – South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About**, 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. (4<sup>th</sup> Fri.) Program: Andrea Leries – Dietician. Nutrients/Supplements. **FREE LUNCH** for LGBT Residents. Sponsor: City of Fremont, Human Services Dept. For more info. Contact Ina Mae Murri 510-490-5425. .

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Aging-in-Place	4
5	6 Coming Out	7	8 Board Meeting	9 Sr Men's	10	11 Potluck
12 Fellows	13	14	15	16	17 Lunch Bunch	18
19	20	21	22	23 Sr Men's	24 So-County	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

### 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.

\* 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 10<sup>th</sup> of preceding month.