



Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

1395 Bancroft Avenue

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San Leandro, CA 94577

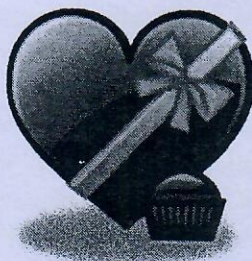
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Web: <http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

Email: director@LavenderSeniors.org

Happy Valentines

In the spirit of Valentines and "couples month", Lavender Seniors is supporting Equality California and the Let Freedom Ring Campaign by featuring stories on a few of our members. These stories are a part of the living history of our community as they spark discussion about LGBT's and their right to marry. A September 2006 poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that 47 percent of likely voters supported same-sex marriage while 46 percent were opposed. Those findings were based on a telephone survey of 2,003 adult residents interviewed between September 13 and September 20, 2006. The margin of error was plus or minus 2 percent. A March Field Poll report stated that when asked to choose between three options – allowing same-sex couples to legally marry, allowing them to form civil unions or domestic partnerships, or granting them no legal recognition – opinions in California split almost perfectly into thirds. The findings were based on independent random-sample surveys of adults over a 22-year period (1985-2006) by the Field Poll. Trend analyses were based on an aggregate of 4,300 telephone interviews conducted over this period. Simply put, there is still a great deal of work to be done on this issue. We hope that you will pass the following stories along to your friends and loved ones as it is your story sharing that creates change.



Ina Mae & Stella

How can one meet in a crowd of 350,000? Ina Mae was living in Hayward and Stella was living in Fremont. On Gay Pride Sunday, 1980, Ina Mae and several other members of the group "Affirmation Gay & Lesbian Mormons", had a table for distributing literature for anyone seeking information about this group. On that day Stella and Ina Mae met, chatted about living near each other and decided to call and get better acquainted. Their first date was the movie "Airplane". They began their courtship right after that. Ina Mae moved from her apartment into a house near her job at Fairmont Hospital. Stella helped her with the move. In September, 1980 Stella moved in with her.

That's the nuts and bolts of the meeting. The romance and loving has been very much a part of these 27 years.

Meg & B.J.

In 1974 two beautiful gay guys decided to celebrate their relationship with a Commitment Ceremony. For laughs, in November, friends gave one of the guys a "shower". Each lesbian arrived at the party with a date on her arm and met each other for the first time.

The commitment ceremony was held December 7th. The women arrived alone this time, exchanging addresses and phone numbers. The exchange of Christmas cards and many long phone calls resulted in a first date in January 1975; (dinner at Black Angus and a movie "The Towering Inferno").

(Continued on page 4)

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.

Lavender Notes

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

Mike Mora, Chairman
D'Anne Bruetsch, Vice-Chair;
Mitch Foudray, Secretary
Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Fred Banuelos, Marvin Burrows,
Meg Bruynell, Frank Howell,
Ina Mae Murri, Tomi Smith

Next Advisory Board Meeting

Feb 6th - 7PM. Call 510-667-9655 for more information.
All are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM.

Staff

Dan Ashbrook, Director
Pat Cull, Care Coordinator
Tomi Smith, Project Manager

Newsletter

Tomi Smith, Editor
D'Anne Bruetsch, Layout

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>

February Birthdays

Feb. 2 Tom Daniel	Marvin Burrows
Feb. 3 Robert Zimmerman Larry Laikam	Feb. 20 Duaine Imhoff Corky Wick Ellen Levin
Feb. 4 Clare Devon	Feb. 23 Robert C. Scharff
Feb. 6 Frank Howell	Feb. 24 Cheryl Greene
Feb. 7 Eric Larson	Cathy Cade
Feb. 9 Lynn Riordan Chuck Baroo	Feb. 27 James Harrison
Feb. 18 Mary Dwyer	Feb. 28 Nick C. Chiotras
Feb. 19	Feb. 29 Elizabeth Ruth

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, Feb 9th 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Alzheimer's Disease-Michael Pope

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



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

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

Couples (cont'd)

On March 4, 1975, following their attendance at a choir recital at Ohlone College where Meg sang, the two women cemented their relationship and "MARCHED FORTH TOGETHER AND FOREVER!"

These two dykes have spent the last 32 ½ years together. They enjoy music, reading, socializing, traveling and movies. They absolutely dote on their son Jeff & daughter-in-law Lisa, their four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, their niece Rochelle & her husband Mac, their three sons and several other nieces and nephews.

However, once they became involved with **The Lavender Seniors of the East Bay**, much of their time, effort and money go to the support of their brothers and sisters in the GLBT Community. They are among the "Founding Members" of Lavender Seniors and have served on the Advisory Board for 13 years. They attend many functions held by other gay and lesbian organizations and participate whenever possible.

Frank & John

I've always divided my life into two parts: Before and after 1970. In January of 1970 I became involved with the founding of Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco. A few months later we decided to expand to the East Bay. We held our first meeting at a gay bar known as Grandma's House in Oakland. Seated at the end of the bar sat John Wise, dressed in a suit and looking very prim and proper. We became acquainted that night and started dating shortly thereafter. He was fourteen years older than me. He was in his mid-forties and I was in my early thirties. MCC made it all possible. Strange how fate works.

One year later we moved in together in my apartment in Hayward. John worked as a railway clerk for the Santa Fe Railroad and I was an adult reference librarian at the Hayward Public Library. A year later we bought into every couples dream: a home of our own, a starter house, a condo.

Two years later we tied the knot. At that time in MCC several gay couples were having ceremonies performed. We wrote our own ceremony, including poetry by Walt Whitman. Rev. Jim Sandmire officiated and my parents attended. They seemed to be caught in a state of cultural shock. They didn't quite know what to make of the whole occasion. They were very quiet and reserved. At times they acted like they were attending a funeral. I invited my brother and sister but they refused to respond.

John and I were together for 25 years. He passed away in 1998 and two years later I retired from the library in the year 2000.

In 1996 I helped found the Lavender Seniors where I still remain active today. -Frank Howell

New Laws Effective Jan. 1, 2008

Joint Income Tax Filing Implementation Bill (SB 105)

Author: Senator Carole Migden, D-San Francisco
Simplifies the process of filing joint state income tax Returns for registered domestic partners. Creates a Worksheet California registered domestic partners will use to file jointly beginning with the 2007 tax year.

Juvenile Justice Safety and Protection Att (SB 518)

Author: Senator Carole Migden, D-San Francisco
Partner Organization: National Center for Lesbian Rights
Creates a Youth bill of Rights to protect all young people, including youth who are LGBT, from abuse and discrimination in California's Department of Juvenile Justice Facilities. This first of a kind legislation also establishes a toll-free hotline youth can call to report abuse or discrimination.

Fair and Equal Taxation for Surviving Partners Act (SB 559)

Author: Senator Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego
Partner Organization: Lambda Legal
Reverses discriminatory tax increases for domestic partners who separated or lost a partner before a 2006 law went into effect protecting domestic partners against unfair property reassessments.

Student Civil rights Act (SB 777)

Author: Senator Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica
Prohibits curriculum that is discriminatorily biased against LGBT people and other protected groups. Establishes consistent civil rights protections in all public education programs. Protects students from harassment and bullying.

Civil Rights Act of 2007 (AB 14)

Author: Assembly member John Laird, D-Santa Cruz
Partner organization: California State Conference of the NAACP

Strengthens 51 state anti-bias laws to prohibit discrimination against LGBT people and other communities. Corrects deficiencies in state law that could leave some Californians unprotected.

Name Equality Act (AB 102)

Author: Assembly member Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco
Partner Organization: American Civil Liberties Union (California Affiliates)
Provides domestic partners the choice to select a family name when they register with the state.

WHY IS IT?

Why is it that if someone tells you that there are a billion stars in the universe, you'll believe him, but if he tells you that a wall has wet paint, you'll have to touch it to be sure?

Why do we press harder on our remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

Xmas Was Good!

All that glitters turns gold for Lavender Seniors... as drag singers, syncers, dancers and more delivered sensational heart - felt performances that generated \$3,500 for Lavender Seniors! The 2007 holiday house party on December 16 produced by the Puppy Palace of Castro Valley was a wildly successful bash with the 41st Empress of San Francisco "Galilea" leading a cast of performers from Marlena's in San Francisco and the Royal Grand Ducal Council through an exciting cabaret show featuring impersonations of many top recording artists ranging from Whitney Houston to Stevie Nicks. The extravaganza was hosted in the beautiful home of Larry, Gary, Jeff, and Ducky from the Puppy Palace and Lavender Seniors can not thank them enough! Their energy in putting together the food, décor, stage-show, parting gifts, and invitations could not have been outdone. To top it off, they even secured a matching grant from Bank of America who contributed \$1,395 to our cause. To Larry, Gary, Jeff, Ducky, the entire cast of performers, and everyone who made this magical evening possible, you are true champions for the LGBT community!

State Politics

HEALTH CARE Machinations in Sacramento.

The California Assembly together with Arnold Schwarznager has presented us with so-called reform of our very broken healthcare system. Their bill does nothing to rid us of the insurance and drug industries' stranglehold on all of us. It has been denounced by the California Nurses Association, who knows this system better than any of us, from the inside out. Unfortunately SEIU, the largest union in California, is supporting it. So much for progressive unionism.

Call your state Senators as soon as you read this and tell them the answer is no. You can find their telephone numbers in the blue section of your telephone directory, under State Government Offices, Senate. We want real reform, single payer, universal healthcare, SB 840. Fortunately, as of the 18th, it looks like Sen. Don Perata, Senate protem leader, will be holding up the process for this Assembly bill in the state Senate, based on his concerns about the poor state of the California budget.

As the new year is ushered in we need to think about redoubling our efforts to get SB 840 passed not only because of the above attempt to pass shoddy legislation in its stead, but because counties around the state are already making noise about how they can no longer afford to pay retiree benefits. That means those of us now covered by these benefits are in danger of either losing what we now have or having to pay amounts we cannot afford. Keep calling and writing letters of support to your representatives.

Plan Your Estate Now!

From Former Director, **Barbara Faulkner**

Soon after I was hired as Lavender Seniors Director in 2005, I discovered that Lavender Seniors had been blessed with a bequest from a man formerly unknown to it, Michael Dahl. Michael had willed his entire estate to the agency. Although it was small, the estate was large enough to convince the Board of Directors that it could afford, for a while at least, a full-time Executive Director.

The LGBT's who sit on the Board have guided the agency forward since 1994. Those founding Board members and those who guide it today deserve credit for making such a leader in LGBT elder issues.

It is difficult to raise money for LGBT issues, let alone LGBT aging issues. The Director soon discovers this fact. Significant gifts from the membership, such as Michael's, would help Lavender Seniors achieve greater stability.

The bottom line is this: The membership of Lavender Seniors needs to provide significant financial support to it to allow it to carry on the fine work that it is doing. Dan's year-end letter in December's Lavender Notes explained the work the agency is currently doing.

Now, Lavender Seniors is recognized as a valuable entity in the ENTIRE community. With the help of legislation recognizing LGBT seniors as a group in need of services, we older LGBT's are finally getting attention that we sorely need.

It was from the testimony of older LGBT's, like Marvin Burrows, that the California legislature has understood what we go through when we lose life partners to whom we are not legally connected or are the victims of homophobia.

"Aging ain't for sissies" is a refrain we learn all too well. When our bodies break down, we need support. We need:

- safe, affordable housing
- networks of friends when old friends are no longer there
- to have our partner / significant other / best friend be able to do for us without difficulty
- information on resources that can help us cope with our lives

Lavender Seniors offers help for these needs and hope for LGBT's who have lost their close friends and partners.

Please contact Dan Ashbrook or ANY Lavender Seniors Board member to see how you can give a significant gift OR write them into your will.

February Book Review

Gay Artists In Modern Culture: An Imaginary Conspiracy

By Michael Sherry

University of North Carolina Press

We tend to take for granted some of the noted American creators of imagination and daring in our culture. We also tend to forget that many of them were subject to vicious attacks by the warmongers of McCarthyism in the 1950s and 1960s. The names roll off the tongue: Tennessee Williams, Thornton Wilder, Aaron Copland and countless others.

Michael Sherry, professor of history at Northwestern University and author of a Bancroft prize for history, has been painstaking in his research and vivid writing as he recreates this dark era in our history.

One of the favorite modes of persecution was to link a well known personage to the red scare that swept the nation. Vague, improvable charges led to the invention of the term "homintern" or the homosexual mafia. *Time* referred to gays as "failed artists." Richard Nixon in conversation with his aid John

Ehrlichman raved about the menace to our youth. "... I don't want to see this country go that way...you know what happened to the Greeks. Homosexuality destroyed them."

Writer Mike Gold attacked Thornton Wilder as an "art pansy writer of unmanly literature."

Others felt that gays concealed themselves inside the world of music because no one would notice them in such a harmless place. Composer Charles Ives hated European composers and saw them as effeminate "pussy-boys."

Some political leaders worried about the influence of American art abroad. They tended to mix prejudice against Jews into the heady mix. Sherry aptly observes that as outsiders', gays and others can see what ails the common culture.

The author's chapter on gays and Hollywood tends to rehash old ground, (**Suddenly Last Summer, Tea and Sympathy**) but his points usually hit home.

Senator McCarthy in 1953 held a closed hearing where he questioned the credentials of Aaron Copland, who stood his ground. And by the early 1960s he was again widely recognized as one of America's foremost composers as he received a medal of freedom.

But gays could also boast of defenders such as Max Lerner, famous writer and author of **America as a Civilization**. He did not necessarily embrace lavender lifestyles but preached tolerance.

The examples pour out of the woodwork. Anna Frankenheim in **Fact** magazine even claimed that homosexuality caused low attendance at classical music

concerts. (Apparently she never heard of Leonard Bernstein).

Samuel Barber and John Carlo Menotti were accused of being too international and too European in outlook. Samuel Barber, who wrote "Adagio For Strings"; told his mother "I was not meant to be an athlete. I was meant to be a composer."

By the 1970s social attitudes began to shift. Critics urged that the gay community cast aside the shallow camp and explore the true nature of gayness and lesbianism. New voices were heard in **Boys In The Band** and **Midnight Cowboy**. Today the influence of the lavender artist is taken for granted, as witnessed by **Will & Grace** and **Queer Eye for the Third Eye**.

Mr. Sherry has provided us with a most illuminating voyage through times past and we must not fail to learn from our history. It could happen again as the shadow of 9-11 falls across the land.-Frank Howell

Advisory Board Members

Lavender Seniors is looking for individuals who would be interested in becoming board members and who would have a passion for our mission—"To improve the quality of the life of older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties through outreach, advocacy and education." If you are interested, please contact our office at 510-667-9655.

Did you know Lavender Seniors has an Email News list? It's a moderated, Announcements Only, newsgroup. On it we announce all Lavender Seniors Monthly and Special events, and we've also begun listing local events of special interest to LGBT Elders in the area. Please join the list by sending an email to

LavenderSeniorsNews-subscribe@yahoogroups.org.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.

Benjamin Franklin

Believe those who seek the truth. Doubt those that find it.

Unknown

An apology is a good way to have the last word.

Unknown

Are you about to turn or have you just turned...

65 years old?

Could you use some help deciphering Medicare Parts A, B and D?

Your window may be closing on your opportunity to get a guaranteed issued medical plan. Did you know that some of the plans are FREE?

DIANE SICKMEN
Insurance Services



A member of Lavender Seniors since 2004

Confidential Advice You Can Trust
25 Years Experience
CA Insurance License #0601814

I can help!

I can match you with a medical plan that suits your lifestyle and budget. I also offer life insurance, dental insurance and financial services.

FREE consultation ~ Offices in Oakland and San Rafael
510.334.3550 / 415.453.4300

SHEILA GOLDMACHER'S COLUMN ON HOPE

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness.

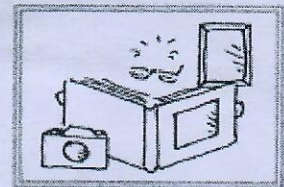
What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places--and there are so many--where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory,

- by Howard Zinn

LAVENDER SCROLLS ON THE NET

You can now see our lavender scrolls on the internet. Just click on the link Lavender Senior Links and see the wonderful stories of our members.

Cathy Cade
Personal Histories
& Photography



cathy@cathycade.com
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Sunthie Calalo
Operation Manager

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San Ramon, CA 94582



925-560-0490
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February 2008

Schedule of Events

Feb. 6th - 1:00 PM to 3:00PM- Coming Out Again Group – (1st Wed) 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and North Berkeley Senior Center

Feb. 6th - 7:00 PM – 8:30PM – Lavender Seniors Board Meeting – (Wed before potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

Feb. 9th – 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM –Lavender Potluck (2nd Sat)1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro- Program: Alzheimer's Disease- Michael Pope

Feb. 10th – 5:30 to 6:30 PM – Fellows of the East Bay –(2nd Sun) 1288 9th Street, Berkeley. Please Bring \$4.00 (Donation) Door Charge Plus Food, Dessert or Drink to Share. Social Hour 5:30-Dinner 6:30

Feb. 14th and 28th - Seniors Men's Afternoon. (2nd & 4th Thurs) 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center 510-548-8283.

Feb. 15th - 12:30 to 2:30 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch, (3rd Fri) North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way. (58th St.) Oakland. Sponsored by City of Oakland. Program: Lavender Vision Mission by Dan Ashbrook

Feb. 22nd – 12:00PM – 2:00PM – South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About, (4th Fri) 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. Program: Sharing Holiday Memories. **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	4	5	6 Coming Out Brd Mtg	7	8	9 Potluck
10 Fellows	11	12	13	14 Sr Mens	15 Lunch Bunch	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 SoCounty Lunch	23
24	25	26	27	28 Sr Mens	29	

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; 1/2 half page inserts are the same amount. Must be received by 10th of preceding month.