

**LAVENDER
SENIORS**
of the East Bay

Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

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Their Time Has Come

Older same-sex couples can't believe their time has come

By Tammerlin Drummond
The Oakland Tribune

Article Created: 06/17/2008 07:31:46 PM PDT



In the 1950s, Mona's jazz club in San Francisco was the spot where gay women and men gathered — under deep cover.

Back then, there was no such thing as "gay pride." No LGBT social mixers at the ballet or the theater. No gay teen alliances in public high schools.

This was almost two decades before the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York that launched the modern-day gay rights movement. Gay men and lesbians were persecuted and prosecuted all across America — solely because of their sexual orientation.

Bobbie Jarvis, 74, of Fremont, remembers the frequent

police raids at Mona's.

"If you didn't wear at least three pieces of women's clothing you could be arrested for emulating a male," Jarvis said. "I had a lot of friends who got arrested like that."

For seniors who were gay before Hollywood decided that gay was chic, the California Supreme Court's decision to strike down the state's ban on gay marriage is especially significant. They lived through the kind of prejudice and bigotry that those in their teens, 20s, 30s and even 40s, can't imagine.

Many gay people in their 60s, 70s and older never thought they would live to see the day same-sex couples would be afforded the same legal right to marry as heterosexuals — at least in the state of California.

"I knew some day it would happen, but long after I was gone," said Meg Bruynell, Jarvis' partner of 32 years.

Rachael Carson Lives Again!

Remember that pioneering, but controversial book **Silent Spring**? In the early 1960s Ms. Carson revealed that we will poison our natural environment by the use of pesticides and killing off the birds and other wild life. Tragically she died in the prime of her lesbian life. But Lilith Rogers will vividly recreate her life for us at the potluck at San Leandro Community Church on Saturday August 9th. Come and relive an exciting era in American history.

-Frank Howell

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

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Next Advisory Board Meeting

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

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Melissa Taylor, Outreach Coordinator

Tomi Smith, Project Administrator

Newsletter

Tomi Smith, Editor

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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 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, Extension 4

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>

Aug Birthdays

August 1 st Pat M	August 9 th Calvin B Karen A	August 22 nd Ruth M
August 4 th Natalie Z	August 10 th Margaret B	August 23 rd Marcelina D
August 5 th Ben S Tamar K	August 13 th Cal H	August 24 th Ron W
August 6 th Cam J	August 15 th Juanita O	August 26 th Jo Ann D
August 8 th James D	August 18 th Charles A	August 31 st Cheryl W

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, Aug 9th 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Lilith Rogers recreates Rachel Carson—see 'Rachel Carson Lives Again'- Pg 1

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



Donate to Lavender Seniors online! Now you can go to 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 LBGT 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

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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

East Bay Picnic Sponsors

Request for East Bay Pride Picnic Sponsors.

Date: Aug. 16, 2008-Cull Canyon Regional Park

Organizations or individuals are invited to be sponsors.

This is an annual event in its 15th year and always a wonderful way to see old friends and meet new ones. Come and **NETWORK** your organization.

The sponsor fee pays for the site reservation, refreshments, paper goods, silverware, charcoal, etc. It also gives **you or your organization** the right to bring flyers, information, literature, sign up sheets, your banner and a small table to locate your organizations .literature.

The dead line to **be acknowledged on the Picnic Banner is August 6, 2008.**

Please send your \$30 donation to:

GLOBE
P.O.Box 56305
Hayward CA 94542

with the **NOTATION** on your check of **PRIDE PICNIC SPONSOR.**

Please pass this on to any other organization that may be interested in taking part.

Pride Picnic Chair: Marvin Burrows

Hope to see you there!

Free Quit Smoking Cessation Classes

Emanuel Diaz started smoking when he was a bored teenager growing up outside El Paso, Texas. One day his father saw him smoking, sat down next to him, and asked for a smoke. That bonding experience solidified Emanuel's smoking habit so that every time he lit up he thought about some of the good times he had with his father. Even when Emanuel came out as gay and left his hometown for California lighting up still brought a good feeling. "Of course it was the nicotine too," Emanuel is quick to add. His father died of lung cancer.

Emanuel wanted to quit smoking when he found out it was seriously affecting his health. Someone told him about Hombres Unidos, a gay Latino support group in Fremont. There he learned about the Tobacco Cessation Program where classes were offered through Tri-City Health Center in a program entitled "Just for Us". These support classes are where members of the LGBT community come to quit smoking.

For more information and Free Quit Smoking Cessation Classes, contact Julio Soriano, instructor, at Tri-City Health Center in Fremont, (510) 713-6690, Ext. 6218 or email: jsoriano@tri-cityhealth.org.

COOLING OFF PLACES

The AREA AGENCY on AGING would like for you to please consider going to one of the following locations during a power outage on a hot day:

shopping mall, library, adult education site, movie, restaurant, or senior center:

Antioch Sr Ctr	415 West 2nd Street	Antioch	925-778-1158
Ambrose Comm Ctr	3105 Willow Pass Road	Bay Point	925-458-1601
Brentwood Sr Ctr	730 Third Street	Brentwood	925-516-5444
Concord Sr Ctr	2727 Parkside Circle	Concord	925-671-3320
Danville Comm Ctr	420 Front Street	Danville	925-552-1536
Hercules Sr Ctr	111 Civic Drive	Hercules	510-799-8219
Jewish Comm Ctr	2071 Tice Valley Blvd.	Walnut Creek	925-939-7800
Martinez Sr Ctr	818 Green Street	Martinez	925-370-8770
Pittsburg Sr Ctr	300 Presidio Lane	Pittsburg	925-252-4890
Pleasant Hill Sr Center	233 Gregory Lane	Pleasant Hill	925-798-8788
Richmond Sr Ctr	2525 MacDonald	Richmond	510-307-8087
San Ramon Sr Ctr	9300 Alcosta Blvd.	San Ramon	925-973-3250
Walnut Creek Sr Club	1375 Civic Drive	Walnut Creek	925-943-5851
Pinole Sr Ctr	2500 Charles Ave.	Pinole	510-724-9800

For further information, please call our: Information & Assistance Program

1-800-510-2020 (From within CCC)

925-229-843 (From Outside CCC)

Revised 6/10/08

Quotes of the Month

"All cases are unique and similar to others."

- T.S. Eliot

"Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler."

- Albert Einstein

"The past isn't dead and buried. In fact, it isn't even past."

- William Faulkner

"The truth is rarely pure and never simple."

- Oscar Wilde

Heatstroke-Tips

Area Agency On Aging Health Tips

TIPS to Survive the Summer Heat

WARNING SIGNS of heat related conditions, such as a heat stroke:

Headache	Nausea/ Vomiting	Dim or Blurred Vision
Profuse	Muscle Cramps	Hot Dry Skin
Exhaustion	Dizziness/ Fainting	Cold Damp Skin

TIPS TO PREVENT heat related symptoms, particularly during power outages: (Don't wait, however, to call your doctor or 9-1-1 if needed. Heat Strokes can be life-threatening and can come on quickly.)

- Drink water: Sip all day; don't wait until you are thirsty. Avoid alcoholic, caffeinated beverages, sugary soft drinks, and full-strength fruit juices.
- Limit physical activity & wear a hat outside, preferably with a wide brim.
- Keep shades drawn and blinds closed, but windows should be slightly open.
- Keep electric turned off (or lights low) & avoid using your oven or clothes dryer.
- Do not just rely on fans; if the temperature is 90 degrees or above, fans alone usually cannot protect against heat-related illness.
- Take baths, showers, or find a pool to swim in; bath in tepid water, use cool towels.
- Wear loose-fitting, light colored, lightweight cotton clothing.
- Eat light foods high in water content: fruits, salads, and soups.
- Don't wait or leave anyone unattended in closed cars or other vehicles.
- Develop a "buddy" system; keep in contact with your family and friends.

Talk to your doctor about medications; you may need to alter medications or dosage(s), but under no circumstances change your medication on your own. Use air conditioning, but if you don't have a unit at home or the power is out, go to any air-conditioned building.

For further information on other services, please call our:

Information & Assistance Program

1-800-510-2020 (From within CCC)

925-229-8434 (From Outside CCC)

Excerpts from the Novel "More Than Just Comrades" by Thomas Little (Frank Howell)

All the current controversy over same sex marriage takes me back to my teen years in the repressive 1950s when I wrote a romantic novel about a group of boys who ran away from an orphanage and lived in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They married each other and performed a wedding ceremony. When my parents discovered the manuscript they were horrified and destroyed the book. Fortunately I had written a second copy. The psychiatrists and psychologists I was subjected to insisted this was an unrealistic fantasy. Nothing like same sex marriage could ever happen. This was pure science fiction.

So now, over fifty years later I have dusted off this old weather beaten copy and am presenting to you brief excerpts of the novel concerned with the issue of gay marriage.

'Frank and Darrell, two of the characters, are passionately discussing weather they are gay. Can they really marry each other?

Frank motioned to Darrell to stay. They sat down alone in a far corner of the cabin.

"What do you want, Frank? I want to go outside and be with the rest of the guys."

"Ok, Darrell, I'm coming right to the point. He hesitated a moment. and said bluntly, "Darrell, do you still believe in homosexuality?"

"What do you mean? "Somewhat amazed, "that big word you just said? Homo...Homo..." he repeated to himself, his tongue desperately trying to master the word that was only somewhat familiar to his limited vocabulary.

"Homosexuality," said Frank. "You know what it means don't you?" "Oh yea," replied Darrell reassuringly. "Do you still believe in what it means?" said Frank. "Well, I guess so, he replied, stunned by such a hard question. "Are you sure you do?" "Yea, said Darrell, I still believe in it.

"Good" replied Frank.

He then told Darrell everything. "Because, the time has come to start." "Start what?" asked Darrell. "Start living according to homosexuality," explained Frank. "Do you get what I mean?" "You mean doing all the things you always used to dream about and always said you were going to do? "That's right" said Frank. What else do you think I meant? Listen Darrell, he continued. ... "You've heard of what happens when a boy and girl fall in love?" "Yea, said Darrell." "Well you know what happens, don't you?" "Yea, they get married." "You mean each of us would marry each other?" "Why not?" "It's not natural said Darrell." "Then you don't believe in my idea?" "It's not natural." I'm afraid to try it. What would the rest of the guys say? "They'd say we were crazy. That's what they'd say," he cried. "Why haven't you got the courage to do it?".....Each of us could get married. There are fourteen of us and two goes into fourteen evenly. None of the other guys will follow us unless we're the first ones." **(To be continued)**

Aug Book Review

Dishonorable Passions: Sodomy Laws in America 1861-2003

By William N. Eskridge, Jr.
Viking-\$32.95

Laws forbidding sexual contact between persons of the same sex have laid down the foundations of any legal action against sexual minorities. Sir William Blackstone generations ago, set the predictable course of events in his legal commentaries when he declared that such practices were "unmentionable" in polite society. How could any rational discourse take place among social science researchers when the mere word could not even be defined let alone explored?

Silence became the ultimate weapon until violated by the likes of Dr. Alfred Kinsey. Vice czar Anthony Comstock also unintentionally did his part by exposing literature that suggested there were other positions beside the missionary approach.

Professor Eskridge lays out the standard chronology of erotic misadventures during the past hundred years in the land of the semi-free. Much of this is familiar ground well trodden by crusaders for sexual freedom from, Freud to Harvey Milk.

The real meat of **Dishonorable Passions** can be found in the second half of this well researched and finely shaded effort by Eskridge, who is John A Garver Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School. He has written several books on gays and the law and filed a major legal brief in the Lawrence v. Texas case.

Starting with Bowers v. Hardwick in 1986, we enter the major battleground of the sodomy dilemma. This old dinosaur of the courtroom had been tolerated but rarely enforced. But no savvy legislator dared to question this third rail of sexual morality. As Rev. Jerry Falwell was fond of saying, the law must be kept on the books as a symbol of society's disapproval. Enforcement was beside the point.

The Bowers case evolved when a straight couple joined with the ACLU and the Lambda Legal organization to finally challenge the forces of pious tradition. Lawrence Tribe, distinguished Professor of Law at Harvard University, was coach for the Lavender team. There was some cautious hope that a turning point was near.

Justice Lewis Powell was considered the swing vote. He was a curious duck who exhibited an astounding sense of naiveté as he sat in his office and declared, "I do not believe I've ever met a homosexual." He was surrounded by an army of pink law clerks.

But the case was lost when Powell refused to budge. He later regretted his fatal vote. Chief Justice Burger spoke for the majority when he opined that homophobia represented the basic foundations of Western Civilization and any

suggestion of change must be resisted.

For the next 17 years all sense of hope vanished. But social change was sometimes more rapid than we suspect. Thanks to public relations campaigns and more people creeping out of their closets the tide was turning. But southern states like Texas persisted in their stubborn resistance. In the legislature the slogan was, "No promo homo." One judge observed that, "...the best way to get rid of a bad law is to enforce it." Some law makers felt that gays enjoyed imprisonment because sex was so available.

Justice Anthony Kennedy spoke for the majority when he observed that the Hardwick decision of 1986 was defective at its core. Sexual minorities should possess the same basic rights as straight couples.

Eskridge briefly confronts the issue of same sex marriage and declares that the issue must be left to the states to decide...."Same sex marriage is an issue that would benefit from state experimentation."

Finally, he believes that we should never criminalize a practice that everyone engages in.

As we enter into the final California battle over this issue, in November campaigners would do well to look over

Dishonorable Passions. History has a way of repeating itself.

-Frank Howell

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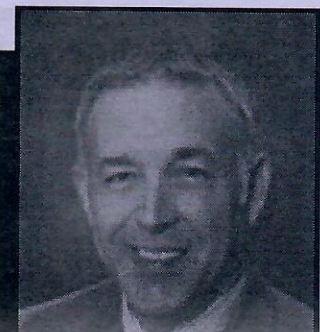
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KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

August 2008

Schedule of Events

Aug. 4th - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM – Coming Out Again Group – (1st Mon.) 1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, in the library. Co-sponsored by Lavender Seniors and North Berkeley Senior Center

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

Aug. 9th – 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM – Lavender Potluck (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. **Program:** Lilith Rogers

Aug. 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.

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

Aug. 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 Aging and Adult Services. **Program:** Elder's Guild

Aug. 22nd – 12:00PM – 2:00PM – South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About, 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. (4th Fri.) **Program:** Colleen Campbell Senior Injury Prevention Coordinator **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 Coming Out	5	6 Brd Mtg	7	8	9 Potluck
10 Fellows	11	12	13	14 Sr Mens	15 Lunch Bunch	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 So County	23
24	25	26	27	28 Sr Mens	29	30
31						

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.