

**LAVENDER
SENIORS**
of the East Bay

Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

1395 Bancroft Avenue

San Leandro, CA 94577

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Phone 510 667-9655

Fax: 510-667-9909

Email: director@LavenderSeniors.org

East Bay LGBT Coalition!

Lavender Seniors is expanding advocacy efforts by launching an East Bay LGBT coalition with the goal of reducing health disparities brought about by a paucity of funding and culturally appropriate health and human services in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The coalition has three main objectives in achieving its goal: to increase LGBT funding from local city and county governments and large corporation and UC system combined giving campaigns; to enforce policies that address disparities among LBGTs; and to increase the capacity of East Bay LGBT organizations to advocate on behalf of the community. **On February 26, from 7PM to 8:30 PM at the North Oakland Senior Center** there will be a meeting of community leaders to introduce the coalition's agenda and gain insight about organizations interested in participating. The meeting will also address how Lavender Seniors can work in conjunction with a statewide network of LGBT organizations currently under the direction of Equality California. Organizing a local task force of leaders and community members to spearhead some of Equality California's statewide network activities here in the East Bay may be needed as the network's goals are inline with the coalitions. "I believe East Bay LGBT organizations and our allies should work together to strengthen our community organizing ability. Expanding our capacity to advocate for the East Bay LGBT community through coalition building is key," says Lavender Seniors' Director Dan Ashbrook. LGBT seniors, youth, persons of color, persons with disabilities and HIV/AIDS are all populations that this coalition aims to protect. The coalition will be open for members of the community to join after the initial planning stages. Lavender Senior's members interested in becoming more civically engaged will be encouraged to join the coalition after the initial organizing phase is complete. Announcements about upcoming meetings for community and Lavender Senior members will be distributed via newsletters and online mailing lists later this Spring.

Speakers Panel!

Share Your Story as an LGBT Senior & Make A Difference in the Lives of Others!

Lavender Seniors' speakers panel is a unique award-winning training program for senior service providers. At each presentation LGBT seniors speak personally about their experiences in an effort to create awareness of what it is like to age as an LGBT. The goal of these presentations is to create welcoming health and human services for LGBT seniors. Many social workers at health and human service agencies have no understanding of the discriminatory barriers LGBT's have faced in their lives. Nor do they understand the barriers LGBT seniors face when accessing needed services. Sharing your story can help service providers understand the LGBT senior community and improve service. If you would like to learn more about how you can make a difference towards creating welcoming health and human services for LGBT seniors by story sharing please contact Dan Ashbrook, Director at 510-667-9655 Ext. 3 or email dan@lavenderseniors.org.

Legislation going into effect on January 1, 2009 includes:

Assembly Bill 3015, the Foster Youth School Safety Education measure, authored by Assembly member Julia Brownley, D-Santa Monica, helps protect foster youth against harassment and discrimination at school. The new law educates foster care youth and their caregivers about existing California laws that protect students against bias. The bill was co-sponsored by EQCA, the California chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Gay-Straight Alliance Network.

Senate Bill 1729, authored by former Sen. Carole Migden from San Francisco, helps prevent bias in senior care facilities and nursing homes. It requires training for licensed health professionals about the unique needs of LGBT seniors.

Assembly Bill 2654, authored by former Assembly member John Laird of Santa Cruz, continues an historic multi-year effort by Equality California and Assembly member Laird to modernize California's anti-discrimination laws. The new law, called the Civil Rights Act of 2008, helps ensure that Californians have the most comprehensive civil rights protections in the nation.

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 for 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

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Next Advisory Board Meeting

Feb 11th - 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>

February Birthdays

Feb. 2nd Tom D.	Feb. 7th Eric L. Margie A.	Feb. 20th Corky W. Ellen L. Duaine I.
Feb. 3rd Robert Z. Larry L.	Feb. 9th Chuck B. Lynn R.	Feb. 23 rd Robert S.
Feb. 4th Clare D.	Feb. 18th Mary D.	Feb. 24th Cathy C. Cheryl G.
Feb. 6th Frank H.	Feb. 19th Marvin B.	

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.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, Feb. 14th - 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Transgender Panel

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!

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

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- 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

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Adventures in Community Outreach

By Stephanie Ann Blythe

Doing community outreach is something that gets in your blood. I have been participating in panels for the Lavender Seniors for a couple of years now. Before then I did outreach for two transgender support groups, Transgender San Francisco and the Diablo Valley Girls. Those speaking gigs were primarily for college classes in psychology and human sexuality. Lavender Seniors panels speak at social service agencies, senior centers and assisted living facilities as well as colleges and universities.

It did not take any arm twisting when I was asked if I would like to be on a panel for Lavender Seniors. My answer was when and where. The first place was at Cal State East Bay for a class of aspiring social workers. Where all of my previous panels were a mix of different transgender people, (cross dresser, transsexual, male-to-female, female-to-male), this one was the first that was a mix of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender.

Where else have our panels gone? We have spoken to new interns at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. Agencies wishing to earn the Lavender Seniors' rainbow emblem are eager to have us speak. The places I have gone to include St. Mary's Center in Oakland, North Oakland Senior Center, Diamond Ridge Healthcare Center in Pittsburg, Over 60 Health Center in Oakland, and the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging in Martinez and Hercules.

For a typical panel presentation Dan Ashbrook will give a short presentation on the basics of sexual orientation and gender identity. As an ice breaker he will often ask the audience to call out some of the not-so-nice words used to describe LGBT persons. Done in a non-judgmental way it really helps to catch everyone's interest and put them at ease. Next, the panelists are asked to speak. Everybody's story is unique and they are different each time we tell our stories. Often I will pick up on something somebody else said and relate that to my story. You may have read the excerpts in the Lavender Notes from Frank Howell's novel about young men coming of age and seeking to marry each other. He weaves that tale into his own coming of age story. Our stories can be funny, sad, tragic, and triumphant.

All of our coming out stories is different. Among transgender people a central theme is how we did our gender transition in the workplace. For many people it was an absolute disaster; the only question being how quickly they would get fired. For me it went about as well as any workplace transition could go. Because I came out later in life, only about ten years ago, I don't have a long history like many of my fellow panelists. They can tell stories of coming out in the 40s, 50s or 60s when few if any resources were available to help one find their way. I had the luxury

of all sorts of information on the Internet to guide me on my journey out of the closet. Nevertheless, we can all weave a rich and deeply textured tapestry of LGBT experience for our audiences.

So what do our audiences get from our presentations? Generally, the person at the school or agency who has invited us is enthused to have us there. The body language and facial expressions of some in the audience can tell us that they might rather be somewhere else. All the rest are in between: curious, not sure, it's a break from the usual routine, what's for lunch, you people seem OK, I have a brother who's gay, and just about any other frame of mind. Then as each panelist speaks they get to know us and our humanity. The applause grows each time. By the time all of us have spoken we have won most of them over. That will be reflected in the questions they ask, more like statements of support than questions.

We almost always run over our time. Dan has to rush to do his closing remarks and pass out the evaluation sheets and explain the various handouts. Some of our hosts serve us a lunch and that gives us a chance to talk further about our experiences one on one. This is a very enjoyable function that we do. Won't you join us?

Lavender Notes Newsletter Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to help with the mailing of our newsletter. We need someone to be in charge of the stuffing, sorting and taking the mail to the Post Office. This work is done on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please contact Tomi Smith at (510) 667-9655.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"Anger is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind."

-Unknown

"The safe way to double your money is to fold it over once and put it in your pocket."

- Frank "Kin" Hubbard

"Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much."

-Oscar Wilde

"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

-Dr. Seuss

LGBT History

Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs Weiner (Aurich, 28 August 1825 – L'Aquila, 14 July 1895), is seen today as a pioneer of modern LGBT movements

Ulrichs was born in Aurich, then part of the Kingdom of Hanover, in north-western Germany. Ulrichs recalled that as a young child he wore girls' clothes, preferred playing with girls, and wanted to be a girl. His first homosexual experience was in 1839 at the age of fourteen, in the course of a brief affair with his riding instructor. He graduated in law and theology from Göttingen University in 1846. From 1846 to 1848, he studied history at Berlin University, writing a dissertation in Latin on the Peace of Westphalia.

From 1849 to 1857 Ulrichs worked as an official legal adviser for the district court of Hildesheim in the Kingdom of Hanover. He was dismissed in 1833 when his homosexuality became naked.

In 1862, Ulrichs took the momentous step of telling his family and friends that he was, in his own words, an Urning, and began writing under the pseudonym of "Numa Numantius". His first five essays, collected as Forschungen über das Rätsel der mannmännlichen Liebe (Researches on the Riddle of Male-Male Love), explained such love as natural and biological, summed up with the Latin phrase anima muliebris virili corpore inclusa (a female psyche confined in a male body). In these essays, Ulrichs coined various terms to describe different sexual orientations/gender identities, including "Urning" for a male who desires men (English "Uranian"), and "Dioning" for a male who is attracted to women. These terms are in reference to a section of Plato's Symposium in which two kinds of love are discussed, symbolised by an Aphrodite who is born from a male (Uranos), and an Aphrodite who is born from a female (Dione). Ulrichs also coined words for the female counterparts, bisexuals and intersexuals.

He soon began publishing under his real name (possibly the first public "coming out") and wrote a statement of legal and moral support for a man arrested for homosexual offences. On August 29, 1867, Ulrichs became the first self-proclaimed homosexual to speak out publicly in defence of homosexuality when he pleaded at the Congress of German Jurists in Munich for a resolution urging the repeal of anti-homosexual laws. He was shouted down. Two years later, in 1869, the Austrian writer Karl-Maria Kertbeny coined the word "homosexual", and from the 1870s the subject of sexual orientation (as we would now say) began to be widely discussed.

From Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia
(To be continued in March edition)

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Program Funded By: Alameda County Area Agency on Aging & city of Oakland

Feb Book Review

How The Religious Right Shaped Lesbian And Gay Activism

By Tina Fetner

University of Minnesota Press-Paperback

When it comes to generating social conflict the right wing and gay political action groups were destined to feed off each other. Tina Fetner, professor of Sociology at McMaster University has sifted through thousands of documents from each movement to gain a sense of historical perspective.

Lavender liberation movements were offshoots from the black and feminine liberation groups that burst into action during the 1960s and 1970s. But they were countered in 1978 by Anita Bryant, Phyllis Schlafly, Jerry Falwell, and the Moral Majority. Christian Fundamentalists, who traditionally isolated themselves from worldly influences, now injected themselves into the political firestorm. In the 1980s they joined forces with Reagan and the newly energized Republican Party. Three issues fired up the conservatives: The feminist liberation efforts, the abortion issue, and gay and lesbian liberation.

The gay movement graduated from street theater to middle class, button down professional lobbying. But Anita Bryant and other reactionary forces did gays a long term favor: Millions of dollars worth of free publicity. Their actions kept the issue on the front pages of the mass media. We were no longer invisible.

In 1979 the national march on Washington represented the birth of the large scale LGBT crusade. Gays, lesbians, and transgender folk are at their best when faced with a crisis. The combination of AIDS, Reagan, and the Republican Party offered the ultimate challenge.

Homosexuality provided the conservative coffers with their largest source of fund raising. Wave the pink flag and the money pours in. Unfortunately the reactionary forces like Focus on The Family have always succeeded in framing the issues while gays merely respond in a defensive mode. Conservatives ran for school boards and frequently disguised their agenda. The American Family Association and the Traditional Values Coalition fanned the flames of division. But the gay organizations like the National Gay And Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign finally made inroads with the Democratic Party with the election of Bill Clinton.

A classic case of right wing debacle occurred when the conservatives "exposed" a "Homosexual Agenda", which turned out to be nothing more than a clever political satire by Michael Swift. But the 1990's turned out to be the comeback decade for gay rights. Our concerns entered the mainstream. The American public was tiring of the constant harping on the gay menace and their consumer boycotts often backfired. During the '90s public attitudes softened and low grade tolerance emerged. Fetner

observes that over time the right wing efforts to combat gays has produced mixed success. Gays are winning over the long stretch. Right wingers have adopted the game plan of turning away from the legislatures and the courts to the powerful techniques of the ballot box such as Proposition Eight.

Fetner concludes that same sex marriage will now frame the debate. Neither side has yet gained the upper hand. The debate will not end any time soon.

-Frank Howell

LGBT Grief Support Group

When: Wednesdays, Feb. 4 – Mar.25, 2009
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Where: Hospice of the East Bay
3470 Buskirk Avenue
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Facilitator: K. Sue Duncan, MFT

Donation: \$40.00 for the full eight weeks

Pre-registration is required. Please call The Center For Grief and Loss at (925) 887-5678.

Susan Levinkind J.D.

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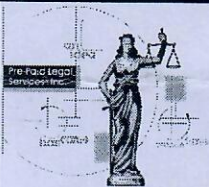
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email tsmith3565@comcast.net

February 2009

Schedule of Events

Feb. 2nd - 1:00 PM to 3:00PM—Coming Out Again Group – (1st Mon.) 1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, Dining Area, Co-Sponsored by Lavender Seniors and North Berkeley Senior Center.

Feb. 6th – 2:00PM to 4:00PM – Lavender Women’s Book Group – (1st Fri.) North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way, (58th St.) Oakland – **Reading:** Part 2 of the book **“Borderlands”**

Feb. 10th – (2nd Tues.) PFLAG Meeting, 7:30PM, Holy Redeemer Lutheran, 35660 Cedar Blvd., Newark

Feb. 11th - 7:00 PM to 8:30PM – Lavender Seniors Board Meeting – (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

Feb. 12th and 26th - 1:30PM to 3:30PM - Seniors Men’s Group. (2nd and 4th Thurs.), 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center 510-548-8283

Feb. 14th – 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM –Lavender Potluck (2nd Sat.)1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro; **Program: Transgender Panel**

Feb. 20th - 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: “Laughing Lydia”**

Feb. 21st - Fellows of the East Bay (3rd Sat.) 1823 9th Street (at Hearst), Berkeley. **Social Hour 5:30, Dinner 6:30.**

Feb. 27th – 12:00PM to 2:00PM – South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About, (4th Fri.)40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. **Program: “Laughing Lydia”.** **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 Coming Out	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 PFLAG Newark	11 Board Mtg	12 Sr Mens	13	14 Potluck
15	16	17	18	19	20 Lunch Bunch	21 Fellows of the East
22	23	24	25	26 Sr Mens	27 South County	28

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.