

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

# Lavender Notes

*A Project of the Tides Center*

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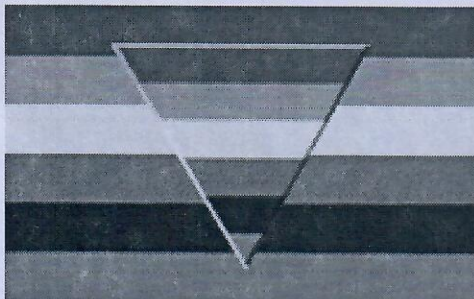
## Camp Courage Event Held in Oakland

The Midtown Ballroom in Oakland was a lively and stimulating place on May 2nd and May 3rd where over 350 eager volunteers gathered for an intensive training program on how to campaign against Proposition 8.

Those participating were divided into groups of seven and practiced their interviewing skills to use when canvassing neighborhoods in small towns. We were trained on how to tell our own personal stories to people we meet. Too often lavender groups have turned to famous straight people in the media to speak for us. Now gay families must express their own unique thoughts and feelings.

It is unfortunate that only a handful of gay seniors were present for the training. The majority of those attending were in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Everyone was urged to travel to Fresno on the Saturday immediately following the California Supreme Court decision on Proposition 8. This will be the only statewide demonstration. There will now be a massive attempt to communicate with the rural populations of California.

Those seeking further information can go to [www.CourageCampaign.org](http://www.CourageCampaign.org). -Frank Howell



## S.F. DYKE MARCH - 2009

**When:** Saturday, June 27, 2009

**Where:** Dolores Park – 19<sup>th</sup> & Dolores, S.F.

**Stage begins at 3:00pm**

**March takes off at 7:00pm**

**In the park,** there will be a senior disabled non-smoking area near 19<sup>th</sup> street with accessible porta-potty and a few chairs. Please bring your own chair if you can.

**Senior/disabled cable car** will board and leave from Dolores street opposite 19<sup>th</sup> street at 6:00pm. The cable car is only for lesbians who cannot walk the length of the march.

**Senior/disabled viewing stand** will be in front of Sha'ar Zahar at 16<sup>th</sup> & Dolores; chairs, refreshments and porta-potties will be set up by 6:00pm,

**Senior/disabled parking garage and shuttle:** Free parking starting at 2pm and a shuttle with wheelchair lift will be available at the Hoff St. Garage (off 16<sup>th</sup>, ½ block from the 16<sup>th</sup> st. bart).

**Shuttle** service from the Hoff Street Garage to Dolores park will run between 2pm and 4pm for free. Shuttle service from the park to Sha'ar Zahav will run from 5:30-6:30pm. After the march passes the viewing stand, there will be 3 or 4 shuttles, as needed, from Sha'ar Zahav to the garage.

For more information, go to [www.dykemarch.org](http://www.dykemarch.org) or leave a message at 510-383-9858



**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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Marvin Burrows, Gabriel Delgado,  
Meg Bruynell, Frank Howell,  
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Members-at-large

#### Next Advisory Board Meeting

Jun 10th, 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

#### 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>

## June Birthdays

June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Kathy Mc.	June 13 <sup>th</sup> James S.	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> Morris S.
June 7 <sup>th</sup> Heinz K. Nona H. Deadre, B.	June 15 <sup>th</sup> Bayla B. Babs S.	June 24 <sup>th</sup> M. Apolono
June 9 <sup>th</sup> Bill A.	June 16 <sup>th</sup> Teresa H.	June 28 <sup>th</sup> Stephanie B Jeanne S.
June 11 <sup>th</sup> Shoshana D.	June 18 <sup>th</sup> William H.	June 29 <sup>th</sup> Cotys W.
June 12 <sup>th</sup> Andrea C. Jeff V.	June 20 <sup>th</sup> Mike W. Donna L.	June 30 <sup>th</sup> Pat P

## MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, June. 13<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Pride Celebration

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](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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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## VOLUNTEER CORNER

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I decided to write the volunteer corner this month as my volunteer work outside of the day to day management of Lavender Seniors is the inspiration behind doing this work. Through my volunteer work I get the opportunity to see a part of the LGBT community that is often invisible. LGBT Seniors who are homebound, in nursing homes, suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's, or just lonely and wanting to stay connected to a community. For the past 3 years I have had the experience of visiting a man who lives alone with dementia, visiting seniors in nursing homes, and helping other volunteers to provide this invaluable service. The man I visit with dementia has a remarkable story. Keep in mind he has only two living relatives and both live out of state. Typically someone with his level of dementia and a lack of family support would require assisted living or nursing home care. But this gentleman prefers to live in the comforts of his own apartment. He has been able to do this because I have kept him connected to a social network consisting of old friends and an in-home support service worker through the county. I keep the network as cohesive as possible by hosting regular gatherings and facilitating ongoing communications between all parties. Even though each day brings about new challenges for this man, his social network provides ongoing relief. The synergy of this network fosters hope and a sense of belonging for someone who is greatly at risk of health disparities brought about by isolation and depression. It also provides relief because he fears losing his apartment and most of his belongings to a nursing home. His apartment and belongings are a big part of his identity as they provide memories of friends and family even though his memory maybe weakening. It is amazing how much of a profound difference the simplest things in life such as regular visits and phone calls from friends can make in the life of an at-risk senior. Because of this experience I feel that if frail seniors are able to find a way to maintain a social network, they can age at home with dignity and respect. It is up to each one of us to see to it that our frail senior loved ones have a social network. I often wonder how much we could save in health care costs by assuring that all seniors in our community who are frail, disabled, or homebound have a thriving social network.

-Dan Ashbrook, Director

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## Flea Market

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**When:** Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am - 4:00am  
**Where:** North Oakland Senior Center Flea Market  
 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Oakland  
 (Entrance is on 58<sup>th</sup> Street in the parking lot)

Shop at the *gayest* booth at the flea market! - **The Lavender Boutique.** Purchases will benefit Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. Donations of items to sell at our booth are gratefully accepted. **No clothes, furniture, electronics or appliances, please.** All used items must be in good condition.

**Volunteers are needed to price, display and sell our wares!**

Contact Mitch at 510-271-8843 (mitchdanger22@aol.com), Gabriel at 510-636-0721, or Tomi at 510-667-9655 for information about volunteering or donations.

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## DYKE MARCH HISTORY

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Dyke March is a mostly lesbian-led and inclusive gathering and protest march much like the original gay pride parades and marches. They usually occur the Friday or Saturday before LGBT Pride Parades and larger metropolitan areas have related events (parties, benefits, dances) both before and after the event to further develop community relationships. The purpose of a Dyke March is to increase lesbian visibility and activism and they have grown to be more inclusive of all women-loving-women regardless of labels as well as bisexuals, intersex and transgender persons.

### SAN FRANCISCO

The first San Francisco Dyke March was held a few months later, in June 1993, and is still celebrated every year on the Saturday evening before the annual Pride Parade. The Dyke March is informal, with marchers creating their own signs and most people showing up to participate, rather than to just watch. The streets along the March route are lined with thousands of enthusiastic spectators, mostly gay men in support of the women. The march begins in Dolores Park with speeches, performances and community networking and ends in the Castro District, at the Pink Saturday party where the Dyke March sound-truck becomes a stage for more performances, DJs and more speakers. The San Francisco Dyke March is attended by well over 200,000 people yet remains a peaceful and well-organized event.

Since its inception, the San Francisco Dyke March Committee (a small group of volunteers) has never applied for nor received a permit from the city, exercising the First Amendment right to gather without permits

- Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

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## Gay Day 2009

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The Annual Gay Day Celebration was started at the North Berkeley Senior Center, in June of 2003 by Norma J. Ramos, an out Lesbian and staff member for the City of Berkeley, with the great support of Suzanne Ryan, Director, now retired. This event grows each year and is an event that LGBT seniors count on.

The event continues to welcome LGBT seniors and friends, to enjoy a day of food, music, community and celebration, in a relaxed, open environment for everyone.



## Gay Day 2009

**When:** Tuesday, June 16, 2009

**Where:** North Berkeley Senior Center  
1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley

**Time:** 1:30PM – 4:00PM

Come for an afternoon of entertainment, booths, community networking and giveaways.

### Everyone Welcome

**Produced by:** The North Berkeley Senior Center  
The Coming Out Again Group  
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

**Sponsored by:** NBSC Advisory Council  
The Coffee Bar Club

For more information contact: Norma J. Ramos,  
(510) 981-5193

## Gays In Military

### MCC Hosts new film on Gays in Military

A powerful new production, "Ask Not" will air on KQED Channel 9 on June 26th. The film was previewed on April 30th at Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco to an enthusiastic audience. Three ex-service people spoke of their experience, including Rev. Lea Brown, pastor of MCC.

The producer of the film answered questions from the audience.

During the course of the narration Bill Clinton expressed regret for signing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," bill. He believed it constituted an honorable compromise. But the purpose of the legislation was seriously compromised by the Pentagon's determination to root out LGBT soldiers at any cost.-Frank Howell

# Youth and Senior Storytelling Lunch

Presented by the Gay Straight Alliance Network, The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa, and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

**Celebrate Gay Pride Month with a youth senior lunch!**

**Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00am to 1:00pm**

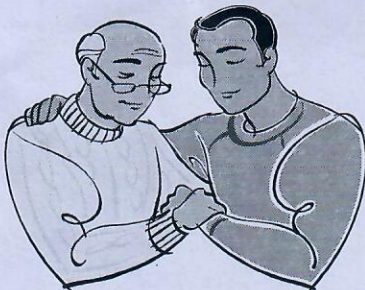


Free Pizza, Sodas, and Dessert



**Location:** Walnut Creek United Methodist Church

1543 Sunnyvale St. 94597



A special lunch hosted for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) youth and seniors that allows each individual to meet and share his and her coming out story with one another.

To RSVP or for more information contact Dan Ashbrook at Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.  
510-667-9655 Ext 3 or email: [dan@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:dan@lavenderseniors.org)

### Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America

By Nathaniel Frank, St. Martins Press-\$25.95

The issue of gays in the military has finally reached a crossroad. The usual rationalizations are growing threadbare and the public attitude has shifted in significant ways. During World War II the psychiatric view of gays as weak and ineffective took firm root. Over the years a parade of comprehensive studies by organizations, including the highly respected Rand Corporation, declared that denying gay and lesbian soldiers entry into the armed forces was senseless. But the studies were either buried or ignored. The Pentagon tradition ruled with a firm hand.

Bill Clinton now frankly regrets signing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy into law. He had no idea of the way the policy could be sabotaged and gays and lesbians would be investigated and forced to leave the armed forces. During the time the controversy erupted in Congress, the powers that be simply stacked the deck and all contrary evidence was ignored. The macho ethic carried the day.

Some 24 countries now welcome lavender recruits into their first lines of defense. Dire predictions of demoralization proved groundless.

The British military now openly advertise in the annual gay parades in London. They openly recruit gays. Israel, one of the most respected military forces in the world, has no problem with queer folk.

In America 12,342 gay and lesbian soldiers have been separated from the services. This represents a cost to taxpayers of \$364 million dollars.

Gays and lesbians are unable to take advantage of conventional assistance such as psychiatric consultation. The commanding officer would be immediately notified. Even military chaplains are required to follow the rules. Gays are on their own. Many decide not to re-enlist. Some 300 critically needed language specialists were lost.

Tremendous pressure is put on military recruiters to pull in every warm body available. Drug addicts, ex-convicts, and other mentally types are accepted into our armed forces, but not gays and lesbians.

80% of Americans polled favor abolishing these restrictions. In some units gays are accepted and casually tolerated. Much depends on the commanding officer and his attitudes.

The Military Readiness Act, introduced by Marty Meehan, now has 140 co-sponsors in Congress.

Nathaniel Frank brings exceptional qualities to his penetrating investigation of this critical issue. He received his M. A. and PhD in history at Brown University. He currently serves as a senior research fellow at the University of California in Santa Barbara, at the Palm Center. His research findings have been cited on the floor of Congress.

It's time Congress pays heed to the voice of Frank on this vital public issue. The time is long past due. Our security needs demand it.

-Frank Howell

## Gay Prom

**Project Eden's Lambda Youth**  
15th Annual Gay Prom 2009

This Years Theme: "A Walk in Wonderland"  
We Welcome LGBTQs & Allies 20 & Under  
**When:** Saturday, June 13, 2009

**Time:** 7:00 PM- 12:00 AM  
**Where:** Centennial Hall

22292 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

**Ticket Price:** \$25.00

(Advance tickets sales for groups 10 or more  
\$20.00 each.)

For More Information: Phone: 510.247.8200,

or visit our website [www.gayprom.org](http://www.gayprom.org)

**Dress to Impress**

## LGBT HISTORY

### Fannyann Viola Eddy (1974-2004)

Fannyann Viola Eddy was an activist for lesbian and gay rights in her native Sierra Leone and throughout Africa. In 2002, she founded the Sierra Leone Lesbian and Gay Association, the first of its kind in Sierra Leone. She traveled widely, addressing the United Nations and other international groups. In April 2004, she advocated the passing of the Brazil Resolution on Human Rights and Sexual Orientation at the UN in Geneva.

On the night of September 29, 2004, she was killed in the groups Freetown Pademba Road office while working alone.

In her address to the Commission on Human Rights in Africa she stressed the point that "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities do exist throughout Africa and on every continent. Human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity are committed every day. Many African leaders do not want to acknowledge this fact, which has caused many disastrous results for their communities."

Fannyann further stated that "Many African Americans fear that if their sexual orientation or gender identity is known, especially the youth, they will be disowned by their families with no place to go, thus becoming homeless and resorting to sex work in order to survive. When African leaders use culture, tradition, religion and societal norms to deny our existence, they send a message that tolerates discrimination, violence and overall indignity."

FannyAnn Eddy was a person of extraordinary bravery and integrity, who literally put her life on the line for human rights. She left behind her son and her partner Esther Chikalipa.

When we advocate for Human Rights in our communities, this can lead people to understand that in the end, we are all human and are entitled to respect and dignity.

**Remember "silence creates vulnerability."**

**SF PRIDE 2009 PARADE  
JUNE 28th**

**Theme: "In Order to Form a More Perfect Union...."**

After the Dykes on Bikes, there will be the Stone-wall/Gay Liberation Front 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Contingent leading the parade.

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# June 2009

## Schedule of Events

**June 1<sup>st</sup> - 1:00 PM to 3:00PM—Coming Out Again Group** – (1<sup>st</sup> Mon.) 1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, Dining Area, Co-Sponsored by Lavender Seniors and North Berkeley Senior Center.

**June 5<sup>th</sup> – 2:00PM to 4:00PM – Lavender Women’s Book Group** – (1<sup>st</sup> Fri.) North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MKJ Jr. Way, (58<sup>th</sup> St.) Oakland – **Reading: Part II of “Look me in the Eye” by Barbara MacDonald.**

**June 6<sup>th</sup> – Lavender Senior Flea Market– 8:00AM to 4:00pm - North Oakland Senior Center Parking Lot, 5714 MLK Jr. Way, Oakland**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> – (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.) PFLAG Meeting, 7:30PM,** Holy Redeemer Lutheran 35660 Cedar Blvd., Newark

**June 10<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM to 8:30PM – Lavender Seniors Board Meeting** – (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro

**June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> - 1:30PM to 3:30PM - Seniors Men’s Group.** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs.), 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center 510-548-8283

**June 13<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM –Lavender Seniors Potluck** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.)1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro. **Program: Pride Celebration**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> - Gay Day Celebration – 1:30PM to 4:00PM- North Berkeley Senior Center - 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> - Fellows of the East Bay** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.) 1823 9<sup>th</sup> Street (at Hearst), Berkeley. **Social Hour 5:30, Dinner 6:30.**

**June 26<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 to 2:30 PM - Lavender Lunch Bunch, (Special Date)** North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way. (58<sup>th</sup> St.) Oakland. **Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging and Adult Services. Program: Pride Celebration**

**June 26<sup>th</sup> – 12:00PM to 2:00PM – South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About,** (4<sup>th</sup> Fri.)40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. **Program: Pride Celebration. FREE LUNCH** for LGBT Residents. Sponsor: City of Fremont, Human Services Dept. For more info. Contact Ina Mae Murri 510-490-5425.

**June Oakland Lunch bunch Moved To the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday!**

Due to the closure of the North Oakland Senior Center on June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Oakland Lunch Bunch will be held on the Fourth Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:30.

**Please note your calendars.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Coming Out	2	3	4	5 Book Group	6 Flea Market
7	8	9 Newark PFLAG	10 Board Mtg	11 Senior Mens	12	13 Potluck GayProm
14	15	16 Gay Day Celebration	17	18	19	20 Fellows
21	22	23	24	25 Senior Mens	26 Lunch Bunch(2)	27 Dyke March
28 Pride Parade	29	30				

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> of preceding month.