



**LAVENDER
SENIORS**
of the East Bay

Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

1395 Bancroft Avenue

San Leandro, CA 94577

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

Phone 510 667-9655

Fax: 510-667-9909

Email: director@LavenderSeniors.org

Outlook Theater Project

Calling all LGBT Seniors...to take the stage!

Come to OutLook Theater Project's community auditions for "This Many People!" OutLook Theater Project, a professional, ensemble-based company that explores social issues from the LGBT perspective, is casting community actors of all ages and backgrounds for its production of "This Many People." This is an original play honoring the stories of LGBT seniors written by the ensemble under the leadership of Kevin Rolston and directed by Artistic Director, Rebecca Schultz. The play will be performed at CounterPulse in SF, June 10-13, 2010, with rehearsals from April-June 2010. Community actors will perform alongside professional actors. This production has been developed by OutLook in collaboration with New Leaf Outreach to Elders, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, and diverse members of the LGBT Senior community.

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2010
TIME: 6:00-8:00 pm
LOCATION: New Leaf conference room, 1390 Market St, Suite 800, San Francisco

No theater experience is required! But please dress comfortably, ready to play, and plan to stay the whole time.

To make an appointment: Please email lynn@outlooktheaterproject.org or call her at (415) 595-9798 with your name, email address, phone number, and a little bit about why you are interested in being a part of this project.

OutLook Theater Project and the LGBT Seniors Project are generously supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Horizons Foundation, the California Council for the Humanities, the Clorox Foundation and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund

Tell the Census Bureau

LGBT people must be counted!

The 2010 census is just around the corner — and it's just as much a piece of the equality puzzles for us, for our families, and for our future.

This spring, you and millions of other people across the country will likely receive a census survey in the mail.

And while the U.S. Census Bureau claims to seek an accurate picture of who we are as a nation, there isn't a single question that asks if you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Being counted in the census isn't just a numbers game. The data is used by researchers, advocates and policy makers to develop social service programs and make critical policy decisions. And when the LGBT community isn't represented in the numbers, then we also aren't considered as these decisions are made; decisions that impact our health care, our economic stability — even our safety.

That's the bad news. But the good news is we can change this. Thanks in part to the efforts of Task Force supporters last year, the 2010 census will report same-sex marriages. So if we send the message loud and clear that it's just as critical that the census and other government surveys count LGBT individuals, we believe they'll listen.

-The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.



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.

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.

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>

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.

Advisory Board

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

Members-at-Large, Marvin Burrows, Gabriel Delgado, Meg Bruynell, Frank Howell, Rob Mills, Ina Mae Murray, Pat Skillen, Tomi Smith.

Volunteer Corner

Becoming a volunteer with Lavender Seniors has proven to be much more rewarding than I could have ever expected.

I have been paired with the loveliest individual who really needs the companionship. We spend our time reminiscing about his past, looking at old photos, playing games, and enjoying a meal together.

This is an amazing program, and I am very happy to be a part of it. I have made a new friend, who will exist in my heart forever.

-Christopher Layne

Volunteer Opportunities

Friendly visitors, outreach events, lunch programs, speakers panel, office help.

If you are interested in applying for a volunteer position, please call Dan Ashbrook at 510-667-9655, Ext. 3 or download in application from our website under the volunteer link and mail to 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

Advocacy Tip of the Month

What does it take to be an advocate? There are no special requirements just be open to listen and speak the truth. We can all be advocates everyday of our life. Just be knowledgeable about the topic you are discussing and you should always be honest. Be a great example of GLBT people. That's it.

Volunteer every opportunity you have, with your church, social organizations, fraternities, clubs and GLBT organizations like Lavender Seniors. They need you and you can certainly help them.

-Pat Skillen

February Birthdays

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

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Saturday, Feb. 13th - 12 noon to 2pm

Program: Tax Tips by Bobbie Jarvis-Bruynell

A thru K	Bring a Salad
L thru R	Bring a Desert/Fruit
S thru Z	Bring a Main Dish



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.

Donate on line. Go to www.lavenderseniors.org and click on the Donate Now Button.

Here's my gift of: \$20 \$35* \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Annual Courtesy Giving Levels

Lavender Leader \$5,000 Lavender Supporter 2,000 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 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

When Gay People Get Married: What Happens. When Societies Legalize Same Sex Marriage?

By M V. Lee Badgett
New York University Press-2009

Lee Badgett is a woman economist at the top of her game. She is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts and has given us the ground breaking work, "Money, Myths and Change: The Economic Lives of Lesbians and Gay Men." Now she focuses her critical lens on gay couples in Holland and compares them with their counterpart in this country. Badgett spent a year as a visiting scholar in Amsterdam. Here we learn that 53,000 gay couples flourish, but only 8,000 have chosen to marry. In other European countries the same pattern emerges. Only in America have the lavender set ran hell bent for marital bliss.

Sometimes an unexpected development such as purchasing a home or having a

child produces the urge to make it all legal.

Conservatives argue that low rates of gays marrying demonstrate that gays and lesbians don't really desire marriage. Only time can reveal the real trends. Among Dutch gays 9% raise children and one in 6 are registered as couples. In the U. S. one third of lesbians have children and one in five male couples have desired to embrace the patter of little feet.

Surveys revel that citizens of most European countries approve of pink unions. The Dutch and the Scandinavians show the highest approval rate.

In these countries gays share the same problems as everybody else. One in five lack health insurance.

Some gays oppose marriage. They fear that any unique lavender culture will gradually disappear. But Badgett points out that the need for socializing with your own kind will always be there.

The emergence of the new youth culture will have a profound effect. They give their blessing to gay unions by way of a 30 point spread in surveys. We must also remember that increasing numbers of straight folks chose not to marry as well.

Badgett has estimated that economic benefits to our marriages would cost the federal government one billion dollars per year and additional millions to the various state governments.

Homophobic critics continue to beat the drums of fear and uncertainty. But states where gay unions have

been approved appear to remain in tack.

Conservatives seem to be closing the barn door after the horses have fled.

Badgett concludes by proclaiming the future of getting hitched gay style seems bright. It just takes time, hard work and patience.

-Frank Howell

What a year!

In 2009 we:

- Passed 11 pieces of legislation. On January 1, hundreds if not thousands of couples who marry around the world will have all the rights of marriage here in California and more nonprofits will have access to funding for programs to prevent domestic violence against LGBT Californians. May 22 will be the first official Harvey Milk Day.
- Launched an aggressive field campaign that knocked on over 600,000 doors, had over 700,000 conversations, recruited over 20,000 volunteers and made over 120,000 calls.
- Mobilized staff and volunteers to help Curren Price and Steve Bradford win elections against anti-LGBT equality opponents, demonstrating that candidates are not harmed by supporting LGBT rights.
- Aired three powerful TV ads featuring gay and lesbian couples and their families.

Helped prevent drastic cuts to HIV/AIDS services and prescription drug programs.

-Equality California

Rebuilding Together Oakland Safe-At-Home Program

Are you an Oakland resident? Is mobility an issue in your home? Are you disabled or over 62? Are you low or moderate income? If yes, you may qualify for **NO COST** home modifications that improve accessibility and mobility within the home.

Modifications include: Bathroom handrails & grab bars, door knobs & faucet grips, raised toilet seat adapters, hand held shower heads, nightlights, anti-skid safety mats, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, shower stools, and interior/exterior handrails.

Please call Rebuilding Together Oakland Safe-At-Home Program Coordinator at (510) 625-0316 x103 to set up an appointment.



PSYCHOTHERAPIST/AUTHOR
LICENSE NO. MFC 32346

MERLE YOST, LMFT
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST

2917 McClure Street
Oakland, CA 94609
510-627-0090

merle@myost.com
www.myost.com

JOANN SULLIVAN
510.848.1950 x246
Cell 510.393.7889
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February 2010

Schedule of Events

Feb. 1st - 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. 4th and 18th - 1:30PM to 3:30PM – Support /Discussion Group for Aging Queer Women, (1st and 3rd Thurs.) -The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby) Berkeley

Feb. 5th - 2:00PM – 4:00PM - Lavender Women’s Book Group (1st Fri.) North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MKJ Jr. Way, (58th St.) Oakland – **Reading: “Remedios”- Part II**

Feb. 9th - (2nd Tues.) PFLAG Meeting, 7:30PM, Holy Redeemer Lutheran 35660 Cedar Blvd., Newark

Feb. 10th - 7:00 PM to 8:30PM – Lavender Seniors Board Meeting (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro

Feb. 11th and 25th - 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. 13th – 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM –Lavender Seniors Potluck (2nd Sat.)1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro; **Program: Tax Tips by Bobbie Jarvis-Bruynell**

Feb. 19th - 12:30 to 2:30 PM – Lavender Seniors 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: Stagebridge**

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

Feb. 26th - South County Lunch Bunch and Talk About (4th Fri.) 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, **Program: Stagebridge 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 Coming Out	2	3	4 Womens Group	5	6
7	8	9 PFLAG Newark	10 Board Mtg	11 Senior Men	12	13 Potluck
14 Valentine Day	15	16	17	18 Womens Group	19 Lunch Bunch	20 Fellows
21	22	23	24	25 Senior Men	26 South County	27
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.