

Lavender Notes

A Project of the Tides Center

LAVENDER SENIORS

of the East Bay

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Lavender Seniors Supports Senate Bill 747

Lavender Seniors supported bill SB 747, which aims to improve LGBT "cultural competency" in health care. Sponsored by Equality California (EQCA) and authored by Senator Christine Kehoe, SB 747 would require regulatory boards that license or certify health care personnel to mandate continuing education for providers, focusing on best practices, sensitivity, and cultural competency toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) patients. It would also authorize boards that certify and license medical and mental health professionals to grant continuing medical education (CME) credit, or equivalent credit, for undertaking LGBT health care training.

The American Medical Association (AMA) made public calls in 1996 and 2005 to improve the education of health care personnel regarding LGBT patients. Unfortunately, the quality of care provided to LGBT patients in the U.S. has not improved substantially. There are hundreds of hospitals and thousands of medical offices and mental health facilities whose policies and procedures regarding LGBT care are unknown. California has previously adopted CME mandates, such as cultural competency training, for other medically underserved populations. For example, AB 1195 (2005) requires continuing education on cultural and linguistic competency in patient care. Additional legislative mandates for CME content include pain management and palliative end-of-life care. The goal of SB 747 is to provide LGBT people a safe and understanding environment when they are being cared for in hospitals, medical offices, or mental health facilities.

Status of SB747: Introduced on February 18, 2011. Passed by Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development on April 11, 2011 on a 6-2 vote.

Facts and text provided by Equality California (EQCA)



8th Annual Gay Pride Month Celebration!

Come join us for the 8th Annual LGBT Day Celebration at the North Berkeley Senior Center. This will be an afternoon of food, entertainment, vendor tables, community, giveaways, and much more! This event is produced by North Berkeley Senior Center, The Coming Out Again Group, Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa, and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. It is also sponsored by NBSC Advisory Council and The Coffee Bar Club.

When: Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Where: North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Ave. (at MLK)

Berkeley, CA

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Don't miss this event, as it is not only fun but important for raising the visibility of older LGBT adults in our

community.

Raising Awareness with Greg Louganis

On Friday, May 13 Lavender Seniors sponsored "Addressing the Behavioral Health needs of the LGBTQI2S Community." The event was held at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland and funded by Alameda County Behavioral



Health Care Services (ACBHCS). The ACBHCS cultural responsiveness committee, known as the ACBHCS Pride Coalition, organized this day-long conference, which included an array of speakers, performances from local artists, and a keynote address by Olympic champion Greg Louganis. The goal of the conference was to increase awareness about the well-being and mental health needs of LGBT people in Alameda County among key persons within the county's mental health service

(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 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 and press 1,
or go to http://www.lavenderseniors.org

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

Advisory Board

Mike Mora, Chairman, D'Anne Bruetsch, Vice-Chair, Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer, Robert Hamner, Secretary Members-at-Large

Marvin Burrows, Gabriel Delgado, Frank Howell, Rob Mills, Pat Skillen, Tomi Smith

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Seniors Advocate for Elder Legislation

By Frank Howell and Marvin Burrows

The California Senior Leaders Alliance and other senior advocacy groups met in Sacramento on May 1st and 2nd, and over 40 elder champions brought their skills of persuasion and passion to bear on how to convince members of the California legislature to pass two significant pieces of legislation. Sunday was devoted to learning the basics of convincing lawmakers to vote our way. After all, the aging population constitutes the largest segment of the voting population.

On Monday we visited the offices of two Assembly Members and one Senator and brought our powers of reason and emotion to bear. Two important bills were focused in our gun sights. The first was **AB 69**, sponsored by Democratic Assemblyman Jim Beall. This legislation deals with the vital area of senior nutrition. Many seniors do not receive adequate nutritious food because they are not aware they are eligible for additional food sources.

CalFresh is the key element in California. Only one in 10 elders is enrolled in this vital program. It is hoped that these two pilot programs will be commenced as a means of drawing public attention to the program. No increase in funds will be necessary: The program is already there. But basic outreach is lacking, so seniors are simply not aware of what is available. Much of the bureaucratic red tape needs to be eliminated and Social Security can play a vital role in this process. Unfortunately, this bill died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The other area of concern is AB 138, also introduced by Assemblyman Beall. The Elder Economic Planning Act of 2011 tries to update the Federal Poverty Guidelines with more current data. The original statistics are based on figures from the 1950s. They are seriously out of date with the current economic scene. No additional funds are required to update this fundamental information, but current information must be used when surveying such basic needs as housing, transportation, medical care, and nutrition. The Senior Leaders succeeded in getting the Elder Index passed by the California legislature, but the bill was vetoed by the past governor. It is widely believed that Governor Brown will sign this bill.

As the Senior Leaders Conference has learned, persistence and determination are required to successfully play the political game in Sacramento.

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.

Jeff V.

June Birthdays

June 3rd June 23rd June 13th Morris S. James S. Michael W. **Kathy McCarter** June 15th June 24th June 7th Bayla B. M. Apolorio Heinz K. Barbara S. June 28th H. Nona H. June 16th Stephanie A. B. Deadre A.B. Leslie F. **Jeanne Squires** June 9th Teresa H. June 29th Bill A. June 18th Cotys W. June 11th William H. June 30th Shoshana D. June 20th **Pat Pothier** June 12th Mike W. Jim C. Donna L.

Saturday, June 11th - 12 noon to 2 p.m. Program: Wendy Albovias, RD A thru K **Bring a Dessert/Fruit**

Bring a Side Dish S thru Z **Bring a Main Dish**

L thru R

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.



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system. Greg spoke about his struggles and triumphs as an elite athlete coming out of the closet about having HIV. He was truly an inspiration to everyone in attendance! Lavender Seniors volunteer advocates Frank Howell, Gabriel Delgado, and Marvin Burrows also spoke about their personal stories, which provided words of wisdom and advice for the many transitional age LGBT youth and service providers in attendance. The conference closed with breakout sessions that focused on local LGBT community issues. These issues will be analyzed and explored by ACBHCS for future planning efforts of programs that increase access to services for LGBT people, including older adults.

Monthly Wellness Recipe

Spotlight on Springtime Fruits and Veggies

Asparagus is low in fat and high in fiber. These stalks are a good source of iron, B vitamins, and vitamin C. Asparagus is at its peak from March through June but can be purchased year-round. Once harvested, asparagus deteriorates rapidly, so place it in cool storage to retain freshness and nutrition.

Asparagus is one of my favorite vegetables. These stalks are delicious roasted, grilled, or lightly sautéed in olive oil... definitely a tasty addition to any meal.

Try this Cooking Light recipe for Grilled Asparagus with Balsamic Vinegar. It yields 4 servings. Each serving has 25 calories, 1.2 g fat, 1.3g protein, 3g carbohydrates, and 0 mg cholesterol

Ingredients:

- 1 pound thin asparagus spears
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper cooking spray
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

Prepare grill. Snap off tough ends of asparagus; place in a bowl or shallow dish. Drizzle asparagus with oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper, tossing well to coat. Place asparagus on a grill rack coated with cooking spray; grill 2 minutes on each side or until crisp-tender. Place asparagus in a bowl; drizzle with vinegar. Serve immediately.

LGBT history could become part of public school curriculum in California

A California measure sponsored by out state Sen. Mark Leno would require LGBT achievements at the state and national levels to be taught in public school classrooms. The bill, a similar version of which was vetoed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger five years ago, is on track to clear the Legislature and be signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. Read the full New York Times story: http://is.gd/D3tu3D

"Eat Well - Age Well"

Steady Servings

Wendy Albovias, RD

Mindful eating is important to staying on track with your goals and resolutions. Savor your food. Enjoy the textures, tastes and smells. Eat slowly. Make your food appealing to your eyes, too. AND... pay attention to your serving sizes. Do you recall how much is too much? Here is a quick guide to help you visualize your serving sizes.



3 ounces of cooked meat = deck of cards

1 cup of cooked rice or pasta = tennis ball

1 ounce of cheese = 4 dice or 1 domino

1 medium fruit = 1 baseball

1 teaspoon of butter = 1 die, or tip of thumb

1 small baked potato = a computer mouse

2 tablespoons of peanut butter, jam, or salad dressing = 1 golf ball

1 ounce of chocolate = dental floss case

1/2 bagel = hockey puck

Lavender Seniors at SF Pride

Join us on Sunday, June 26th from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. as we host the Lavender Scrolls Tent at San Francisco's LGBT Pride Celebration. We will be showing the Lavender Scrolls project, an exhibit telling the personal stories of eight LGBT older adults in photographs and narrative on printed canvas. The Lavender Scrolls tent will be located adjacent to the Elder's Space on the grass in front of city hall and the main stage.

CARA Corner

Social Security Trustees Report

Program Expected to Have Large Surplus Once Again

Washington, D.C. - As reporters cover the release of the 2011 Trustees Report this week, the Strengthen Social Security Campaign (which CARA is a part of) provided this analysis of the report with respect to the program's financial condition. Here are the critical findings:

- 1. Social Security was projected to have a surplus of \$113 billion in 2011. This is based on revenue of \$854.8 billion and outlays of \$741.7 billion. Social Security has three revenue sources: payroll contributions from employers and employees, interest earned on Social Security's U.S. Treasury bond assets, and income taxes on the Social Security benefits paid by those with higher incomes. It is true—but of no consequence—that the \$741.7 billion in benefits paid and administrative costs in 2011 exceed the amount of payroll tax contributions. But that is not surprising, especially in an economic slump. It has happened 16 times since 1958, according to the Social Security Administration. More important, the program continues to have a large annual surplus, even during a major economic downturn when more than 13.7 million Americans are officially unemployed and countless more were forced to retire early and begin collecting Social Security benefits.
- Social Security was projected to be able to pay all benefits until 2037. Social Security's surplus was projected to be \$2.6 trillion in 2011, and the surplus is projected to peak at \$4.2 trillion in 2025. With no action, Social Security will have sufficient income and assets to pay all monthly benefits in full and on time until 2037.

This data shows that Social Security is not in crisis. It also does not contribute to the federal deficit. By law, Social Security cannot borrow and it cannot make benefit payments if it lacks the revenue to cover them. Its only recourse is to cut benefits. That is why Social Security should not be part of any deficit-reduction deal.

The Trustees Report reminds us that lawmakers do need to address Social Security's long-range funding gap, which the 2010 Trustees Report projected would occur in 2037, when the program will be able to pay about 78 percent of benefits through 2084. But there is no need for haste. This long-range funding gap can be closed relatively painlessly by scrapping the payroll tax cap. Congress should raise the Social Security tax cap so that the 6 percent of the population that makes more than \$106,800 a year pays taxes on all of their wages just like everyone else who makes less than that amount has to. This will guarantee that full Social Security benefits can be paid for the next 75 years and beyond.

CARA is continuing to meet with Congressional Rep-

resentatives to demand they be a Champion for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and vote against any cuts to these programs. Specifically, we are collecting stories and postcards for Senator Feinstein. If you have cards to turn in, please send them to the CARA office by the end of May. If you would like to sign a card, go to the CARA website at www.californiaalliance.org.

SB 810 SINGLE PAYER PASSES SENATE HEALTH — BARELY!

On May 4th, California's Senate Health Committee passed SB 810, the California Universal Healthcare Act, on a 5-to-3 vote with one abstention. The vote was delayed one week, as we needed extra time to lobby for a 5th "yes" vote on the 9 member committee. Thank you to all of the CARA members and friends who attended the hearing, and who called Senators Hernandez and Rubio to urge them to vote yes.

Democratic Senator Michael Rubio from Bakersfield said he was going to vote "no," as he wanted to give the national healthcare legislation a chance to succeed. The problem with that position is that under the best-case scenario, California will still have 3 million uninsured residents. When the vote was taken, Senator Rubio abstained. Democratic Senator Ed Hernandez from West Covina said he wanted to weigh his options, and was concerned about getting state waivers to implement a California healthcare plan. When the vote was taken, Senator Hernandez voted YES.

Alameda County Health Plan for Seniors!

Alameda Alliance for Health is a health plan for Alameda County residents. Their Medi-Cal and Medicare programs serve seniors and people with disabilities. Alameda Alliance for Health members have access to local customer service in several languages, no premiums or co-pays when income limits are met, no large network of doctors & specialists, and care coordination, including transportation for health care visits.

To learn more contact them at toll-free 1 (877) 371-2222 Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Lambda Youth Gay Prom

When: Saturday, June 18

Where: Chabot College, Hayward

Time: 7 p.m.-12 a.m.

Please help support this event by volunteering for "our" teens attending! Call (510) 274-8200 and ask them to send you a volunteer application form. This event gets better and better every year. Now we have expanded to Chabot College!

The Gay Prom website is www.gayprom.org.

Send them a tax deductible donation payable made out to Lambda Youth Project!

22646 Second Street

Hayward, CA 94541

June Book Review

Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist and Sexual Renegade

By Justin Spring

Farrar, Straus & Giroux - \$32.50

Sam Steward didn't just emerge from the closet, he demolished the closet altogether. He went from being a respected Professor of English to an erotic rebel and tattoo artist here in the Bay Area.

But Steward was important for other reasons. He was sexually obsessed to the point of requiring sexual contact each day. He kept a detailed and frank record of all his encounters on file cards. He met Dr. Alfred Kinsey, the noted sexologist who represented the gold standard in sex research. Kinsey interviewed him several times and maintained contact with Steward until Kinsey's death in 1956.

Steward is also of interest to students of literature. He struck up a lifelong friendship with Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, and other highly regarded writers.

His card files contained 746 card catalogs dating from 1924 to 1974. The journal he kept from Kinsey ran over 1,000 pages. In later years he adopted the pen name Phil Andros and produced pulp fiction to appeal to the emerging hip crowd of the 1960s.

He gave us three significant works, "Bad Boys and Tough Tattoos," "Dear Sammy: Letters From Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas," and "Chapters from an Autobiography."

Steward struggled with alcoholism all his tortured life and he finally died in 1993 after years of increasingly poor health. Sam Steward will linger in the controversial history of erotic expression for his unending battle against repression of any kind.

- Frank Howell

Reliable Tally of Gay Population Proves Elusive

How many gay, lesbian, and bisexual people are there in the United States?

Until recently, little data existed to accurately answer that question, giving extended life to the claim attributed to Alfred Kinsey's work more than six decades ago that one in 10 adults is gay or bisexual. But that estimate has long been questioned by researchers for, among other things, being based heavily on interviews with prison inmates.

In recent years more surveys have included questions about sexual behavior and identity, giving researchers a better shot at making an estimate. They also have learned how difficult it can be to define homosexuality, and to determine to what extent survey answers are affected by the way the questions are asked.

The Census Bureau, for instance, says it saw the number of people who identified themselves as spouses to someone of the same sex drop by more than 50% in 2008 from a year earlier, just because of how the questionnaire was organized. "It's a very difficult statistical issue," says Howard Hogan, the agency's associate director for demographic programs, about counting same-sex couples.

- The Numbers Guy Blog (http://is.gd/q8HeN7)

After 60 Years, an Unfaded Desire to Make It 'Legal'

By Corey Kilgannon New York Times May 11, 2011 (http://is.gd/makeit)

Adrian Dorr, left, and John Mace have been together for over 60 years. Richard Adrian Dorr first sang for John Mace at the Juilliard School of Music in



1948: a rendition of the show tune "All the Things You Are," in which the singer elegantly explains all the wonderful things his lover is to him. Mr. Mace knew the song intimately and he accompanied Mr. Dorr on piano, with no sheet music. The song ends with the hope that, "someday I'll know this moment divine, when all the things you are, are mine." For Mr. Mace, who is 91, and Mr. Dorr, 83, that moment divine would come with a marriage in New York City, where the couple has lived together for more than 60 years.

"Our friends have told us, 'You two guys should get married in Massachusetts or Connecticut,' but we've always been New Yorkers, and after 61 years of togetherness, we feel we have a right to be married in New York," Mr. Mace said recently inside the sprawling apartment on West End Avenue and 96th Street in Manhattan, where the couple, both of whom are voice teachers, live and work. They have taught the likes of Bette Midler, Vanessa Redgrave, Natasha Richardson, Kim Basinger, and Marsha Mason.

"This couple has lived and loved for 61 years—haven't they waited long enough?" said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry. "They made a commitment and lived life's ups and downs together. They can't wait forever—they deserve the freedom to marry."

The two men attribute the longevity of their relationship to a perfect match in heart and art. They said they would waste no time getting married if it were legal. They would go to City Hall and get their marriage license and have a quiet ceremony.

LGBT Folks in History

Did you know "America the Beautiful" was written by a lesbian? Katharine Lee Bates (1859–1929) was a feminist and professor of English at Wellesley college, where she met her colleague—and later, lover—Katharine Coman. The two spent 25 years together, until Coman's death from cancer in 1915. Bates recorded her love for Coman in a 1922 book of poetry, "Yellow Clover."

City of Fremont at SF Pride!

Lavender Seniors is proud to announce that the City of Fremont, which funds our Fremont Senior Center Lunch, is an entrant in the SF Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26th.

This is due in part to the work of Beth Hoffman and the Human Relations Commission of Fremont. Special thanks to the commission for raising awareness about the LGBT community in Fremont.



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June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Womens Group	3	4
5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9 Senior Mens	10	11 Potluck
12	13	14 PFLAG Newark	15	16 Womens Group	17 Lunch Bunch	18 Fellows GayProm
19	20	21	22	23 Senior Mens	24 South County	25
26 S.F PRIDE	27	28	29	30		

Schedule of Events

June 2nd & 16th — 1:30–3:30 p.m. Support Discussion Group for Aging Queer Women (1st and 3rd Thurs.) - The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley.

June 8th — 7:00–8:30 p.m. Lavender Seniors Board Meeting (Wed. before Potluck) -1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro.

June 9th & 23rd — 1:30–3:30 p.m. Seniors Men's Group (2nd and 4th Thurs.) - The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley. Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center (510) 548-8283

June 11th — 12:00–2:00 p.m. Lavender Seniors Potluck (2nd Sat.) - 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Program: Wendy Albovias, RD

June 14th — 7:30 p.m. PFLAG Meeting (2nd Tues.) - Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 35660 Cedar Blvd., Newark.

June 14th — 1:00–4:00 p.m. 8th Annual LGBT Day Celebration at North Oakland Senior Center - 1901 Hearst Ave. (at MLK Way), Berkeley.

June 17th — 12:30–2:30 p.m. Lavender Seniors Lunch Bunch (3rd Fri.) - North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way. (at 58th St.), Oakland. Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging and Adult Services. Program: Roberta Kaplan

June 18th — Fellows of the East Bay (3rd Sat.) - 1823 9th Street (at Hearst), Berkeley.
Social Hour 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

June 24th — 12:00–2:00 p.m. South County Lunch Bunch and Talk (4th Fri.) - 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont. Sponsor: City of Fremont, Human Services Dept. **Program: TBA**For more information call Dan Ashbrook: (510) 667-9655

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.