



Lavender Notes

December 2012

OUR MISSION

Improving the lives of LGBT older adults with community building, education, and advocacy.

SERVICES:

Friendly Visits

Monthly Lunches

Educational Events

UPCOMING EVENTS:

San Leandro Potluck

Featuring Sounds of Joy, Holiday Music with a Little Twist

Saturday 12/8

Photovoice- No meeting in December

Oakland Lunch Bunch

Friday 12/21

No Fremont Lunch Bunch

Due to Holiday

See Calendar Page 3.

Happy Holiday Lunches!

Be sure to join Lavender Seniors for our San Leandro & Oakland lunch programs for holiday celebrations. The San Leandro Potluck will feature a wide array of catered and potluck food along entertainment by Sounds of Joy, Holiday Music - with a Little Twist. Sounds of Joy will perform music of the holiday season to celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza & Winter Solstice. The group consists of people from various East Bay spiritual centers including Lavender Senior Advisory Board member Carol Hanson. The Oakland lunch will also feature a warm catered lunch and a celebration of the Solstice. For dates, times, and locations see the calendar on page 3 or visit our website at www.lavenderseniors.org and click event listings.

Special Thanks to a Donor

Thank you to an anonymous donor who offered to match \$180 towards money collected at the November potluck! This resulted in \$281 in collected funds for a grand total of \$461 including the \$180 match. These funds will be used to pay for meals and entertainment for this month's holiday potluck. This was the largest collection of donations every from a potluck. Thank you to everyone that contributed!

VA Grants Lav. Srs. Member a Headstone

Lavender Seniors is pleased to announce that the Veteran's Affairs Department did something special for Joe

Gaynor, a Lavender Seniors member that recently lost his battle with Diabetes. They granted Joe a big bronze headstone mounted on marble. This gives Joe a permanent marker for eternity and its beautiful and dignified. A lot of people were touched by Joe's life. This grant by the VA provided a great deal of happiness this holiday season to Joe's partner Liang and his family and friends. Thank you to the VA!

LGBT Leaders Share Wishes for Obama

Source, "Leading Organizations Share Their Wish List With Obama," Article by Winnie McCroy, November 2012, www.sageusa.org

Leading LGBT organizations have outlined a list of goals they would like to see the President meet from HIV funding to protection of service members and seniors, to combating homelessness and bullying. GLAAD Media would like to see gains made on marriage equality and employment discrimination as well as secure open military service for transgender service members. OutServe-SLDN Executive Director and Army Veteran Allyson Robinson would like to see the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and assurance that all service members and their families are treated equally by our military now that Don't Ask Don't Tell has been repealed. SAGE in NY would like to see the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorized in 2013 to include more support for LGBTs. Judy K Evans Marketing and Media Relations on behalf of SAGE said that this fall Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced the LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2012, which proposed several amendments to the OAA that would increase federal funding for LGBT older people including specifying LGBT elders as a population in the greatest social need. "This was a major step forward for *cont. page 2*

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LAVENDER SENIORS
of the East Bay

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Lavender Seniors is a project of Bay Area Community Services (BACS)

Lavender Notes

BOOK REVIEW

Backdrop: The Politics and Personalities Behind Sexual Orientation Research, By Gayle Pitman, Ph.D Active Voice Press, Sacramento, CA

Pitman, a clinical psychologist at Sacramento City College, makes a searching appraisal of those who conduct psychological research regarding sexual orientation. She also casts a critical eye on NARTH and other homophobic organizations who claim to have superior data on gay life styles. She explores the personalities, politics and passions of researchers. Is it appropriate to utilize research to further a social goal? -Frank Howell

LGBT Leaders Wishes Continued from Page 1

elders in every part of the country, and if passed, would mean that LGBT people face a future that supports healthy aging for all Americans," said Evans. Keeping their clients health was a priority for Dr. Marjorie J. Hill, CEO of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in NY. At the top of her wish list was to offer greater mobility in coverage for HIV care and treatment for outside network providers in Medicaid Special Needs Plans as part of Medicaid expansion in participating states. She also stressed the importance of lifting the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange programs, and gaining as many supporters in Congress as possible to ensure its sustainability. GMHC also hoped to continue working with the Department of Justice to implement the National HIV/AIDS Strategy to improve HIV prevention and education in federal prisons. Key priorities for Obama's second term include the passage of ENDA, the repeal of DOMA, protecting funding for the Ryan White CARE Act, working against employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity by government contractors and others who receive federal funding. Many also note they would like to see more inclusive policies toward transgender individuals, including ensuring that they can serve openly in the military. Overall, many LGBT leaders are relieved that Obama won re-election and for other pro-gay gains at the polls, noting that they wanted to ensure that federal funds were not used to discriminate against LGBT people and their families. "The bottom line is that America deserves nothing less than a president who will treat all families fairly. We look forward to working with the President's team to build a stronger future for LGBT people and in creating opportunity for all." said Rea Carey, Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

CARA CORNER

Lavender Seniors is a member of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA). They provide us timely policy information of importance to seniors via press releases.

Medicare Open Enrollment: December 7 Deadline!

Whether you choose original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, take advantage of Medicare's open enrollment period to review cost, coverage, or both for next year. Open enrollment began Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7. It is the one time of year when all beneficiaries can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their coverage. Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.

HOLIDAY RECIPE

Mini Brie & Apple Quiches from Eating Well.com

This holiday season try something that taste great and has only 39 calories, 2grams of fat, 39 mg. of Cholesterol, 3 grams of Carbohydrates, 2 grams Protein, 65 mg. of sodium, and 20 mg of Potassium. This recipe is a healthy, swift, and simple way to create an elegant appetizer. Ingredients: 30 mini phyllo shells (two 1.9 ounce packages available in the freezer section of your grocery store), 1/2 medium peeled and finely diced apple, 5 large eggs, 1 teaspoon salt, pinch of pepper and nutmeg, and 4 ounces of Brie cut into 30 squares. Pre-heat oven to 350F. Arrange phyllo shells on a large parchment-lined baking sheet, divide apple among the shells. Whisk eggs, mustard, salt, pepper, and nutmeg in a large measuring cup. Put the egg mixture over the apple (do not overfill shells) and place a Brie square in each shell. Bake until the egg is set, the Brie is melted and the phyllo is starting to brown around the edges. This takes about 15 minutes, Let cool slightly before serving. The entire recipe takes only 30 minutes, is healthy, and impressive to company. Tip: Phyllo shells do not need to be defrosted before baking. Enjoy!

**Potluck Instructions are now listed on www.lavenderseniors.org.
Click "Event Listings" and information is under "Potluck."**

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is funded by individuals as well as the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, Alameda County Leather Corps, Kaiser Permanente, City of Oakland, City of Fremont, Gay Chemists Support Fund, Horizons Foundation, Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County, San Francisco Foundation, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR) and the True North Foundation.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of all Friends of Lavender Seniors.

Lavender Notes

December 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1 Volunteer Awards
2	3	4	5 BOARD MEETING	6	7	8 Potluck
9	10 No Photovoice Meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Oakland Lunch Bunch	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 No Fremont-Lunch	29

December 1, Lavender Seniors & BACS Volunteer Awards, Noon to 2PM, San Leandro Community Church 1395 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro.

December 6 & 20, 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

December 5, 7PM-8PM, Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting at BACS, 1814 Franklin St. #400 Oakland. A portion of this meeting is open to public.

December 13 & 27, 1:30PM Senior Men's Group, (2nd and 4th Thurs.), 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center Co-Sponsor: Lavender Seniors. Contact the Pacific Center at 510-548-8283

December 8, Noon-2PM, Lavender Seniors Holiday Potluck, (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro Program: Entertainment by Sounds of Joy, Music with a Little Twist.

December 10, No Photovoice meeting. Will Resume in January

December 21, 12:30-2:30PM, Oakland Lunch Bunch Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services, N. Oakland Sr. Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Program: Solstice Celebration

December 28, South County Lunch at Fremont Senior Center cancelled due to holiday.

Become a "Friend of Lavender Seniors" Today!

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

Donate online at www.lavenderseniors.org. or send a check made payable to: Lavender Seniors/BACS or please charge my (circle one): AMEX Mastercard VISA Signature: _____

Card #: _____ Expires: ____/____/____

Name: _____ Address _____

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I would like to make a monthly pledge of \$ _____ Please send me a monthly donation form and envelope.

Please mail to: Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, 1814 Franklin St. 4th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

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