

Lavender Notes

March, 2012

PROP 8 VICTORY!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

OUR MISSION

Improving the lives of LGBT older adults with outreach, education, and Advocacy

SERVICES:

Friendly Visits

Monthly Lunches

Educational Events

UPCOMING

EVENTS:

Potluck Saturday:
March 10

Photovoice Meeting:
March 12

Oakland Lunch Bunch:
March 16

Fremont Lunch:
March 23

See Calendar Page for more information!

On February 7, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional! This ruling upheld Judge Walker's 2010 decision, declaring Proposition 8 unconstitutional and a violation of the civil rights of LGBTs. Lavender Seniors would like to thank the American Foundation for Equal Rights, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal, Equality California, Freedom to Marry, GLAD, the American Civil Liberties Union, and everyone who fought so hard for this.

HUD RULING

WASHINGTON – U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan announced on January 30, new regulations intended to ensure that HUD's core housing programs are open to all eligible persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Donovan previewed the announcement at the 24th National Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Equality – Creating Change. "The Obama Administration has viewed the fight for equality on behalf of the LGBT community as a priority and I'm proud that HUD has been a leader in that fight," said Secretary Shaun Donovan. "With this historic rule, the Administration is saying you cannot use taxpayer dollars to prevent Americans from choosing where they want live on the basis sexual orientation or gender identity – ensuring that HUD's housing programs are open, not to some, not to most, but to all."

(for access to the full Ruling publication log on to: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=5359-F-02EqAccessFinalRule.pdf>)

LGBT ELDERS

Special Report on LGBT Elders - by Frank Howell

At the Commonwealth Club on January 26th a special panel of four experts was assembled to address the subject of LGBT mental and physical health concerns. The four speakers were: Brian de Vries, Professor of Gerontology, San Francisco State University, policy advisor to the AARP Gustavo Serina, member of the Commission on Aging and Adult Services, City and County of San Francisco, Moli Steinert, Executive Director, Stepping Stone, Marvin Burrows, a founding member, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay and the Lighthouse Community, Hayward. Dr. de Vries concentrated on significant demographic facts regarding LGBT elders: The majority of gay men live alone and have no children to look after their needs. They are not married; 12% have never been in a relationship. Their only family of choice consisted of close friends. These seniors have higher rates of disability, *(Continued on page 2)*

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**LAVENDER
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A PROJECT OF BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES (BACS)

LGBT ELDERS**Lavender Notes****CARA CORNER**

(Continued from front page) and poor health like cancer; they are less likely to have health insurance; they suffer from a rate of mental depression that is two and one half higher than the general population: 80% feel they cannot come out of the closet when living in old age care facilities.

Gustavo Serina is an arts writer for the Bay Area Reporter and is active in several LGBT organizations. Mr Serina had a lover for 41 years until his partner died. The couple did an excellent job of estate planning and crafted an advanced health care directive. Moli Steinert, was director of Open House for many years, which fought for special housing for seniors. She is on the San Francisco Long Term Care Committee. Moli highlighted the need for housing built on a single level, with no stairs, mobility is crucial. Stepping Stones is attempting to create affordable housing for elders who face the challenge of isolation and AIDS. Marvin Burrows is quite active with the Hayward Meals on Wheels program and also Marriage Equality USA. Marvin spent 51 years with his lover Bill Swenor. He met Bill when he was 17 years of age. They held joint bank accounts and moved to California together from Michigan. They became registered domestic partners with the state.

Marvin is a founding member of the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, first conceived in 1994. Lavender Seniors holds monthly potlucks in three East Bay locations and holds an annual event each year called Aging in Place, which advocates keeping seniors in the home and avoiding institutional care. They also have a friendly visitors program.

In 2004 Marvin and Bill were married but a few months later California voided their union. When Bill died in 2005 his pension plan benefits were denied to Marvin because he was considered a single man and not a marriage partner. But a local gay rights organization came to his aid and Bills labor union voted to extend full pension rights to Marvin. This is now considered a major legal victory in LGBT history for gay couples.

Potluck Instructions -

Are now listed on www.Lavenderseniors.org website. Click *Event Listings* and information is under **potluck**.

Health Care Reform Law Saves 3.6 Million Americans \$2.1 Billion—Nearly 3.6 million people with Medicare saved \$2.1 billion on their prescription drug costs in 2011 due to the Affordable Care Act, according to data issued on Thursday by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). According to the HHS report (<http://1.usa.gov/yFFyex>), the average person with Medicare will save nearly \$4,200 by 2021 because of the new law. "The data proves that the Affordable Care Act helps seniors," said Barbara J. Easterling, President of the Alliance. "It decreases prescription drug costs, provides free preventive care, and slows the growth of Medicare premiums for physicians services." According to *USA Today* (<http://usat.ly/wdiNyF>), statistics also show that premiums for Medicare Advantage private insurance plans have dropped an average of 7%, and enrollment has grown by 10%, thanks to the 2010 health care overhaul. "This trend counters opposing predictions of dire consequences to enacting health reform, which included a drop in enrollment and a rise in premiums," said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

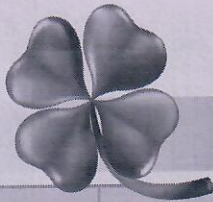
WILLS, TRUSTS & RETIREMENT:**Planned Giving Seminar Sat March 3rd with Deb Kinney**

Learn how to make a lasting difference to the LGBT elder community by using wills, trusts, retirement accounts, life insurance, and real estate, to make donations to Lavender Seniors. Saturday, March 3 from Noon to 2PM, San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave. **Free lunch is included!**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

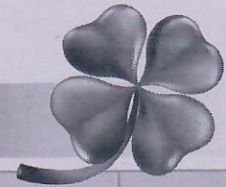
If you haven't yet noticed, Lavender Notes has taken on a new look and feel due to the great efforts of our new Editor—Dave Hossfeld. Dave is a resident of the East Bay, a California Resident Manager, CCRM of an apartment community in El Sobrante and a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, SRES with Better Homes & Gardens in Berkeley. Dave also co-hosts a community talk show ; *Encore! The Talk Show for Seniors* in Berkeley that explores housing, healthcare and happy lifestyles of the seniors community. *Welcome to the family Dave!*

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



Lavender Notes

MARCH 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 ♂♂	2	3
4	5	6	7 Board Mtg	8 ♀♀	9	10 Potluck!
11	12 Photovoice	13	14	15 ♂♂	16 Lunch Bunch	17 Fellows of the East Bay
18	19	20	21	22 ♀♀	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Fremont Lunch	31

Mar. 1st & 15th — 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM: Support Discussion Group for Aging Queer Women, (1st and 3rd Thurs.) -The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby) in Berkeley.

Mar. 7th - 7:00-8:30 PM: Lavender Senior Board Meeting (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro

Mar. 8th & 22nd - 1:30PM: Senior Men's Group. (2nd and 4th Thurs.), 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley at the Pacific Center Co-Sponsor: Pacific Center 510-548-8283

Mar. 10th - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Lavender Seniors Potluck (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro Program: Stagebridge

Mar. 12th — 6:30-7:30PM: Photovoice Meeting, Coffee room at 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro

Mar, 16th - 12:30-2:30 PM: Lunch Bunch Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services. Program Transportation training

Mar. 17th - Fellows of the East Bay (3rd Sat.) 1823 9th Street (at Hearst), Berkeley. Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00.

Mar. 23 — 12:00—2:00PM South County Lunch & Talk About at Fremont Senior Center. Program TBA

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 _____


City/State/ZIP: _____

Email: _____

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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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 other ads. Lavender Seniors reserves the right to accept or reject any ad. * Cost for a 1/2 page insert or one-page insert to *Lavender Notes* for one month may be purchased for: Non-Profits, \$250; For-Profits, \$500. Must be received by 10th of preceding month.