

Lavender Notes

A PROJECT OF BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES (BACS)

June, 2012

Encore! THE TALK SHOW FOR SENIORS...

Cordially invites all Lavender Seniors, PFLAG-S and all others to join us for a very special Seniors Pride Celebration Saturday, June 2nd. With special guest appearances by **Dan Ashbrook** of Lavender Seniors, Allison Rodman of AgeSong at Lake Merritt Hotel, the zany antics of Vinnie & Luigi, Commemorative Gay Pride music, Darlene Phillips and her Band, games, prizes and fun! Door: 1:30 and early-bird parking. **Free to all!** Info: (510) 355-2941 or log on to: www.SLS-Encore.blogspot.com (*Encore is taped before a live audience*)

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:
June 9th,
Photovoice Meeting:
June 11th
Oakland Lunch
Bunch: June 15th,
Fremont Lunch:
June 22nd

See Calendar Page for more information!

Volume 16, Issue 6

LAVENDER
SENIORS
of the East Bay

A SPECIAL NOTE...

Lavender Advocates Inspire Others; I attended the LGBT awareness event hosted by the Photovoice volunteers at the Kenneth Aiken Senior and Community Center in Castro Valley and want to express my appreciation. Although I have been a supporter of equal rights and social justice all my life, this event was very special. You see, I had been struggling with coming out, not as a gay person, but as a leader. Listening to the stories there, I realized that the story of gay people coming out is the story of all of us. We all come into the world as something new, unique, different and wonderful and we all face a world that, because it has never experienced us before, has no room for us. We all have to squeeze in and push out in a hostile world. We are all told by parents and educators that who we are is not really appropriate and, in fact, can be quite dangerous. And so, after some youthful experimenting, (Cont'd Pg 2)

PRIDE @ NBSC!

Don't miss LGBT senior pride on Tuesday June 12 -1PM to 4PM at the North Berkeley Senior Center. Enjoy entertainment, free food, information tables, and much more. The NBSC is located at 1901 Hearst Ave. The senior center has limited parking but is also accessible by Bart and AC Transit buses lines 51 and 79. Lavender Seniors would like to give special recognition to volunteer advocate Reed Willgoren for his vision and dedication to organizing this event. Reed's contributions have established one of the most innovative and unique programs for LGBTs ever organized at a senior center. Thank you Reed and to the North Berkeley Senior Center! For more information call the senior center at 510-981-5190

PHOTOVOICE

For the last 10 months Photovoice volunteers have been busy increasing awareness of LGBT elder issues among South Alameda County Senior Centers with the goal that one senior center would proclaim June as LGBT (Cont'd Pg 2)

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ADVOCATES...**Lavender Notes****CARA CORNER**

(Cont'd) all but the most courageous of us retreat into conformity with the majority group values, hiding our real selves from both ourselves and others in the process, on the "road to Abilene." I am 72 years old and have been hiding my real self for many years. Instead of stepping up, I have criticized both myself and those who did. Lately, I have begun to come out, leaking out, surprising myself, and then getting back in control and retreating. Yet, it is clear that joy lies on the other side of fear and control. Since seeing the panel at the awareness event and hearing their stories, I feel that I am not alone, that we are all coming out in one way or another and we must do so as soon as possible in order that we can be the change that is needed in the world today. Their courage inspired me and I have broken through too. All around me I see others who want and need to come out and can benefit from these stories of courage. Please keep them coming. They are changing the world. Thank you very much. -Sherry

Register now for the Senior Leadership Academy July 5 & 6 at Ed Roberts Campus, 3075 Adeline St. Berkeley and near BART. We need strong senior leaders now and it starts here! This workshop will increase your ability to take your message to policy makers and the media and, it's fun and interactive. Cost is \$25 per person for 2 days and includes lunch snacks and materials. Limited scholarships are available. Space is limited, register by calling 510-663-4086

BOOK REVIEW

Jack Holmes And His Friends By Edmund White Bloomsbury -\$26.00. Edmund White, veteran gay novelist, renowned for his novels "A Boys Own Story," and "The Beautiful Room Is Empty," is now turned the tables somewhat. He confronts us with a gay man, Jack Holmes who is heard over heels in love with Will Wright, who is totally straight. No change is in sight. They meet in New York in the 1950's and we follow their relationship over a period of years. They drift apart, Will marries and then they resumes their friendship. White manages to keep our interest for over three hundred pages and somehow, at the end we still care about their fate of these two fascinating men. -Frank Howell

PHOTOVOICE

(Cont'd) pride month. Through a series of activities that have included surveying staff and consumers on knowledge of LGBT elder issues, trainings and community forms, letter writing campaigns to city officials, and presentations to senior center commissions, the Photovoice volunteers recently achieved a major victory. Their efforts lead to the passing of a proclamation declaring June as LGBT Pride month at the Fremont Senior Center! On June 5 at 7PM Photovoice volunteers will be presented with the proclamation by the Fremont Mayor and City Council and to celebrate, Photovoice volunteers will be hosting a special LGBT senior pride celebration on Friday June 22 from Noon to 2PM also at the Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway. Free lunch is included when you sign in as a Lavender Seniors member at the center's reception desk. This is a historic moment for LGBT seniors as it is one more step in removing barriers that prevent LGBT elders from feeling welcomed and included in senior center activities not only in Fremont but in senior centers in Alameda. Thank you to the City of Fremont and everyone who contributed to this effort!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Lavender Seniors is expanding its Advisory Board. If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of LGBT elders in Alameda County contact Scott Weinzirl at 510- 318-6113. for more information. Persons with nonprofit management skills, advocacy or senior service experience are encouraged to apply.

Fremont Senior Center Pride Lunch—Don't miss the Lavender lunch at Fremont Senior Center on Friday June 22 from Noon to 2PM. There will be great food, prizes, story sharing, and possibly some special guest entertainment. Sign in as a Lavender Seniors member at the reception desk to receive a free meal ticket.

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

JUNE 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 <i>Encore!</i> SLS-Encore.blogspot.com
3	4	5	6	7 ♀♀	8	9 LS Potluck!
10	11 Photovoice	12	13 Board Mtg	14 ♂♂	15 Lunch Bunch	16 Fellows of the East Bay
17	18	19	20	21 ♀♀	22 Fremont Lunch	23
24	25	26	27	28 ♂♂	29	30

Jun 2nd 1:30-3:30 Encore! The Talk Show for Seniors-Gay Pride! Guests include Dan Ashbrook (Lavender Seniors) (Call: 510-355-2941)

Jun 7th & 21st -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.

Jun 9th., 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Potluck Lavender Seniors (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro **Program:** Pride celebrations with story sharing!

Jun 11th., 6:30 PM: Photovoice Meeting, Coffee room at 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro

Jun 13th., 7:00-8:30 PM: Lavender Senior Board Meeting (Wed. before Potluck) 1395 Bancroft Ave. San Leandro

Jun 14th & 28th., 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

Jun 15th., 12:30-2:30 PM: Lunch Bunch Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services, North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Way, Oakland. **Program:** Pride celebrations with story sharing!

Jun 16th, Fellows of the East Bay (3rd Sat.) 1823 9th St (at Hearst), Berkeley. **Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00.**

Jun 22nd., 12:00-2:00PM South County Lunch & Talk About at Fremont Senior Center. **Program:** Pride celebrations with story sharing.

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: _____

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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