

Lavender Notes

July 2012

OUR MISSION

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

SERVICES:

Friendly Visits

Monthly Lunches

Educational Events

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Book Reading at CEI July 6

San Leandro Potluck July 14

Oakland Lunch Bunch July 20

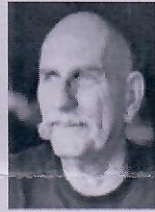
Fremont Lunch July 27

East Bay Pride Picnic July 28

See Calendar Page for more information!

Volume 16, Issue 7

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE



John Edward Ellefsen (born John Edward Steen) Apr. 24, 1933 - May 12, 2012 Resident of San Francisco Husband, father, brother, and friend John died Saturday May 12th, at home in

San Francisco, after a courageous battle with colon cancer. Primarily a Bay Area resident since 1952, John earned his master's degree and was a career social worker in Orange and Alameda counties. Enjoying an early retirement, John focused on writing his autobiography, and taking time to read, drive, travel, and visit. John played a critical role in establishing early funding for Lavender Seniors with his wonderful grant writing and he was among the original founders. His story was also depicted in the Lavender Scrolls Project which is displayed at events throughout the Bay Area to increase awareness of LGBT elders. John, thank you for sharing your life with us! You will be truly missed by family, friends, coworkers, and especially by your partner, Mac. Love and God bless!

PHOTOVOICE WRAP UP

Thank you to the Photovoice volunteers for delivering Lavender Seniors' most successful advocacy initiative to date! During the past 10 months these volunteers have engaged in 9 planning meetings, surveyed more than 150 staff and consumers at the Fremont, Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro, and Newark senior centers, told their personal stories during trainings at the senior centers as well as at senior center commission meetings, and wrote letters to city officials. The end result, Fremont and San Leandro declared June as LGBT Pride month at their senior centers. To celebrate and increase awareness of this monumental achievement, "Photovoice" volunteers decorated the Fremont and San Leandro Senior Centers in rainbow flags and set up the Lavender Scrolls exhibit which depicts the life stories of 8 Lavender Seniors' members. The visibility at the senior centers has increased awareness of the need for LGBT senior outreach as well as created a much more welcoming environment. During the June 22 Fremont lunch program the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus performed and at the San Leandro Senior Center Photovoice volunteers served a thank you cake to the center's patrons during a luncheon. Thanks to Kaiser Permanente for support!

BOOK READING WITH MARGARET MANN

On July 6 at Center for Elder's Independence (CEI) 510 17th Street, Oakland from 7Pm to 9PM Margaret Mann will presenting readings from *A Dramatically Different Direction*. This is a poignant, funny, and heart rendering autobiographical commentary on disability by a 66 year old, bi-racial, lesbian, Buddhist in a wheelchair. With razor sharp wit and well balanced cynicism Margaret shares her unique perspective in a series of essays that offer uplifting insights about the nature of suffering. From her perspective as a Buddhist, Margaret offers advice on how to deal with the sudden onset of a serious disability and the slippery slope of aging. Her works have appeared in *New Mobility Magazine*, *Sinister Wisdom*, *OLOC Reporter* and the *Lesbian Connection*. CEI is wheelchair accessible and close to BART 19th street station. Refreshments will be served from 7-7:30. Talk at 7:30. For more information contact Ellen Gierson at 510-593-8678. This is a no cost event.

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



BOOK REVIEW

Lavender Notes

CARA CORNER

Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America
By Christopher Bram Twelve-Hachette Book Group \$28.00

Who were the pioneering gay writers who risked their careers when it wasn't safe to write in lavender prose. Bram covers them all ranging from Gore Vidal (City and The Pillar) Tennessee Williams (Streetcar Named Desire), James Baldwin (Another Country), Christopher Isherwood (Single Man) and many others.

It is vital that the contributions of these observers of the LGBT scene not be neglected. Bram also takes note of the Lambda Rising Book Report (1987) and the Lambda Book Awards. Thanks to these passionate, committed folks we can now relax and enjoy the fruits of their labors.-Frank Howell

LAV SRS AT LAMDA YOUTH PROM

On Saturday June 9 Lavender Seniors provided outreach to LGBT youth at Lambda Youth Prom at Chabot College in Hayward. Lavender Seniors were on hand hosting an LGBT trivia game table in which youth had to answer LGBT history questions for prizes. The questions were made up of more than 200 years of LGBT history. Out of 21 youth who played, 14 got correct answers and 17 answered incorrectly. Lavender Seniors volunteers noted that there is a need to educate youth about LGBT history. They don't know who Billy Jean King is but the do know Lady Gaga, an LGBT advocate.

EAST BAY PRIDE PICNIC

Where: Cull Canyon Regional Park Time: 11AM-3PM
Free parking and a small entrance fee ranging from \$2.50 to \$3.50 is required and based on age and disability.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

This volunteer corner is dedicated to the Photovoice volunteers and especially to Barbara Jue. Barbara rounded up more the a dozen LGBT seniors who attended San Leandro City Council on Monday June 18 in support of the cities proclamation declaring June as LGBT Pride Month in San Leandro and at the San Leandro Senior Center. Thank you Barbara! Your outreach helped to build awareness of LGBT issues among San Leandro City Officials.

Recession-hit Seniors Forced to Draw from Social Security Early, Many older Americans who lost their jobs in the recession have been forced to claim their Social Security benefits before they had initially planned. About 200,000 more people filed initial claims than the Social Security Administration had predicted in 2009 and 2010. This trend is likely to continue in the near future due to chronic unemployment and under employment. Seniors have been left with no choice but to draw from Social Security as job prospects have lagged behind those of other age groups. The Government Accountability Office reported that less than a third of those aged 55-64 who lost their jobs between 2007 and 2009 had found work by January 2010, compared with 41% of people 25 to 54. An analysis by Richard W. Johnsons of the Urban Institute found that 37% of older workers who lost their jobs between 2007 and 2011 and could not find work claimed Social Security early may prove to be a stopgap for seniors in the short run, but cuts their long-term benefits by up to 20-30% per month compared to those who are able to wait until their full retirement age. "It is such a shame when seniors are forced to draw early from their Social Security because of forces beyond their control," said Barbara J. Easterling, President of the Alliance for Retired Americans. "The Alliance will continue to fight so that all seniors can retire with dignity and on solid financial ground."

WORLD ELDER ABUSE DAY

President Obama proclaimed June 15 as World Elder Abuse Day. Obama wanted to use the day to call attention to the tragedy of elder abuse, which can rob seniors of the security that they have worked their whole lives to build. He also used the day to urge Americans to expose elder abuse, and is calling on federal, state and local officials to protect seniors and prosecute those who abuse them. The Elder Justice Act is one tool at their disposal for doing so. The President is calling on all Americans to learn the signs of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and to raise awareness of the issue in their communities.

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 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

July 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 Margaret Mann Reading at CEI	7
8	9	10	11 BOARD MEETING	12	13	14 Potluck
15	16	17	18	19	20 Oakland Lunch Bunch	21 Fellows of the East Bay
22	23	24	25	26	27 Fremont-Lunch Bunch	28 East Bay Pride Picnic
29	30	31				

July 5 & 19, 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) Berkeley

July 6, 7:00-9PM Book Reading with Margaret Mann, Center for Elder's Independence (CEI), 510 17th St. Oakland

July 11, 7:00-8:30 PM Lavender Senior Board Meeting (Wed. before Potluck) At BACS, 1814 Franklin St. Suite 400 Oakland

July 12 & 26, 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

July 14, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lavender Seniors Potluck (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro Program: Dr. Parrott w/Oakland Zoo

July 17, 12:30-2:30 PM Lunch Bunch Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services, N. Oakland Sr. Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr Way. Program: Art of Moving with John Argue

July 21, Fellows of the East Bay (3rd Sat.) 1823 9th Street (at Hearst), Berkeley. Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00.

July 27, 12:00-2:00PM South County Lunch & Talk About at Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Pkwy Fremont Program: Senior Alcohol & Drug Abuse Awareness with Tenzin Youdon & Todd Mangini,

July 28, 11AM-3PM East Bay Pride Picnic, Cull Canyon Regional Park, Castro Valley, Access Fees range from \$2.50- \$3.50 based on age.

Become a "Friend of Lavender Seniors" Today!

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

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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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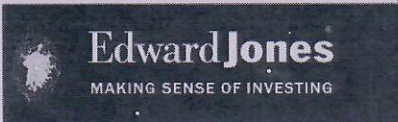
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