



Lavender Notes

January 2013

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
Saturday 1/12

Photovoice
Monday 1/14

Oakland Lunch Bunch
Friday 1/18

Fremont Lunch Bunch
Friday 1/25

See Calendar on page 3 for more details.

Volume 17, Issue 1

LAVENDER SENIORS
of the East Bay

Photovoice in 2013

Our Photovoice team is working hard to implement LGBT training programs at senior service agencies in South Alameda County. This year the group will also work to implement "Gay 101 for Seniors" a groundbreaking curriculum written by 2 members of the team and designed for senior centers to implement on their own. This curriculum is designed to provide a window into LGBT terminology history and resources for senior center consumers. For Photovoice team meeting information see the page 3 calendar.

In Memory of

Michael F. Crowe passed away Friday, October 26, after a long illness. He was founder and former President of the Art DECO Society of California. He served as a President of the California Preservation Foundation. He also served on the Board of the Oakland Heritage Alliance. Michael had retired from the National Park Service where he worked with the National Historic Landmark program. He was most active in the preservation community. Michael is survived by his husband, Dan Jepson of Newark, CA and three sisters, Kathleen Sonderman, Caroline Lemmink and Mary Rebold, all of Cincinnati, OH. Claudia Kathleen Kenworthy born 26 April 1946 passed away on November 21. Claudia was an active member of our community serving in the medical world, as a religious leader, and as a friend to many. She gave a lot of time and herself to others. Claudia will be remembered at Lavender Seniors for her work as a cultural competency training speaker.

When Loved Ones Pass

If your loved one was a veteran, you may be able to get assistance with the funeral, burial plot, or other benefits. For information on benefits call the Veterans Administration at 800-827-1000. You will need a copy of your loved one's discharge papers. Obtain copies of the Death Certificate from your funeral director. If your loved one was receiving Social Security benefits, notify your local Social Security office of the death, since these benefits will stop. Your Funeral Director will also fax a form "Statement of Death By Funeral Director." Overpayments will result in a difficult process of repayment. If you are a surviving spouse, ask about your eligibility for increased benefits. Also, check on benefits that any minor children may be entitled to receive. Contact the health insurance company or employer regarding terminating coverage for the deceased while continuing coverage for others covered through the policy. Contact the insurance company for all life insurance policies. You will need to provide the policy number and a certified copy of the death certificate and fill out a claim form. Your Funeral Director can call on your behalf to see if the amount is assignable to the Funeral Home to pay for expenses and have the claim form faxed to the Funeral Home for you to sign immediately. This can speed up the process to lessen the burden of paying the bill. The balance will then be sent to the named beneficiary on the policy. If the deceased is listed as the beneficiary on any other policy, arrange to have the name removed. If the deceased is listed as the beneficiary on any other policy, arrange to have the name removed. If the deceased was working, contact the employer for information on pension plans, credit unions and union death benefits. You will need a certified copy of the death certificate for each claim. Return credit cards of the deceased with a certified copy of the death

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www.lavenderseniors.org

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

Lavender Notes

BOOK REVIEW

A Passionate Engagement: A Memoir, By Ken Harvey
Aequitas Books-\$18.00-Paperback

With all the books about gay marriage flooding the marketplace it isn't often that we see an intimate view of a gay couple and how they relate to each other. Mr. Harvey fills that gap. He and his partner Bruce have been together for over ten years. They met by way of a personal ad in a newspaper and moved in together a few months later.

Ken came out to his mother at age 37. The entire affair is played out against the struggle for marriage equality in Massachusetts. Wedding plans are made while the couple wait for a decision from the legislature. The wedding ceremony is held on the birthday of Martin Luther King.

Ken and Bruce move into their first house and are greeted with vandals: smashed windows and flat tires. It doesn't always pay to have gay slogans on your car windows!

Ken Harvey won the Violet Quill Award For Gay Fiction-"If You Were With Me Everything Would Be All Right."

Read this book and then find a passionate mate!

-Frank Howell

-continued from page 1 certificate, or notify the credit card company if you, as the survivor, want to retain use of the card. If there is a balance, you may be responsible to pay it at the time of contacting the agency and notifying them of the death. Seek the advice of an accountant or tax advisor about filing the deceased's tax return for the year of the death. Keep monthly bank statements on all individual and joint accounts that show the account balance on the day of death, you will need this information for the estate tax return. Arrange to change any joint bank accounts into your name. If the deceased's estate is in trust, check with the Trust Department or Customer Service at the bank. If the deceased owned a car, transfer the title into your name at the Secretary of State's Office, DMV, or if the estate is probated, through Probate Court. Arrange to change stocks and bonds into your name. Your bank or stockbroker will have the forms. Make sure that bills, such as mortgage payments, continue to be paid. Documents you may need to complete the tasks: Death Certificates (10 - 15 certified copies), Social Security Card, Marriage Certificate, Birth Certificate, Birth Certificate for each child, if applicable Insurance Policies, Deed and Titles to Property Stock, Certificates, Bank Books, Honorable Discharge Papers for a Veteran and/or V.A. Claim Number, Recent Income Tax Forms and W-2 Forms Automobile Title and Registration Papers

CARA CORNER

Have you heard about House Speaker John Boehner's plan to lower the deficit? Cut Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, and raise the age when you can begin receiving the benefits that you paid for and earned. Instead of eliminating tax breaks for the wealthiest 2 percent of the country, Boehner is asking those with the least to sacrifice the most. Seniors and activists of all ages have gathered at the U.S. Capitol to send a loud and clear message: Hell No! Add your voice by telling your Senators and U.S. Representative to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and to end tax breaks for millionaires. Call your Congress member, U.S. Senators and President Obama right away. The toll free number is: 877-762-8762 / Capitol Switchboard. Social Security has not added one penny to the deficit. Medicare and Medicaid have improved the lives of millions of Americans. These vital programs have not caused our deficit. Instead, reckless tax cuts and loopholes for the wealthiest and greedy Wall Street behavior have. It's time for us to tell Congress hands off Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Make those who caused the deficit pay for it. Let's not be the last generation to retire – contact Congress today!! Thank you!

JANUARY 10TH – SAVE THE DATE

PRESS CONFERENCE AND RALLIES FOR 2013 STATE BUDGET RELEASE

CARA's message: Reinvest in California's families, seniors and people with disabilities. Rallies will be held in San Francisco, San Jose, Fresno, Los Angeles, and Riverside. Stay tuned for more details.

POINTS OF LIFE AT JANUARY POTLUCK

Points of Life is a presentation for boomers and parents who want to enjoy life's next stage. The presentation will feature a combination of professionals which may include senior living specialists, an estate planning attorney, financial planner, geriatric care managers and more. Special thanks to Katharina Dress, mediator, facilitator and conflict resolution coach for organizing this team of professionals.

**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

January 2013



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 BOARD MEETING	10	11	12 Potluck
13	14 Photovoice Meeting 6:30P	15	16	17	18 <u>Oakland Lunch Bunch</u>	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <u>Fremont-Lunch</u>	26
27	28	29	30	31	28	29

January 3 & 17, 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

January 9, 7PM-8PM, Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting at BACS, 1814 Franklin St. #400 Oakland. A portion of this meeting is open to public.

January 10 & 24, 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

January 12, Noon-2PM, Lavender Seniors Potluck, (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro **Program: Points of Life-Various Professional Services for Seniors. Please refer to www.lavenderseniors.org for potluck instructions.**

January 14, 6:30PM, Photovoice Meeting, San Leandro Community Church 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro

January 18, 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: To be announced on website at lavenderseniors.org

January 25, Noon-2PM South County Lunch at Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont Program: To be announced on website at www.lavenderseniors.org.

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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