



Lavender Notes

February 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 2/9

Photovoice
Monday 2/11

Oakland Lunch Bunch
Friday 2/15

Fremont Lunch Bunch
Friday 2/22

See Calendar on page 3 for more details.

Volume 17, Issue 2

LAVENDER SENIORS
of the East Bay

2013 Genny Awards

Each year, The Gennys recognize the most important changes towards a greater quality of life for LGBT older people. Weighted voting by professionals and the public took place in December. The Genny Awards are named after "Gen Silent", the critically-acclaimed documentary that sheds light on the unique issues facing LGBT seniors. Here are the results: 9. The Diverse Elders Coalition Report In July. The Diverse Elders Coalition released "Securing Our Future: Advancing Economic Security for Diverse Elders." The report described issues facing elders of color and LGBT elders and offers policy recommendations in key areas of their well-being including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and health care reform. 8. Prop 8 and Parts of DOMA found unconstitutional but high court has final say, millions now wait for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear several cases that could decide marriage equality nationwide. 7. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Issues New Rules Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity. In January the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Shaun Donovan, announced new regulations to ensure that housing that receives HUD funding is open to all eligible regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. 6. New Research: "Sexual Minority Stress Risk" for Older Gays" A groundbreaking study published in the American Journal of Public Health explored the mental health of older gay men who survived the AIDS crisis and came of age during the gay rights movement. Researchers led by Richard G. - **continued on page 2**

Reflections - Hayward's Gay Prom

The beginning for me was the Rally and March to City Hall where many local activists asked Hayward's city council to help fund Gay Prom. That in itself was exciting. So in 1995 the first Gay Prom was held. It was exciting and many youth showed up. Why did I get involved? Because when I was 17 I had been kicked out by my dad because I was gay and moved in with my boyfriend and his mother. I kept going to school even though it was many miles from where I now lived. When I graduated I did not go to my school's prom because I could not take my boyfriend so this was a way to give the youth of today what I could not enjoy. So I became a Volunteer AKA Chaperon and had a ball watching those scared kids walk up to the entrance to Centennial Hall with all the protesters screaming very nasty things and holding up awful signs and cursing at the youth even though they had brought their young children with them. The fun thing was that the Chaperons wore fancy dress and Tuxedos. The youth had designed the décor of the prom and decided to dress in the same motif. They were SO proud of how well they had succeeded. I think the success of Gay Prom was because the youth made it their own and the staff and volunteers supported them and gave them a safe venue to be themselves. Some youth had their parents bring them and pick them up after. A coat room, food and refreshments were provided for both the youth and volunteers. King and Queen, Best Dressed contest and a professional photo service was also provided. And a game room where they could relax, have some fun when not dancing and win prizes is also part of gay prom. Police protected them and escorts were provided in case they needed to go to their cars. VIP's we given escorted tours. Over the years popularity grew and the youth came from far and wide. TV stations wanted

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www.lavenderseniors.org

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

Lavender Notes

BOOK REVIEW

"My Husband and My Wives: A Gay Man's Odyssey By Charles Rowan Beye Farrar, Straus & Giroux-\$26.00

The boom in gay romance continues unabated. Beye is a retired Professor of Ancient Greek. He has zipped through two straight marriages and four children. He and his lover have been united for over 20 years. He is now in his 80's. Charles was quite popular in high school and accepted by his fellow students. Beye's recital of his academic career is a bit dull but his love life overflowed with endless love affairs. Charlie meets the love of his life, Richard who is age 46. Charlie is 60 at the time. They have a ceremony and 140 people are invited. "Gay Mans Odyssey" is highly entertaining and has a positive uplift. -Frank Howell

Reflections-Hayward Gay Prom Continued from page 1

to take part. Celebrities and local politicians showed up. Each year the attendance increased from a small group at the beginning to over 500 at times. Attendance has dropped since Gay Prom lost Centennial Hall and moved to several different locations. Gay Prom is searching for a new location closer to bus, BART and the downtown area. For me personally the journey has been a joy and I am so proud that I have been a small part of Gay Prom along with many regular and one time volunteers that no words can really express. The looks on the faces of the youth as they enter through the Reception Line is an experience you have to see in person. So next year in June we hope to see you there too. It is an experience you will cherish!
-Marvin Burrows

Genny's Continued from page 1 - Wright of the Williams Institute at UCLA, found that in addition to stigma experienced as a result of their sexual identity, older gay men's mental health was also impacted by loss of peers to AIDS. 5. AoA Issues Guidelines Inclusive of Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity. In July the Administration on Aging released new guidelines empowering Area Agencies on Aging that receive AoA funds to prioritize funding, outreach, and data collection based on the clarified definition of "greatest social need" that is inclusive of LGBT older adults. 4. White House Conference on LGBT Aging, In May, The White House hosted a conference on LGBT Aging in Miami giving local leaders and advocates for LGBT elders another groundbreaking opportunity to consult with key officials at the national level, including Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee. 3. Marriage Equality and LGBT candidates win big in November. In Maryland, marriage equality won by popular vote. In Wisconsin, the first

openly gay person was elected to the US Senate. The wins reflected success for a number of similar candidates and measures around the country. 2. LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2012 Introduced. In September, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced the LGBT Elder Americans Act which would classify LGBT elders as a vulnerable population, permanently establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, improve data collection, and prioritize grants for organizations working to improve LGBT health, long-term care, and access to culturally appropriate services. 1. Social Security Equality Act of 2012. The Social Security Act of 2012, introduced by Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, would eliminate the SSA's policy that denies same-sex couples the same benefits as married heterosexual couples. -By Gen Silent & The Genny Awards

SPECIAL THANK YOU

To Barbara Faulkner who donated \$1K to LS in memory of her mom Ellen Allred. Ellen came to fully accept Barbara's lifestyle after seeking counseling and changing churches. These changes brought them closer together in later years.

CARA CORNER

FEBRUARY 11TH - MARCH AND RALLY FOR MEDICARE FOR ALL Rally at 12 noon - North Steps of the Capitol, Sacramento Join the CA Health Professional Students Association, CARA and the Campaign for a Healthy California for the kick off of this year's campaign to win real health care for all in California. Buses will leave from various locations around the state. Call the contact to reserve a seat today. There will be a march leaving the Embassy Suites Hotel on the Capitol Mall at 11am, followed by a rally at 12 noon at the Capitol (North Steps) and then a march to the Association of Health Plans office (3 blocks from Capitol). Lunch will be provided after the rally. Reserve your seat on a bus today, or meet us at the march or rally. This is always a fun and exciting event - you don't want to miss it. East Bay bus pick up locations are (call to reserve a seat): Richmond - Target at 42nd and MacDonald Ave at 9:30am (reserve a seat through CARA at 510-663-4086) Berkeley - Ashby Bart at 9am (reserve a seat through CARA at 510-663-4086).

**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

February 2013



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

February 7 & 21, 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

February 6, 7PM-8PM, Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting at BACS, 1814 Franklin St. #400 Oakland. A portion of this meeting is open to public.

February 14 & 28, 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

February 9, Noon-2PM, Lavender Seniors Potluck, (2nd Sat.) 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro **Program: To be announced on website. Please refer to www.lavenderseniors.org for program and potluck instructions.**

February 11, 6:30PM, Photovoice Meeting, San Leandro Community Church 1395 Bancroft Ave, San Leandro

February 15, 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

February 22, 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: _____

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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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