

Lavender Notes

May 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 5/11

Photovoice
Monday 5/13

Oakland Lunch Bunch
Friday 5/17

Fremont Lunch Bunch
Friday 5/24

See Calendar on page 3 for more details.

Volume 17, Issue 5

LAVENDER
SENIORS
of the East Bay

May Potluck at All Saints Episcopal

The San Leandro 2nd Saturday Potluck will be meeting at **All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577**, near the 580 Freeway and Dutton Ave. See you on Saturday the 11th at noon!

BOOK REVIEW

Pray The Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays"
By Bernadette Barton
New York University Press

We are already familiar with LGBT battles win cities across the country, but many of us are less familiar with the struggles faced by sexual minorities in the "Bible Belt" areas of the deep south, especially the rural areas. There are few allies available. The fundamentals rule the roost. Barton is professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Morehead State University. She interviewed 59 gays and lesbians aged 18 to 74. In the conservative churches the laying on of hands is frequently used as a means of "healing" gays and lesbians. Parents of gays are frequently punished for failing to prevent lavender feelings in their children. In one church the choir director died of AIDS and relatives were forced to find another location for the funeral. The Southern Baptist Seminary launched an aggressive campaign to drive out liberal professors from religious colleges and universities. Classes were purged of world music and theater. Barton brings home in vivid prose the active threat that still remains for LGBT folks in rural areas. -Frank Howell

"FOCUS ON EQUALITY"

"Focus On Equality" was the theme of the Institute on Aging's LGBT Conference in San Francisco on April 10th. The message: SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THE COMMUNITY NEED TO BECOME EDUCATED ABOUT THE UNIQUE HISTORIES, LIVES AND NEEDS OF LGBT SENIORS. "The greater the training, the greater provider equitability" says Michelle Alcedo, Director of Programs at Openhouse-SF. Dr. Claire Pomeroy, MD, MBA and CEO of the UC Davis Health System declares that LGBT's experience unconscionable health discrepancies that only get worse as they age. "LGBT's, minorities and the poor all suffer shameful disparities from a broken healthcare system" she says. "Health is not just about medical care; it is about the whole person." George Gascon, District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco stresses that the community and providers of LGBT elder well-being "...can't wait for complaints to come to us; we must seek out those people who are victimized and isolated".

Most speakers pointed out that the inequalities transgender elders experience is often twice that of LGBs. It was pointed out by attorneys from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) that the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs now has a policy to provide care and equal treatment for transgendered people. Angela Perone, JD, Staff Attorney, NCLR, and Daniel R. Redman, JD, Associate at DLKLawGroup spoke of ongoing efforts for LGBT marriage and domestic partner benefits. State and federal benefits of life partners should be applied for, they say, even though they are currently not allowed. When equal laws are passed, you may be awarded retroactively from the date you applied!

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

Lavender Notes

NEW LGBT LEGISLATION Submitted by Kate Burch at Health Access

A lot of legislation important to LGBT communities is being discussed in the California Assembly and Senate. Below is a chart with important information on these bills. You may find more information and updates at www.eqca.org.

AB 362 (Ting)	Income Tax Exemption: Provides an exemption from state taxes for additional income an employer provides to make up for federal taxes the employee would otherwise pay to add a same-sex partner (and/or their dependents) to their insurance.
AB 420 (Dickinson)	School Discipline: Prevents students from being suspended for willful defiance and puts a process in place with alternative discipline options.
AB 496 (Gordon)	Cultural Competency: Appoints a representative of the LGBT community to an existing task force on cultural competency for health care providers; makes clear that cultural competency training should include LGBT issues
AB 663 (Gomez)	Residential Care Training: Requires that training for residential care facility administrators include cultural competency and sensitivity in aging LGBT issues.
AB 1121 (Atkins)	Accurate Documents: Will help ensure that transgender people have access to identity documents that accurately reflect the name and gender that correspond to their gender identity.
AB 1266 (Ammiano)	School Success and Opportunities Act: allows students to participate in school activities and facilities that match their gender identity.
SB 138 (Hernandez)	Confidentiality: Specifies how health care providers would be required to maintain confidentiality of adults under 26 years of age who are insured as dependents on another person's policy.
SB 323 (Lara)	Nondiscrimination in Youth Programs: Ensures that nonprofit youth organizations that receive special state tax privileges comply with California's nondiscrimination laws.

Announcement

Reed Wilgoren is happy to report that Sheila Burgos is doing well after having open heart surgery on March 18th. Sheila, who was an active member of the lesbian and gay community when she lived in Oakland, now lives with her partner, Jinni, in Moss Beach. Have a speedy recovery Sheila!

Save the Date! Gay Day at North Berkeley Senior Center

The fun and festive annual celebration for LGBT's is set for June 11th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. in Berkeley. Reed Wilgoren is on the lookout for volunteers. He can be reached at (925) 891-4551

Connect with LGBTQ Older Adults! Come to The Lighthouse LGBTQ Community Center at 1217 A Street in Hayward on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm to check out the newest Peer Group: **OUT-STANDING SENIORS: a safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information and support.** Sponsored by Pacific Center, the groups are facilitated by trained peers and are drop in. Peer Groups are NOT therapy groups. There is no fee required to participate but donations are welcome. We following the established Pacific Center policies: no smoking, drug and alcohol free, scent aware, sex-positive and sex-free space. The Lighthouse is an accessible space. Email the group at: outstandingseniors@pacificcenter.org. For more information go to <http://pacificcenter.org/community-programs/peer-groups> or call the Pacific Center at 510-548-8283.

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.

May 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9 ♀♀	10	11 Potluck
12	13 Photovoice Meeting 6:30P	14 OutStanding Seniors 1:00	15	16 ♂♂	17 Oakland Lunch Bunch	18
19	20	21	22	23 ♀♀	24 Fremont-Lunch	25
26	27	28 Outstanding Seniors 1:00	29	30 ♂♂	31	

May 2 & 16, 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

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

May 9 & 23, 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

May 11, Noon-2PM, Lavender Seniors Potluck, (2nd Sat.) All Saints Episcopal Church 911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro **Program:** Harbage Consulting - focus group for LGBT senior input on the states' Cal MediConnect program.

May 13, 6:00PM, Photovoice Meeting, The Neighborhood Center at All Saint Episcopal, 911 Dowling Blvd. San Leandro

May 14 & 28, 1:00-3:00, OutStanding Seniors Peer Group, 1217 A St., Hayward Lighthouse LGBTQ Center.

May 17, 12:00-2:00PM, Oakland Lunch Bunch Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services, N. Oakland Sr. Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, **Program:** See Lavender Senior Website

May 24, Noon-2PM South County Lunch at Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont. **Program:** See Lavender Senior Website.

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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