

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

SM
sage

Matters

FALL 2011

**INTRODUCING THE
SAGE NEW YORK CITY
COMMUNITIES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**A LOOK BACK AT
AN ACTION-PACKED
SPRING & SUMMER**

**SAGE CELEBRATES
MARRIAGE EQUALITY
IN NEW YORK**



sage Matters

SAGEMatters is the triannual magazine of Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), the country's largest and oldest nonprofit agency dedicated to serving LGBT older people. Our mission is to take the lead in addressing issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) aging. In partnership with its constituents and allies, SAGE works to achieve a high quality of life for LGBT older adults, supports and advocates for their rights, fosters a greater understanding of aging in all communities, and promotes positive images of LGBT life in later years.

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every year, summer in New York City kicks off with a month of Pride celebrations—and what a summer we've had! As always, SAGE represented and reached out to LGBT elders at Pride events throughout the city, capping off the month with the Pride march—which was even more joyous than usual because we, along with the rest of the state's LGBT community, were celebrating the passage of marriage equality in New York State. One month later, I was thrilled to attend the wedding of Connie and Phyllis, who met at SAGE over 20 years ago, as they became the first same-sex couple to legally wed in New York City (pictured on our cover).



Seeing their brief but moving ceremony was a perfect end cap to several months of good news for LGBT older adults. This spring, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced several actions it will take to improve the health and well-being of LGBT people. For LGBT older people, the most significant announcement was that HHS will instruct the States that they are empowered to treat same-sex partners the same as married heterosexual couples when it comes to protection from "spousal impoverishment" under Medicaid.

Medicaid currently requires an individual to spend down all of his or her assets to become eligible for long-term care coverage such as nursing care, assisted living and home care. For married heterosexual couples, Medicaid has exemptions to avoid forcing a healthy spouse to give up the family home and retirement savings—therefore living in poverty—to qualify a spouse for long-term care. Until now, most LGBT older couples have been denied these fundamental protections. HHS has sent guidance to states on extending spousal impoverishment protections; in the coming months, you'll hear more from SAGE as we lead work across the country to ensure that states extend these protections to all couples.

SAGE is also setting its sights on the Older Americans Act (OAA), the country's leading vehicle for funding and delivering supportive services to older people. The OAA is up for reauthorization this year, providing an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that its sizable resources support LGBT older people. We have a good start on this. Earlier this year, SAGE released its recommendations on OAA in the policy brief *LGBT Older Adults and Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act*. This was followed by the release of consensus recommendations on OAA from the influential Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, which included eight recommendations specific to LGBT elders, as well as racially and ethnically diverse elders, and older adults with HIV/AIDS.

This is just a small taste of the victories we've helped achieve over the past few months, which are detailed throughout this issue of *SAGEMatters*. And we still have much work ahead of us to ensure that the local, state and federal policies designed to protect our country's elders extend to LGBT older adults as well, improving their chances of a healthy and happy aging future. Thank you for your continued support as we work to make this future a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Adams".

Michael Adams, Executive Director

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Did you know you can give online? Visit sageusa.org/donate

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On the cover: On July 24, Phyllis Siegal and Connie Kopolov became the first couple to legally marry in New York City. Several witnesses, including NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn, SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams, and New York State Senator Tom Duane, attended.

Drawing on the Wisdom of LGBT Older Adults

The SAGE NYC Communities Advisory Council

One Sunday in May, more than 150 SAGE constituents, staff and supporters convened for the Second Annual SAGE Communities Gathering. This special meeting was an opportunity to showcase our successes over the past year, preview upcoming work and to hear from SAGE's members. But this year's gathering had another purpose: it served as the debut of the newly formed SAGE New York City Communities Advisory Council (CAC).

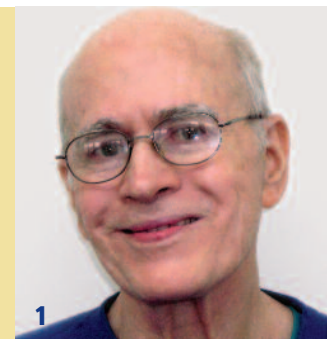
From the beginning, SAGE's work has been informed by the voices, needs and actions of LGBT older adults. In keeping

Chosen through an open application and interview process, members of the CAC have committed to serving for two years, attending six or more meetings per year, listening and respecting divergent view points, and remembering to represent everyone's interests, even when it may conflict with their own. The first CAC includes 12 constituent members and two SAGE staff members.

To submit ideas, concerns or feedback, to the CAC, please visit sageusa.org, email nycsagecac@sageusa.org, or speak to any of the members, profiled here.

"TO ME, THE BEST PART ABOUT GROWING OLD AS A GAY MAN IS THE FEELING OF BELONGING I HAVE HERE AT SAGE, A FEELING THAT COMES FROM A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY."

— RICK BRENNAN



1 RICK BRENNAN

Constituent Member

Rick first heard about SAGE over 25 years ago when he left the Jesuit Priesthood, where he had spent over a decade serving as a priest. However, it wasn't until about eight years ago, when he started doing advocacy work with SAGE

Continued on next page

with this tradition, and in response to requests from constituents, SAGE formed the CAC—a group of engaged, passionate and invested older adults who serve and represent the interests of the LGBT older adults who participate in SAGE programs and services. The CAC's mission is to engage in dialogue with SAGE's diverse communities and staff to ensure the most effective implementation of SAGE's Strategic Plan, specifically its work throughout New York City.

on issues that mattered to him and other LGBT older adults, that he became really involved. Rick applied to be a CAC member because he wanted to give back a bit of the help he has received over the years; “To me, the best part about growing old as a gay man is the feeling of belonging



2



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in my life, I hope to represent the Friendly Visitor community and be a voice for my generation in this important Council. I plan on being an active member of the SAGE community for the next 50+ years!”

3 **DIANE FUTRELL** Constituent Member

Diane grew up in Central Harlem and, aside from her college years, has never left. While Diane has regularly attended the SAGE Women’s Dances for years, she says that having an office in Harlem motivated her to become more involved:

Geo first learned about the organization through his doctor, who recommended he seek out a safe space to meet other gay men and share life experiences among supportive friends and allies. “Through SAGE, I have found the beauty of growing old and LGBT. Now I walk alongside my friends and other people in the LGBT community and know that we are walking together, as a community, and I am proud to be a part of it.”

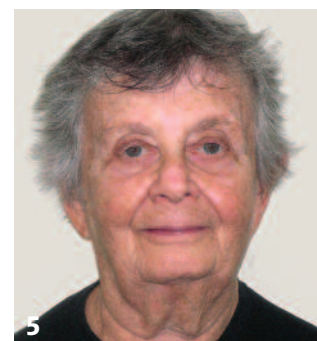
5 **RUBY JUSTER** Constituent Member

Ruby first heard about SAGE in the 1980s from former Executive Director Ken

“WHEN I WAS YOUNG, LESBIANS AND GAY MEN LIVED QUIETLY AND—OUT OF FEAR—HIDDEN, ESPECIALLY DURING THE ERA OF POLICE RAIDS ON GAY OR LESBIAN ESTABLISHMENTS. NOW, HOWEVER, I FEEL I CAN BE WHO I AM OPENLY AND PROUDLY.” — **RUBY JUSTER**



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I have here at SAGE, a feeling that comes from a supportive community. I decided to join the CAC because it gives me the chance to give back to SAGE and those who have helped me throughout the years.”

2 **BRIAN DONNELLY** Constituent Member

Despite living all over the world, from Wurzburg, Germany to Houston, Texas, Brian Donnelly considers New York City his home. He learned about SAGE at a Manhattan Pride March and began researching volunteer opportunities with the organization. Brian has been a Friendly Visitor ever since: “Although I am not considered an older adult at this point

“When SAGE Harlem opened, I started attending the Women’s Group and participating in other activities hosted there. It was so wonderful that SAGE opened a space in Harlem where we can be out and open in a neighborhood traditionally unknown for having an LGBT community.” As a part of the first CAC, Diane hopes to advocate for additional LGBT aging resources in the Bronx, Northern Manhattan and Harlem.

4 **GEONALDO GENAO** Constituent Member

Geo was born and raised in the Dominican Republic but is a New Yorker at heart. A familiar face at SAGE,

Dawson, and went on to serve as a SAGE Board Member, a SAGE representative on the NYC Department for the Aging’s Advisory Council and Chair of the Women’s Task Force (creator of the SAGE’s Women’s Dances, an event in which Ruby continues to participate). To Ruby, the best part about growing old as an LGBT person is the cultural shift she has witnessed during her lifetime: “When I was young, lesbians and gay men lived quietly and—out of fear—hidden, especially during the era of police raids on gay or lesbian establishments. Now, however, I feel I can be who I am openly and proudly.”

6 JAY KALLIO

Constituent Member

Although he grew up in New Jersey, Jay considers New York City's Chelsea neighborhood to be home. Because of his experiences facing homophobia from the time he was a teenager, Jay has dedicated himself to LGBT rights and justice. Jay applied to be a CAC member because of his unique experiences as an LGBT person: "I believe I have a particular sensitivity to the issues of every letter in the acronym 'LGBT,' having been identified and been regarded as every 'letter' by society over the course of my lifetime. I try my best to understand the

invested ever since. He said, "The SAGE Communities Advisory Council is a goal I have had for years, where constituents have an arena to present perspectives to help the organization grow. Being a member of this Council is just another logical outgrowth of my beliefs in a socially just world."

8 MICHELLE LAGUERRE

Staff Member

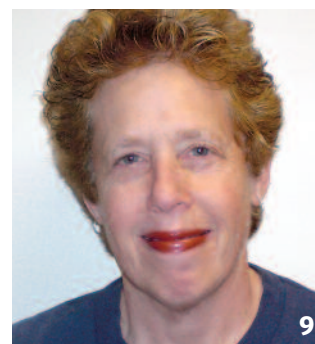
Michelle is a licensed social worker with over 15 years working in the social services field. She is also well-versed on the social and cultural issues that impact NYC's LGBT older adults' day-to-day lives.

interested: "I applied to be a member because I wanted to give back a little bit of the support I have received from SAGE. When my partner had a stroke, SAGE gave invaluable support to both her and me, and I want to be able to continue this culture of support for others that might similarly need it."

10 SHANTI

Constituent Member

Shanti, who grew up in Queens, is one of the few CAC members who is a native New Yorker. She became involved with SAGE through volunteering at the Women's Dances, and her interest grew



many perspectives of our community, particularly those of transgender experience, which is often overlooked and forgotten in the LGBT community."

7 HAROLD KOODEN

Constituent Member

Harold, now 74, has been "out" to the world since being arrested at age 14 for being gay. He has been with his partner for ten years, and is in excellent health despite being HIV-positive since 1987 and receiving an AIDS diagnosis in 1993. Harold helped raise money to support SAGE in its early years by reaching out to his colleagues in the clinical psychology field and has been

She has worked at SAGE for two years and currently serves as the Friendly Visitor Program Manager. In this role she leads Friendly Visiting Program trainings, screens volunteers and clients, and finds matching pairs. Michelle is also involved in SAGECAP, SAGE's innovative LGBT caregiving program that assists LGBT caregivers with caring for their loved ones and preparing for their own future.

9 ROBERTA RAEURN

Constituent Member

As with fellow Council Member Ruby Juster, Roberta was introduced to SAGE by former Executive Director Ken Dawson. When Roberta learned that SAGE was forming a CAC, she was immediately

when SAGE Harlem opened: "I received such a warm reception at SAGE Harlem and had such a positive feeling about it that I wanted to become more involved. Soon thereafter, I started co-facilitating the Women's Group at SAGE Harlem." Through her work on the Council, Shanti hopes to continue fostering LGBT safe spaces in NYC neighborhoods and to help community members find the resources they need.

11 GEORGE STEWART

Constituent Member

Raised in Baltimore, Maryland, George enlisted in the U.S. Army when he turned 18 and served proudly for 13 years.

Continued on next page

After being discharged in 1964, George took a trip to New York City. He immediately fell in love with the city and has never looked back! George has been a SAGE volunteer ever since



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13 **SANDY WARSHAW** Constituent Member

Sandy has been active with SAGE for years, as a volunteer, staff member, and

14 **TOM WEBER** Staff Member

Tom has been at SAGE for over seven years and currently serves as the Director

of Community Services. In this capacity, Tom and his staff oversee the congregate programming SAGE produces at the LGBT Community Center, SAGE

meeting Ty Martin at a social gathering. He decided to apply to be a part of the CAC in hopes of helping SAGE “become an even better organization than it is now.”

12 **HELENA STONE** Constituent Member

Helena first came to SAGE nearly 15 years ago as a dues-paying member, anticipating that she might need SAGE even though she was still working. These days, Helena regularly attends the group “Life Issues: Beyond Retirement” and regularly marches with SAGE in Manhattan’s Pride Parade as well as the Trans Pride March. Helena is a Vietnam War veteran and has been an activist since she was 20 years old. She is very involved in volunteering at Hudson Pride Connection in New Jersey, near her home, and was instrumental in establishing one of the newest SAGE affiliates, SAGE Hudson County, in Jersey City.

most recently, as a collaborator in the development of the CAC. Growing up in Westchester County, Sandy recalls, “I was brought up to go to college, get married, have children, and live happily ever after. I went to Vassar College, got married and had children, but ‘happily ever after’ eluded me.” Sandy divorced and two years later, came out. Sandy became involved in SAGE after meeting Ruby Juster at a National Organization of Women (NOW) conference. Sandy hopes that the CAC will serve as a link between SAGE and its constituents by creating programs that will best serve the community.

Harlem and other locations, including the Daily Drop-In Center, SAGE’s support and discussion groups, the Theatre Desk, recreational and educational programming, the Cyber Center, SAGEWorks, and volunteering. Prior to SAGE, Tom worked at Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC) for almost 15 years with volunteers and people living with HIV/AIDS.

IN MEMORIAM

ELLIOT RABNER, otherwise known as SAGE’s “resident art historian,” passed away suddenly in July. He was a founding member of the CAC and had been a SAGE member for over 20 years. He regularly led SAGE walks and guided tours and was active in SAGE’s Uptown Neighbors Group. A staple here at SAGE who will be missed, Elliot was also the co-founder of the first organized Gay Teachers’ Association of Long Island, a volunteer docent at the Asia Society Museum, as well as a member of SAGE’s Taylor Society.



Over the past several months, SAGE led a variety of activities in New York City and nationwide to improve the lives of LGBT older adults. Here are some of the most notable events, in words and photos. [To see more photos of our work, visit flickr.com/sageusa.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sageusa/)



The Honorable Judge Diana A. Johnson (center) of Brooklyn Surrogate's Court meets with SAGE constituents at the Brooklyn Courthouse.

LUNCH WITH A JUDGE. Last fall, the Honorable Judge Diana A. Johnson of Brooklyn Surrogate's Court extended a special invitation to SAGE for lunch at the Kings County (Brooklyn) Courthouse in Brooklyn Heights. Judge Johnson and her staff generously shared their time and insight with SAGE, giving 17 SAGE constituents a rare glimpse at life behind the scenes of a busy urban courthouse. SAGE extends our thanks to longtime SAGE volunteer Thomas Sciacca, PLLC, for arranging this lunch, and to Judge Johnson for meeting with SAGE's constituents.

SAGE SPEAKS AT PRESTIGIOUS OUTGIVING CONFERENCE.

In March, SAGE led a panel on LGBT aging at this year's OutGiving conference held in Miami, Florida. Hosted by the Gill Foundation, this invitation-only conference brought together approximately 200 major individual donors and LGBT leaders from around the country to learn about the latest issues in the LGBT movement. Presenters included SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams, SAGE Senior Director of Policy and Communications Robert Espinoza, President of the National Hispanic Council on Aging Yanira Cruz, and Executive Director

of SAGE Metro St. Louis Sherrill Wayland. Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee delivered a special video message for SAGE during the panel, encouraging the panel to invest in the future of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. To watch the video, visit lgbtagingcenter.org.

SAGE RELEASES POLICY BRIEF ON OLDER AMERICANS ACT.

This March, SAGE released a new policy brief on the pending reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). This timely report discussed how the Act could address the health and social barriers LGBT older adults face when seeking services and programs, and recommendations for making the act more LGBT-affirming so that all older adults can age successfully and with dignity. Download the full report at sageusa.org/oaapolicybrief.





In May, SAGE partnered with the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce LGBT-2-B Committee and Gay City News for a special presentation on workplace discrimination to 40 employers and jobseekers. SAGEWorks Program Manager Michele D'Amato and SAGE Director of Community Services Tom Weber are pictured here during the presentation.

SAGEWORKS SPRING. SAGEWorks had a busy spring season raising awareness of employment and LGBT aging issues across New York City. In March, alongside Lambda Legal and the Gay Coaches Collective, SAGEWorks held a seminar for LGBT community members age 40 and over looking for employment. The seminar provided 15 attendees with one-on-one coaching for next careers and business ventures. In May, SAGEWorks, in partnership with the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce LGBT-2-B Committee and Gay City News, presented a special seminar to approximately 40 people on age discrimination in the workforce and workplace equity for LGBT older adults, and discussed how work readiness programs such as SAGEWorks can help LGBT people age 40 and over who are unemployed or underemployed find paid work.

SAGE TAKES THE LEAD ON LOCAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS. SAGE continued to lead New York City advocacy efforts on LGBT aging, testifying at two major City Council Hearings. In March, SAGE Policy Associate Alli Auldridge testified before New York City's Department for the Aging about the proposed budget cuts to Title XX, which would result in the closure of 110 senior centers across the five boroughs and the loss of over 5,000 hot meals served within those sites. In April, Alli again testified before City Council about LGBT older adults and the need to support community centers that offer integrative mental health

services and aging service providers who are knowledgeable about the issues and concerns facing LGBT older adults. To read Alli's testimonies, visit sageusa.org.



In March, SAGE constituents from all over New York City came together at SAGE's Chelsea headquarters for the much anticipated Uptown/Downtown Mixer.

SAGE HOSTS SPRING MIXER. In March, SAGE put on the immensely popular Uptown /Downtown Mixer at our new space on the 15th floor of our Chelsea office. The party brought together over 100 constituents who usually attend programs and events at the LGBT Center downtown or SAGE Harlem uptown to mingle over games, food, prizes and fun!

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY. On April 15 and 16, SAGE celebrated National Healthcare Decisions Day by hosting free Life Planning Clinics for constituents on the information they need to document their own healthcare decisions. Volunteer lawyers, such as Thomas Sciacca, PLLC, were also on hand to help attendees create advance directives—legally binding documents such as health care proxies, living wills, and powers of attorney—on the spot. Clinics were held at the LGBT Center, SAGE Harlem, SAGE Queens and in Spanish at the Bonifacio Senior Center in East Harlem.

FEDERAL VICTORY ON MEDICAID PROTECTIONS. After years of advocacy led by SAGE in partnership with Lambda Legal and the Task Force, in April the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would notify states about their abilities to treat same-sex couples the same as married heterosexual couples when it comes to protection from “spousal impoverishment” under Medicaid. In June, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provided this guidance to the state Medicaid agencies—and SAGE began working to launch a state-by-state national project to extend these protections to same-sex couples. To help launch this SAGE project, SAGE is working in partnership with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Equality Federation, CenterLink, the Movement Advancement Project and the Williams Institute. The project will launch in the fall, providing policy guidance and a variety of tools for advocates working in the 50 states.

SAGE HOSTS COMMUNITY CALLS FOR LGBT AND AGING ORGANIZATIONS. In the past few months, the National LGBT Aging Roundtable, a group of over 30 LGBT and aging organizations led by SAGE, organized and co-hosted two important community calls on issues affecting LGBT older adults. In April, call panelists Gerald McIntyre, Directing Attorney for the National Senior Citizens Law Center; John Johnson, former SAGE Director of Federal Relations; and Laurie Young, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, discussed how LGBT older adults cannot currently access certain Social Security benefits, as well as how to advocate for broader coverage for LGBT older adults. The second call in August examined LGBT affordable housing and alternatives, with SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams and Kathleen Sullivan, Director of Senior Services at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, discussing the national need for LGBT-affirming housing and ways that communities across the country can address this issue. The call also featured panelists discussing planned LGBT housing projects and NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) around the

country, including Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing Executive Director Mark Supper; Openhouse’s Executive Director Seth Kilbourn and Director of Programs and Community Outreach Michelle Alcedo; SAGE Director of Community Services Tom Weber; and staff from SAGE Philadelphia, SAGE Center on Halsted and SAGE of the Rockies.

RELEASE OF LGBT OLDER ADULTS IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

In early April, SAGE co-sponsored and released the report *LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Stories from the Field*, led by the National Senior Citizens Law Center. The report used survey results and drew from hundreds of personal accounts for a broad view on the issues faced by LGBT older adults in long-term care facilities, including instances of mistreatment, harassment, and staff refusal to provide basic care. To read the full report, survey results, and personal videos from LGBT older adults, please visit LGBTLongTermCare.org.



SAGE JOINS DIRECT CARE CAMPAIGN. In April, SAGE joined the steering committee of the Caring Across Generations campaign, led by the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Jobs with Justice, as part of an effort to enact legislation that would create millions of well-paid jobs in direct care work, enforce labor standards for hundreds of thousands of direct care workers, provide a path to legalization, and career opportunities so that economic uplift becomes a reality. SAGE is bringing its perspective on the unique caregiving realities of LGBT elders, many of whom rely on friends and other “families of choice” for caregiving support.

LEADING AGING ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT LGBT ELDER IN FEDERAL POLICY. This April, SAGE helped move eight LGBT-specific recommendations through the official “consensus document” on the Older Americans Act reauthorization for the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), a 65-member association comprising the country’s leading aging organizations. SAGE is the only LGBT organization represented on the council. The recommendations included defining “greatest social need” and “minority” in the OAA to explicitly name LGBT older adults, as well as urging that all future data collection efforts, project assessments and reporting requirements offered through OAA track LGBT older adults.

SAGE AND LGBT AGING AT AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING CONFERENCE. This spring, SAGE led a number of workshops and sessions at the American Society on Aging's conference, "Aging in America," in San Francisco, California. SAGE staff toured Openhouse, a partner of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, learning more about its LGBT older adult housing projects. SAGE also co-hosted the reception "Caring and Aging with Pride," which included a screening of *Gen Silent*, a documentary about caregiving among six LGBT older adults. In addition, six SAGE staff members presented at the conference, bringing LGBT aging issues into the limelight at one of the largest aging conferences in the country.



Resource Center partners at ASA (L to R): Greg Case, Director of the Office of Home and Community-Based Services, Administration on Aging; Seth Kilbourn, Executive Director, Openhouse; Lisa Krinsky, Director, The LGBT Aging Project; and SAGE's Hilary Meyer, Director, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.



SAGE staff members on their way to a site visit of Openhouse in San Francisco, California.

HIV AND AGING. In April, SAGE Senior Director of Policy and Communications Robert Espinoza chaired a panel discussion titled "HIV and Aging" at Harvard Law School. Alongside leaders and experts in the HIV/AIDS field, Robert discussed the policy and program needs for HIV/AIDS prevention and programs across the country, as one in two people living with HIV are projected to be age 50 and older by 2015.

SAGE ADVOCATES IN NY STATE ON CRITICAL LGBT AGING ISSUES. On May 18, SAGE Policy Associate Alli Auldridge and other representatives from New York aging organizations took part in a roundtable discussion with State Senators David J. Valesky and Martin J. Golden to argue against dissolving the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and merging aging issues under the Department of Health—an option proposed by Governor Cuomo's Sage Commission, which was tasked with streamlining government and making it more cost-effective. Alli spoke about how such a move would hurt diverse elders, including LGBT elders, who are already marginalized. Ultimately, the option did not go through, preserving NYSOFA. To view the roundtable discussion, visit [youtube.com/sageusa](https://www.youtube.com/sageusa).



Alli Auldridge, SAGE Policy Associate, and SAGE constituents pose for a group photo at Equality and Justice Day in Albany, NY.

RESOURCE CENTER OFFERS TRAININGS. The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging introduced its new national training program in April, a comprehensive curriculum for aging network providers and LGBT organizations that aims to improve the quality of services and supports offered to LGBT older adults.

nationwide. Developed by the Resource Center's 10 national partners, this comprehensive training covers the needs and concerns of LGBT older adults; best practices and policies for increasing inclusiveness and safety for LGBT older adults; as well as exploring assumptions about aging and the LGBT community. Since introducing the training, Resource Center staff have received more than 80 requests, and have trained aging professionals in a variety of settings, from a Philadelphia area agency on aging, to the summer 2011 Pioneer Conference in St. Charles, Missouri. To learn more about these resources or request a training, visit lgbtagingcenter.org.

SAGE CONSTITUENTS CELEBRATE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH.

This May, in honor of Older Americans Month, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Bronx Zoo sponsored SAGE constituents' admission into the Zoo, where they were greeted by New York City Council Member and Chair of the Council's Aging Committee Jessica Lappin. Highlights of the trip included visiting the Butterfly Garden and the Congo Gorilla Forest.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON LGBT AGING UPDATES.

Over the past several months, the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging launched several new online multimedia resources for LGBT older adults and aging professionals. First, the Resource Center unveiled a new caregiving section, generously supported by the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, that offers tools, tips and more to address the challenges unique to LGBT older adults providing care to loved ones. The Resource Center also released legal and financial resources for LGBT older adults, including an interactive U.S. map to help LGBT older adults pinpoint legal resources in their state, information on

Social Security and the LGBT community, and articles and videos with tips from practicing attorneys about legal documents every LGBT older adult needs. Since its launch, the site has garnered more than 9000 registered users, more than 34,000 unique visitors and over 110,000 page views.

SAGE AND PARTNERS SUBMIT HIV AND AGING RECOMMENDATIONS TO NY STATE.

In May, SAGE, GMHC and the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA) submitted more than 20 concrete recommendations for New York's State Plan on Aging (NYSPA) 2012-2015. The recommendations are meant to ensure that the plan addresses the unique needs and challenges of a growing number of HIV-positive and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults throughout the state—and touches on issues such as long-term care, preventative health services, caregiving, and civic engagement, among many others.



SAGE Director of Community Advocacy and Capacity Building Serena Worthington and FORGE Program and Policy Director Loree Cook-Daniels at the Transgender Aging Advocacy Initiative Dinner.



SAGE STARTS TRANSGENDER AGING ADVOCACY INITIATIVE.

On June 19, SAGE and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) brought together an Advisory Council of 15 leading experts to launch a Transgender Aging Advocacy Initiative and begin creating a roadmap for addressing the policy issues facing transgender and gender non-conforming older adults. This project is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Arcus Foundation.

DIVERSE ELDERS COALITION TAKES ACTION IN NATION'S CAPITOL.

Members of the Diverse Elders Coalition—seven national organizations, including SAGE, working on federal advocacy for LGBT elders and elders of color—continued to meet throughout the spring to map out their priority areas,



SAGE speakers at NBC's "Our Stories" opening reception. L to R: Christopher Lennon, Alexandra Samet, Martin Blank, attendee Perry Brass, David Singh, and Rosita Libre de Marulanda.



Kenneth Cox, SAGE Senior Director of Development; Andrew Brewer, NBC Universal's Vice President of Program Content; and Ector Simpson, SAGE Director of Special Events and Corporate Relations, attend NBC's "Our Stories" event.

including working on reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, preserving Social Security and ensuring that health care reform implementation addresses our diverse communities. In early April, SAGE and its partners in the Diverse Elders Coalition, representing millions of diverse elders nationwide, submitted six succinct recommendations to the National Prevention Council, delineating where the draft of the National Prevention Strategy

(an outgrowth of the Affordable Care Act) could better address the health and quality of life of our country's diverse elders. On June 16, the final National Prevention Strategy was released, which included various recommendations offered by the DEC to make the Strategy more responsive to diverse elders. In July, the DEC submitted a letter opposing budget cuts to federal programs that benefit elders, particularly diverse elders. The letter, with all organizations included, was widely disseminated to the White House and Capitol Hill, with an emphasis on members of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), and the White House Office of Public Engagement. And on August 1, the DEC met with Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee to continue offering feedback on how the Older Americans Act can remain responsive to LGBT elders and elders of color. Secretary Greenlee has agreed to continue meeting with our groups to ensure an LGBT-inclusive Administration on Aging.

NEW YORK STATE PASSES IMPORTANT LEGISLATION TO AID LGBT ELDERS.

This June, marking LGBT Pride month, the New York State Senate passed historic legislation that requires the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to assess the needs of traditionally underserved elders, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults, and to provide technical assistance to the organizations that serve LGBT older

adults. This bill, sponsored by New York State Senator Thomas K. Duane and Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner, will help ensure that LGBT older adults will be able to find culturally competent and sensitive care, and is a tremendous step forward for LGBT older adults, who are more likely to delay seeking care because of fears of discrimination and abuse.

OUR STORIES WITH NBC. On June 13, NBC Universal Studios partnered with SAGE to host “Our Stories,” an event showcasing six SAGE constituents and their diverse life challenges and triumphs aging within the modern LGBT movement. Held at Rockefeller Center with nearly 100 attendees, five SAGE constituents and volunteers—Martin Blank, Christopher Lennon, Rosita Libre de Marulanda, Alex Samets and David Singh—spoke about the cultural shifts they have each witnessed within their own communities and the country at large. The event was hosted by Kelly Wallace, chief correspondent for iVillage. To hear the speakers’ moving stories, visit youtube.com/sageusa.

SAGE HOSTS 19TH ANNUAL FIRE ISLAND PINES CELEBRATION.

In early June, SAGE held the 19th Annual Fire Island Pines Celebration to honor leaders who have demonstrated a



R. Scott Bromley (left) and Gil Neary (right) were honored at SAGE's 19th Annual Pines Event on Fire Island.

commitment to LGBT rights and whose work has benefited the lives of LGBT older adults. This year's honorees were R. Scott Bromley, AIA, designer for New York City's infamous Studio 54 and senior partner at Bromley and Caladari Architects PC, and Gil Neary, President of DG Neary Realty and longtime LGBT volunteer. Acclaimed filmmaker Crayton Robey (*Making the Boys*) served as emcee and cohost alongside Dr. Ed Schulhafer.



AARP DEBUTS ITS FIRST ONLINE SITE FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY.

This June, in honor of Pride Month, AARP launched a new web portal for LGBT older adults. Available at aarp.org/pride, this portal recognizes that while all older adults strive to age successfully, LGBT older adults face additional challenges and obstacles that can prevent them from aging with dignity and respect. The portal features articles from experts in the LGBT aging field, including SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams. It also includes resources on finance, health care, relationships, travel, and more.

UNDERSTANDING HIV AND AGING. On June 29, SAGE and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies hosted a daylong city-wide training on understanding HIV and aging programs and policies. More than 75 practitioners from around New York City attended the event, which was facilitated by Doreen Bermudez, National Training Coordinator for the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. The event also included a presentation on the cultural issues and policy barriers facing older adults with HIV led by Robert Espinoza, Senior Director of Policy and Communications at SAGE.

SAGE WORKS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES TO SUPPORT LGBT ELDERS.

As part of our partnership with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, SAGE and other members of the Task Force's New Beginning Initiative met with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on July 15 to discuss how HHS can support LGBT older adults through enhanced non-discrimination policies, better research and data collection, cultural competence trainings, updated forms and broad definitions of “family,” and designations of “greatest social need” through the Older Americans Act. The group also offered formal guidance on these issues to HHS leaders. SAGE and the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging are also working with NBI and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to develop an online tool created by CMS that would train staff working in long-term care facilities nationwide on the rights and needs of LGBT elders.

SAGE COUPLE FIRST TO BE LEGALLY MARRIED IN NEW YORK CITY. This spring and summer, SAGE and the LGBT community worked with our partners in the marriage equality movement to bring marriage equality to New York State. Eight SAGE constituents were among the delegation of LGBT activists who traveled to Albany for Equality and Justice Day, Empire State Pride Agenda's annual advocacy day. There, they attended a rally and met with state legislators to discuss issues from marriage equality to affordable housing—talks that paid off when marriage equality passed in New York in June. And on Sunday, July 24 longtime SAGE members Connie Kopolov, 84, and Phyllis Siegal, 76, became the first couple to legally marry in New York City in a ceremony hosted by New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. SAGE Harlem participants Michael Johnson, 54, and Michael Roberts, 82, were also among the couples wed during Speaker Quinn's event. Congratulations to Connie and Phyllis, and Michael and Michael!



New York State Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell at this year's Equality and Justice Day.



Sandy Warshaw (left) speaks to Carmen Vazquez, Coordinator for the NYS Department of Health's LGBT Health & Human Services Unit, while waiting for the rally to begin.



Michael Johnson and Michael Roberts (in red) await their turn to marry at New York City Hall.



New York State Senator Thomas Duane greets couples waiting to get married at New York City Hall.



Phyllis Siegal and Connie Kopolov head to their wedding ceremony followed by SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams.



1

NEW YORK CITY PRIDE. In June, SAGE led Pride events throughout New York City, including Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens, and Harlem. This year's highlights included an Art Gallery Opening by gay artist Ryan McNamara, SAGE's Women's Pride Party, a SAGE Singers Pride Performance, and Writing Aloud, a reading with established writers in the LGBT community hosted by the NY Writers Coalition, New Alternatives, and the Ali Forney Center. As an official community sponsor of the second annual Harlem Pride, SAGE held a Health Fair offering free tests on glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure, and health and wellness demonstrations. And on Sunday, June 26—just two days after marriage equality passed in New York State—staff, constituents and friends marched with SAGE during New York City's joyful Pride parade through the Chelsea and West Village neighborhoods. For more photos, please visit [flickr.com/sageusa](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sageusa/).



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1. SAGE staff, volunteers and friends march down Fifth Avenue during the 2011 Pride March.

2. Jeannette Downes (left) and Edie Windsor (right), longtime SAGE constituent and star of the documentary *Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement*.

3. SAGE constituents gathered on trolleys to await the start of the March.



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4. New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn at the 2011 Pride March.

5. Longtime SAGE constituents Gary Payne and Dick Dehn navigate the 2011 Pride March in a rickshaw.

6. Kathy Nokes and Dottie Hickey.

7. Celebrating Harlem Pride: New York State Senator Tom Duane, Harlem Pride President Carmen Neely, Harlem Pride founding board member Lawrence Rodriguez and SAGE Director of Community Services Tom Weber.

8. Longtime SAGE constituent and activist Jerre Kalbas marching alongside the SAGE trolley during the parade.

9. Sherman Walker and William Austin greet visitors at SAGE's Health Fair, held during Harlem Pride.



9

10. Staff members and volunteers pass out information at Harlem Pride.

11. SAGE staffer C. Nathan Harris (back row) with SAGE constituents Stacia Murphy, Sheila Bligen and Jerry Tompkins.

12. One of the many creative signs on display at the Pride March.



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Harold Seely was honored at this year's Cherry Grove celebration for his volunteer work for SAGE.

SAGE HONORS LONGTIME VOLUNTEER AT CHERRY GROVE.

In July, SAGE friends and supporters attended our annual Cherry Grove party, where they honored longtime SAGE Volunteer Harold Seeley. Bertis Shankle, SAGE's Manager of Volunteer Programs, said of Harold, "He has done the decorations for our socials for about 22 years and been involved in the community for many years more than that. Harold is a leader, but first, Harold was a joiner. He came to an event, he rolled up his sleeves, he got involved. He's battling some health issues, but he's never put down his glue gun. He's the reason we exist."

RESOURCE CENTER EDUCATES ON HIV AND AGING ISSUES.

This July, on the 30th anniversary of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging participated in a special webinar led by the U.S. Administration on Aging on the increasing rates of HIV/AIDS among adults age 50 and older. The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging's Training Coordinator Doreen Bermudez and Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee, among others, spoke to the nationwide Aging Network on the prevention needs and particular treatment issues for older adults, whose bodies have been found to respond differently than their younger counterparts to the disease and certain treatments such as highly active antiretroviral treatments (HAART).

SAGE ADVOCATES ON HIV ISSUES AT FEDERAL LEVEL.

In mid-July, as part of our HIV and aging advocacy collaborative with GMHC and ACRIA, SAGE met with various leaders throughout the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to discuss the importance of funding interventions and

reforming policies that address an aging population with HIV/AIDS. We also met with the offices of Sen. Michael Enzi [R-WY], Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY] and Sen. Bernard Sanders [I-VT] to discuss the Older Americans Act and older adults with HIV. The evening before, SAGE met directly with Sen. Richard Blumenthal and his staff to discuss how legislation could support the unique needs of LGBT older people. This collaborative is generously supported by the MAC AIDS Fund.

SAGE DELIVERS KEYNOTE AT TRANSCOLOR IN COLOR

CONFERENCE. On July 29, Robert Espinoza, SAGE Senior Director of Policy and Communications, delivered the opening keynote address at the national TransFaith in Color Conference in Charlotte, NC, hosted by the Freedom Center for Social Justice. The conference brought together more than 200 people of color leaders and allies working in transgender communities and communities of faith to educate, develop appropriate strategies, and increase networking opportunities for transgender men and women as they build, grow, and mobilize around personal and policy relevant issues. Visit lgbtagingcenter.org to read Robert's speech.

AGING INNOVATION: SAGE ANNUAL REPORT. 2010 was a time of tremendous growth for SAGE and for great progress in our mission to transform the quality of life for LGBT older people. It was also another year in which a tough economic climate, coupled with an ever-growing LGBT older population, demanded innovative solutions—and SAGE delivered. This spirit of innovation is highlighted in our latest annual report, *Aging Innovation*, released this summer in both print and online at sageannualreport.org. Visit the site today for an original timeline of achievements and to learn more about our 2010 initiatives.



sageannualreport.org

Q&A with Susan Hester and Reggie Stanley

STATS

Members of SAGE's Board of Directors since 2010

First Board members in SAGE's history from outside New York

Founding members of the Washington, DC Investors Circle Club

Commitment to increasing SAGE's reach on a national scale



What brought you to SAGE in this leadership capacity?

Reggie: You go first, Susan.

Susan: No, no...you go first.

Reggie: (Laughing) Okay. I've been committed to and passionate about civil rights, economic development and LGBT issues for a long time. I enjoy working with organizations that have experience, dedicated staff and a commitment to excellence—especially when they're in a transformative space and can impact the lives of large swaths of people. I like being on the frontier of things. SAGE is in a transformative place and is having that kind of an impact. So the circumstances,

environment and organization itself brought me to SAGE.

Susan: With an initial interest in lesbian health and watching my mother navigate a retirement community in her later years, I began asking, "How will we, as a community, age in the community?" SAGE is at an opportunity point because, with an enormous aging bubble, this is a key issue in our broader culture and the LGBT community. And, the LGBT community is standing out and in front, with no shame or hiding. We're coming into our own. We're commanding equality and respect. So, there's this visibility and maturation as a minority community, coupled with the aging issue, and SAGE is positioned to make a difference.

In regard to LGBT aging issues, how does DC mirror or differ from the national landscape?

Susan: I think in the District we have the advantage of being a large visible LGBT population. We're also a community with heightened political awareness—so many people are involved in political, governmental and policy work. It's a community ripe for being motivated around an issue. It's different than living in a smaller town with less visibility or among a population with less passion for politics, policy and creating change. Do you think that's right, Reggie?

Reggie: I agree with everything you've said, Susan. We're also unique due to the

unfortunate economic spread—extreme wealth and poverty—as well as rich multiculturalism. That pluralism brings all kinds of cultural perceptions and religious perspectives on LGBT issues along with opportunities for education and the exchange of ideas. We're a democratic community with a good track record of embracing social progress—this is a good place to get SAGE supported.

Susan: I'd like to add that DC has identified LGBT people as a protected class for 30 years. We're on the right side of the law or the law is on the right side with us. It was great to be an adoptive parent 26 years ago in the District and know I couldn't be discriminated against in that process. I'm grateful to be here but it makes you realize it's not easy everywhere.

What are your top priorities in DC?

Reggie: It's such an early stage in our tenure that it's about getting SAGE connected to the passion, voices and opportunities in DC. We'll need to determine how the mission and vision of SAGE can be assisted by, and benefit folks in, the DC area.

Susan: We aim to give national SAGE a face in the District and make SAGE's victories known—incredible victories in the past few years and months. We need to make sure this is dinner-table conversation in the District and that people know what SAGE helped make happen. I'm really happy to be with Reggie as the first people on the board from outside of NYC—part of the expansion of ethnic, gender and geographic diversity at SAGE's board level.

Reggie: There are so many other types of diversity too, including marital status and families aging with children.

Susan: Although my daughter is 26 and your two girls are 2!

Reggie: Two 2-year-olds that, when multiplied, gives you 200. (Laughing)

How can Investors Circle donors in the DC area, and how can a DC Investors Circle Club, make an impact on SAGE?

Susan: Finding people who are willing to make a significant commitment to SAGE is part of building a strong foundation. In addition to educating people about SAGE, we want a core of individuals who are excited and willing to provide financial support. So, we're pulling together an Investors Circle Club. The investment is time and dollars and it's a way of becoming ambassadors for SAGE in the District.

Reggie: There is incredible opportunity for Investors Circle donors in the DC community to be at a new frontier in our movement. Usually at these stages of movements like this, people aren't just donors. They're resources, volunteers, thought leaders, examples... there are so many ways to engage. It's not just an opportunity to give for the sake of giving, but a reciprocal opportunity to get involved.

Any details you can share about the Investors Circle event in DC on February 1?

Susan: Our event is an opportunity to introduce SAGE and its programs to the DC community, including like-minded organizations. We want as many people as possible to know that SAGE is the ultimate resource for LGBT aging issues. It's for consumers and providers of services as well as those interested in being strong financial supporters—individuals, corporations and foundations. It's also a step toward establishing a strong Investors Circle Club here, regionally.

SAGE INVESTORS CIRCLE


At this time, philanthropic investments in SAGE are absolutely vital: ensuring that LGBT older adults are afforded the respect, care, and benefits that should be available to all. Our community deserves no less. SAGE Investors Circle donors are community-minded and philanthropic stakeholders, helping to advance the mission of SAGE with their cumulative, unrestricted donations to SAGE of \$1,500 or more in a year.

SAVE THE DATE

SAGE's First
Washington, DC
Investors Circle
Event

Wednesday
February 1, 2012
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

More details forthcoming.

 For more information about Investors Circle and the Washington DC event, contact C. Nathan Harris at [212.741.2247](tel:212.741.2247) or nharris@sageusa.org.

Q&A with Carol Garcia

STATS

13 years on the SAGE
Women's Dance Committee

8 years on the SAGE Board
of Directors

5 years as a Taylor
Society Member

Endless passion for
service and a vision for
SAGE's future



When did you first become aware of or involved with SAGE, Carol?

My friend, Jill Matthews, invited me to the annual SAGE Awards and Gala. After that, I joined the SAGE Women's Dance Committee around 1999. Then, as now, the committee was entirely run by volunteers. This incredible collection of women—some had been doing that work for 20 years at that point—ranged in age from 21 to 91. And the dances are popular with all kinds of women. I can bring it up in conversation on Fire Island, Manhattan... everyone knows about and loves the dances. There's such diversity, every ethnicity, older women dancing with younger women... that was my introduction to SAGE.

How did that evolve to your incredible tenure on SAGE's board of directors?

Jill Matthews recommended me. I knew some people involved, and had just termed off another board and interviewed with Erica Bell, President of SAGE at that time. I was invited to join in September 2002.

You remain a member of the Women's Dance and Strategic Planning Committees and Taylor Society. Why is SAGE so important?

Aging is the reward of a long life. I'd like to live a long life and, selfishly, I want SAGE to be around for my partner Victoria, my friends and me as we age. SAGE, therefore, also needs to live a long life—to age and

grow to continue caring for LGBT older adults in New York City and nationally.

Why did you become a member of Taylor Society?

Planned giving and estate planning allows a person to take care of loved ones and relatives—people you want to help when you pass on. I consider SAGE a loved one. I want SAGE to share in whatever I've been able to accumulate in my lifetime. I plan now, it doesn't cost me anything

IN THE PHOTO: Carol Garcia (center) accepts a proclamation honoring her service to the LGBT community from New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer in November 2010.

immediately and I find peace of mind knowing I'll be able to give something in the future.

How are you planning to honor SAGE in your estate plans? Was it easy?

I've made SAGE a beneficiary of my 401(k). SAGE's website made it easy—it walked me through the process and explained precisely what I'd need to do and how to correctly complete the beneficiary forms.

Why do you think careful planning is especially important for the LGBT community?

The vast majority of our community does not have grandchildren and children—usual beneficiaries of bequests. So, why not SAGE? It doesn't take millions of dollars to make a difference (not that SAGE couldn't use millions of dollars). My point is, a dollar goes a long way at SAGE. If we all left a modest amount to SAGE, we could collectively make a significant and positive difference in the way our community ages.

Any other thoughts?

LGBT people are assuming a new role in our broader society, being recognized and earning equal rights. There's no better time for our community to step up and help address those still in need within our aging population. Nobody does this work as deeply and widely as SAGE does. We need to support that with every possible resource.

For more information about the Taylor Society, please visit sageusa.org/taylorsociety or contact C. Nathan Harris at **212.741.2247** or taylorsociety@sageusa.org.

Using Tax Deferred Retirement Accounts as Charitable Bequests

By Erica Bell

Carol Garcia has made an excellent choice by designating SAGE as the direct beneficiary of her 401(k) retirement account. Using tax deferred retirement accounts to fund the charitable portion of your overall estate plan is a great way to enhance your power of giving. Unlike an individual beneficiary, a charity designated as the beneficiary of tax deferred funds will receive 100% of every dollar left in the account. That same gift to an individual or other non-tax-exempt beneficiary would be substantially reduced by state and federal income taxes on the proceeds.

So, by using her 401(k) as her vehicle for charitable giving, Carol is actually able to give more to SAGE than she might otherwise be able to give, but without reducing the amounts available for bequests to give to individual beneficiaries. By choosing tax deferred assets for her charitable giving, Carol effectively preserves more of her other assets to pass on to her loved ones, free of any income tax burden. In other words, by choosing the “right” asset to leave to SAGE, Carol is able to give more to all of her intended beneficiaries.

Using a 401(k) or IRA or other tax-deferred account is also the easiest possible way to make a charitable bequest. All you need do is complete and file a beneficiary form with the institution where the account is held. No change is needed in your Will. And there is no expense involved. It is also easy and cost-free to make changes to your beneficiary designations.

Designating charitable beneficiaries on tax deferred accounts is also a great way to “have your cake and eat it too.” During

your lifetime, the funds you have set aside for retirement are entirely yours to draw upon as needed (or as required under the “required minimum distribution” rules). Only the amounts you don't use up during your lifetime will pass to SAGE. What's more, unlike a bequest in your Will, your executor will not have to do anything and your estate will incur no expense to distribute the funds to SAGE. This is a perfect example of enhanced giving that is virtually effortless.

It also seems somehow especially fitting to use funds that were originally set aside for one's own elder years for the ultimate benefit of all of the elders of the LGBT community. All in all, Carol has made a very smart choice in using her retirement account as the vehicle for an eventual gift to SAGE.



ERICA BELL is an attorney specializing in trusts, estates and estate planning, especially for members of the LGBT community. She is a partner in the firm of Weiss, Buell & Bell. She was a SAGE Board member for 7 years and had the pleasure and privilege of helping to bring Carol Garcia onto the Board and serving with her.

Q&A with John B. Roberts, Esq.

STATS

2011 SAGE Awards & Gala
Co-Chair

SAGE National Leadership
Council (SNLC) member

Volunteer, philanthropist
and leader

Mindful and responsive to
the needs of our LGBT older
adult communities



John, why is SAGE so important to you? Why did you get involved?

I work with lots of charitable organizations and meaningful philanthropy. I can share confidently that SAGE is a phenomenal organization with earnest leadership and a fantastic mission.

Our LGBT brother and sister elders paved the way for integration and equality within broader society. Now, in the era of *Will and Grace* (a gay character on every television show), legal same-sex marriage in New York and other states... it's time for SAGE. There's an aging, "out" baby boomer population nearing their golden years (and unwilling to go back into the closet) and an existing, aging LGBT

population with tremendous need. We must create a future for ourselves and honor our pioneers.

Why is it meaningful to you to be engaged with the nonprofits you support philanthropically?

While I know how much you love it when I write a check, it doesn't always give me a great enough sense of the work. I want a real connection to the causes I support, missions I follow and organizational family to which I belong.

Did you have role models that helped shape you into a community-minded person?

My mother (laughing)! You can't put that in there! That's what every gay man would say.

But seriously, it was my mother. She took us as children to the nursing home and we'd sing. In my childhood home we summed it up in one phrase, "Mindful of the needs of others."

How are you feeling about the 2011 SAGE Awards & Gala, and what should people expect?

This is going to be the best SAGE Awards & Gala, ever! Expect a fun and entertaining evening. If I could give you a sneak preview... let's just say we're adding some "wow" to the Gala but you'll have

to be there to experience it.

**What about our honorees—SNLC
Co-Chairs Joy Tomchin and Larry Chanen,
and community leader Paula Ettelbrick?**

Let me begin by saying the SNLC is a great group. It really gives people a chance to be engaged personally and financially with SAGE. And, I hope it grows.

Larry, Joy and Paula have all selflessly dedicated their lives, positively and unapologetically, to LGBT issues. They have been role models to our community. Their dedication is amazing and I'm inspired by their exuberant work and personalities. It's an honor to honor them at SAGE Awards this year.

**Can you share how important SAGE
Awards is to funding our programs?**

We hope to, and need to, raise more money than ever because now, more than ever, SAGE's expertise is needed in New York and nationwide. I encourage *SAGEMatters* readers to join us for SAGE Awards to help SAGE reach this important goal.

**Any other thoughts for *SAGEMatters*
readers?**


Now that we can marry in New York, think of SAGE and the older adults who've been fighting for marriage equality for decades. If you've already got enough toasters, barstools, hand towels and sheets, make SAGE your registry.

ABOUT SAGE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The SAGE National Leadership Council is a dynamic network of individuals working alongside SAGE stakeholders, staff and the board of directors to raise the visibility of SAGE's local and national programs. Members help address issues concerning the older LGBT community through fundraising, outreach and advocacy. They are critical to our success by standing with SAGE to provide resources that meet the needs of our clients and advance the rights of our community. SAGE would like to thank our dedicated and passionate members for their leadership, service and generosity.

James C. Hormel, Honorary Co-Chair
James M. Johnson, Honorary Co-Chair
Lawrence N. Chanen, Esq., Co-Chair
Joy A. Tomchin, Co-Chair
Herbert I. Cohen, MD
Jay Lesiger and Thomas Klebba
Jon C. Nathanson
James G. Pepper
Steve A. Rabin
John B. Roberts, Esq.
Dorothy Sander
Ted Snowdon and Duffy Violante
George Zuber, CPA

To learn more about SAGE National Leadership Council, please contact C. Nathan Harris at nharris@sageusa.org or 212.741.2247.



**The 16th Annual
SAGE AWARDS & GALA**
Monday, October 24, 2011
Gotham Hall • 1356 Broadway, New York, NY

HONORING

Larry Chanen
Activist and Attorney


Joy Tomchin
Activist and Filmmaker

Paula L. Ettelbrick
Activist and Community Leader

John B. Roberts, Esq.
Event Chair

For more information, please contact Ector Simpson at
esimpson@sageusa.org or 212-741-2247 x256
Sponsorship opportunities and tickets at sageusa.org

sage 305 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-741-2247
Fax: 212-366-1947
sageusa.org



SAGE Harlem Staff

Meet the newest members of the SAGE Harlem staff, dedicated to connecting to LGBT older people in Harlem, East Harlem and the Bronx, communities not traditionally served by LGBT organizations.

BRYAN PACHECO

Outreach Coordinator

HIS ROLE: To guide SAGE Harlem's outreach efforts in the Bronx and East Harlem by coordinating community events, network meetings, and connecting with other community organizations to let them know about SAGE's current and upcoming programs and services.

ON WHAT DREW HIM TO SAGE: I had previously worked with older adults at Visiting Neighbors and wanted to return to working with the LGBT community. I felt SAGE Harlem's focus on LGBT older adults of color was a great fit. Growing up in the Bronx and now as an openly gay, Spanish-speaking Latino man living in Harlem, I feel I have a real understanding of the people-of-color communities in Harlem and wanted to contribute to growing and supporting the LGBT community in the neighborhood.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF SAGE:

I hope to see SAGE Harlem continue to grow, and for LGBT elders and folks in Harlem to feel comfortable being themselves and knowing they have a place that supports them. In addition, as SAGE begins to partner with organizations in the Bronx, I hope to see those LGBT residents and older adults feel the same kind of support from us and take advantage of all we have to offer. Most of all, I hope to see

the SAGE staff, volunteers, constituents, and community members continue to shape SAGE Harlem into an amazing program and space.

ZORAIDA RAMOS

Program Assistant

HER ROLE: To interact with the constituents daily, ensuring that they feel welcome and comfortable. She also oversees the Harlem Calendar, SAGE Harlem's HEAT (Harlem Elders Aging Together) Meeting Agendas, and coordinates volunteers.

ON WHAT DREW HER TO SAGE: I was drawn to SAGE Harlem because of the community and the sincere care everyone has for one another. More personally, I wanted to serve as a voice for the community of LGBT older adults in Harlem, which is predominantly African American and Latino, and let them know that they are not alone and that we are



here for services, support, and safe spaces so they can socialize and be themselves.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF SAGE:

I hope to see SAGE Harlem continue to grow and provide even more services that will help benefit LGBT older adults in the community in every aspect of their lives, giving Harlem's LGBT community the time and resources to become more comfortable and proud of who they are.

JIMMY RODRIGUEZ

Outreach Case Manager

HIS ROLE: To work with constituents to learn more about their needs—from legal issues and housing, to counseling and caregiving—and refer them to SAGE programs and other services, as well as educating prospective constituents and citywide aging and LGBT organizations about SAGE's work.

ON WHAT DREW HIM TO SAGE:

One of my friends is a volunteer at SAGE Harlem and told me about the position because he knew I had been doing case management for 20 years and had worked in HIV/AIDS service agencies. As I learned more about SAGE, and realized that there is a lack of services and support for LGBT elders, I became committed to filling this gap.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF SAGE:

I want to see more participation and more support in the Harlem and the Bronx communities for LGBT older people. LGBT elders in these communities don't share who they are, out of fear or other reasons, and that's sad. I'm sure there are more LGBT older people in Harlem than we see at the office. I'd like to see older people come out and join us at SAGE, because they still have life in them and deserve to be who they are. It's hard growing old alone, and everyone deserves a chance of growing old happy.



The staff and board members who have joined our growing team at SAGE over the last few months.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JERRY CHASEN

LINDSEY HORVATH

WILLIAM E. WEINBERGER

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

RYAN CARLINO

Community Advocacy Associate

CYNTHIA DIAO

Outreach Worker, SAGE Harlem

GIOVANNI FIGUEROA

Social Worker

JOE MINEO

Director of Human Resources

BRYAN PACHECO

Outreach Coordinator, SAGE Harlem

ZORAIDA RAMOS

Program Assistant, SAGE Harlem

JILL REINHARDT

Director of Institutional Giving

JIMMY RODRIGUEZ

Outreach Case Manager, SAGE Harlem

JILLIAN SANDOVAL

Institutional Giving Manager

ECTOR SIMPSON

*Director of Special Events
& Corporate Relations*

FELICIA SOBEL

Women's Programming Coordinator

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*Director of Federal Government
Relations*

EMILY WITKO

Development Associate

SAGENet

In 2011, SAGE welcomed six new affiliates to SAGENet. In this issue, directors of three of our newest members tell us why they joined SAGE and more about their work and future plans.

SAGE ATLANTA AT THE RUSH CENTER

Doug Carl, Program Director
rushcenteratl.org

Several years ago, our Area Agency on Aging (AAA) set up a committee to explore the issues of aging within the LGBT community in Atlanta as part of a broader grant to explore and plan for future aging populations. Several professionals and service providers who were there and were already familiar with SAGE recommended we reach out and make efforts towards joining the SAGE network. However, one significant obstacle stood in the way: identifying a local SAGE site.

“SAGE HAS NOT ONLY BROUGHT VISIBILITY TO A VULNERABLE POPULATION AND AWARENESS TO THE CHALLENGES FACING OLDER LGBT ADULTS, BUT HAS MADE RESOURCES, EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE. NOW, COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE NOT ONLY AWARE OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE, BUT ALSO EQUIPPED WITH THE TOOLS NEEDED TO CREATE CHANGE.”

— DOUG CARL

In November 2009, The Phillip Rush Center hosted an open house to introduce the new space and offer meeting and training rooms for organizations whose mission or activities advance LGBT rights and understanding. Soon afterward, The Rush Center announced it was beginning to take steps to become a SAGE affiliate to address the needs of Atlanta's older adult LGBT population.

Bringing a recognized and credible affiliation to our local effort has been our greatest achievement to date. As one of 21 SAGE affiliates, Atlanta is now part of a national network of professionals, has greater access to resources and support and shares a nationally recognized name in the aging field.

I believe this affiliation has brought about a level of confidence in our efforts from our AAA, local government and within our aging service provider network. For example, when the Atlanta

Legal Aid Society embarked on a Georgia Senior Legal Needs Study to gather data on the legal needs of low-income and vulnerable seniors, we were invited to give our feedback and input on their survey methods, as well as host a focus group for LGBT older adults. Being invited to participate in such mainstream and statewide efforts builds SAGE Atlanta's credibility and the community's confidence in us as a local resource for LGBT older adults.

SAGE OLYMPIA

Anna Schlect, Director
sageolympia.org

I first became interested in LGBT aging issues when my partner and I had to place her mother in an assisted living facility and we saw how isolated an older lesbian could become in some facilities. I resolved to create LGBT-affirming services in the community where older LGBT folks had a place to feel safe and comfortable being out.

I began my graduate studies in Public Administration with a focus on LGBT housing, and through my research I discovered SAGE. I attended SAGE's 2008 National Conference, “It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World,” in Brooklyn, New York, where I found an amazing array of resources and met inspiring advocates who would become my future colleagues. Soon thereafter, Kelly Cavenah, owner and operator of Olympia's “Home Instead” Senior Care Center contacted me about joining forces to build resources for LGBT older adults in the greater Olympia area.

I am really proud of the integrated network of nonprofit, government and private businesses that offer services for LGBT older adults in the Olympia area, including our local Area Agency on Aging. SAGE Olympia has also launched our incipient GLBT Eldercare Cultural Fluency training program to cultivate stronger and more welcoming services and resources for GLBT elders in the Olympia community. We also recently hosted a multiracial,

“I AM MOST INSPIRED BY SAGE’S INSPIRING BLEND OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HARD-DRIVING ADVOCACY, AND THE AMAZING, DEDICATED STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF LGBT OLDER ADULTS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.”

— ANNA SCHLECT

intergenerational panel discussion titled, “The Arc of GLBT History: Exploring how Issues of Aging & Diversity Affect our GLBT Communities,” the first in a series of community panels and forums.

SAGE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

J.M. Sorrell, Director

sagewm.org

SAGE Western Massachusetts began from a collective of LGBT elder advocates and aging service providers who were committed to the creation and formation of quality services and programs for LGBT older adults, which became our group’s Steering Committee. As the group was formalizing, my partner and I attended SAGE’s first constituent-led conference, “The Future of Aging is in Our Hands,” in New York in November 2010.

We were so inspired by the organization’s success, especially the growing network of affiliates as they detailed their advocacy and training efforts across the country. When I returned from the conference, I asked the Steering Committee about becoming a SAGE affiliate, and the answer was unanimous!

Recently we researched, created and distributed a Resource Directory for LGBT older adults in Western Massachusetts, including listings of aging services providers, housing resources, legal/financial experts, LGBT community centers, and local Area Agencies on Aging. Our Directory is absolutely the first of its kind in the region, and has served as a portal of community education at work, leading to requests for cultural competence training for local organizations and service providers. Most importantly, many older adults have called and emailed us to say how grateful they are for this compilation of resources. Our Directory is available for download on our website.

Beginning in July, we are offering our space and resources to a newly revamped PFLAG Affiliate (Franklin and Hampshire Counties), and the Easthampton Council on Aging has asked us to conduct a cultural competence training for caregivers on the Community Access Television channel to reach as large of an audience as possible. Finally, we will continue to conduct surveys and needs assessments everywhere we go, continuing our mission to serve and support based on people’s needs and wants.

SAGENet

NORTHEAST REGION

SAGE Long Island

www.sageli.org

SAGE Hudson Valley

www.lgbtqcenter.org

SAGE Hudson County*

www.hudsonpride.org

**SAGE Philadelphia
at William Way LGBT
Community Center**

www.waygay.org

SAGE Queens

www.queenscommunityhouse.org

**SAGE of the
Genesee Valley**

www.gayalliance.org

SAGE Upstate

www.sageupstate.org

**SAGE Western
Pennsylvania at
Persad Center***

www.persadcenter.org

**SAGE Western
Massachusetts***

www.sagewm.org

SOUTH REGION

SAGE CenLa

www.sagecenla.org

SAGE South Florida

www.sagewebsite.org

SAGE Atlanta

at the Rush Center*

www.rushcenteratl.org

SAGE Metro DC

at the DC Center

www.thedccenter.org

**SAGE Central Virginia
at Gay Community
Center Richmond***

www.gayrichmond.com

MIDWEST REGION

**SAGE at Center
on Halsted**

www.centeronhalsted.org

SAGE Metro St. Louis

www.sagemetrostl.org

SAGE Milwaukee

www.sagemilwaukee.org

WEST REGION

SAGE Olympia*

www.sageolympia.org

**Golden Rainbow Center-
SAGE Palm Springs**

www.goldenrainbowseniorcenter.org


SAGE of the Rockies

www.glbtcOLORADO.org

SAGE Utah

www.utahpridecenter.org

**New 2011 affiliates.*

 SAGENet affiliates provide programs and services to LGBT older adults in various parts of the country. To learn more about SAGENet, including how to become a SAGE affiliate, email us at sworthington@sageusa.org.

SAGE Programs & Services

SAGE offers dozens of activities, groups and programs that encourage LGBT older adults to stay connected with each other and the community. With three offices across New York City, we provide an array of English and Spanish-speaking programs, including:

SUPPORT GROUPS

Bereavement
Coming Out Later in Life
Multiple Sclerosis
Men's Coming Out
Gay Widowers

SAGE POSITIVE

Case Management
SAGE HIV Group
HIV Prevention/Education
Harlem Men's HIV Group

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Arts and Culture Programs
Booklovers Discussion
Discount Theatre Tickets
Morning at the Opera
Tuesday Discussion Group
Conscious Creative Aging
Life Issues Beyond
Retirement
Men's 40+ Discussion Group
Men's 50+ Discussion Group
SAGE Singers
75+ Senior Elders Group
Walk-in Cyber Center
Women's Discussion Group
Volunteer Orientation

CAREGIVERS

Respite Support Group
Financial Help
Friendly Visiting
Home Care
Lend-A-Hand

SAGECAP – CARING AND PREPARING INITIATIVE

SOCIAL & WELLNESS

Baby Boomer Programs
Bridge
Brunch
Bus Trips
Memorial Service
Daily Drop-In
Dating and Relationship Programs
SAGErcise
Gay Pride Celebrations
History & Heritage Programs
Holiday Parties
Intergenerational Programs
Health Fair for LGBT Older Adults
Uptown Neighbors Group
SAGE Socials
Walks/Outings
Women's Dances
Women's Programs

INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Benefits Counseling
Drop-in Community Meetings
Health Information Clinic
Health & Wellness Programs
Legal Clinic
Money & Finance Programs
Outreach and Tabling

LIFELONG LEARNING

Computer Classes
Creative Writing Classes
Foreign Language Classes
Art, Film & Theatre Classes

SAGEWORKS

Orientations
Monthly Seminars
Computer Classes
Coaching Sessions
Resume Assistance

HARLEM

Bilingual Benefits Counseling
Women's Groups
Cultural & Social Programs
Men's Groups
Men's HIV Support Group
Latino Men's Support Group
HEAT (Harlem Elders Aging Together) Meetings
Women's Bilingual Discussion Group
Nurse Practitioner

SAGE OFFICES

SAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

305 Seventh Avenue
15th Floor
New York, NY 10001
212-741-2247

SAGE @ THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

208 West 13th St., Room 207
New York, NY 10011
212-741-2217

WALK-IN HOURS


Monday-Friday, 2 pm – 5 pm

SAGE HARLEM CENTER

2090 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.
Suite 201, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10027
646-660-8953

WALK-IN HOURS

Fridays, 2 pm – 8 pm

 For a full listing of SAGE activities, including a calendar of events, please visit us at sageusa.org.



305 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001 • 212-741-2247

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