

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

SM
sage

Matters

FALL 2012

**A LOOK BACK AT
AN EXCITING SUMMER**
INCLUDING PRIDE!

INVISIBLE NO MORE
SAGE DRAWS ATTENTION TO
LGBT ELDERS OF COLOR AND
TRANSGENDER ELDERS

A SAGENET AFFILIATE
HELPS IMPROVE LGBT
ELDERS' ACCESS TO
AFFORDABLE HOUSING



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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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of my favorite summer activities is marching in New York City's Pride Parade with SAGE constituents, staff and friends. This year was even more exciting than usual, as we marched proudly at the front of the parade, not far behind grand marshals Phyllis Siegal and Connie Kopolov. You may remember that Phyllis and Connie are two longtime SAGE constituents who a little more than a year ago became the first same-sex couple to marry in New York City!



During the parade, I was struck as always by the rainbow that is our community. It was thrilling to see LGBT people and allies of all ages, races and walks of life marching and cheering from the sidewalks and balconies all along the route. On that day, we did what we do at every Pride—we marched and cheered in support of each other.

While a celebration of inclusion was our theme on that wonderful day, the sad reality that LGBT older people and SAGE deal with on a daily basis is far different. The population of older people in this country is growing in numbers and diversity—but both LGBT older people and elders of color still remain largely neglected in public policy and aging-related services. They face devastating disparities in health and health care access, economic security, housing, employment and more.

To address these issues, SAGE cofounded the Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC) in 2010 with six national people of color aging organizations. This exciting new coalition is founded on the premise that, while there are important differences across marginalized elder communities, there also are shared challenges. And the DEC reflects the reality that we can get a lot more accomplished working together than separately. For example, debates on critically important issues like Medicare, Social Security and the Older Americans Act are now raging on Capitol Hill. If we want the voices of diverse elders to be heard above the din, we must speak together as often as possible.

We had that chance this summer when the DEC held a briefing on Capitol Hill to highlight the severe economic challenges facing LGBT elders and elders of color. More than 50 congressional staffers gathered to learn more about economic insecurity in our communities, and the DEC's aggressive series of policy recommendations. This briefing coincided with the launch of the DEC's news blog, where experts across the aging field offer insightful commentary on issues that affect our communities. Read more about the DEC's work on page 3.

This issue also highlights our groundbreaking work for transgender elders, another population that receives little attention from policymakers and service providers. SAGE and the National Center for Transgender Equality convened experts in the LGBT and aging fields, and transgender older adults themselves, to map out existing research on transgender aging (there's not very much), fill in the gaps, and develop a clear roadmap on what needs to change. This summer, we released our findings in the policy report *Improving the Lives of Transgender Older Adults*. This report represents a quantum leap forward in the aging field. I hope you'll take a moment to read more about it.

All of this work made for an exciting summer of progress against SAGE's relentless pursuit of strategies that improve the health and well-being of LGBT older people. This work, detailed throughout this issue, would not be possible without the support of friends like you. Thank you for all you do to help SAGE!

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

Michael Adams, *Executive Director*

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Save the date!

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

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On the cover: *Shanti, a member of the NYC SAGE Communities Advisory Council, enjoys the beach during SAGE's annual Fire Island trip. Photo: Ruby Fernandez-Brown/Imagenes De Rubinas.*

INVISIBLE NO MORE

SAGE draws attention to the issues facing LGBT elders of color and transgender elders.



Greg Case, Director, Office of Home and Community Based Services, Administration on Aging; Doua Thor, Executive Director, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; Michael Adams, Executive Director, SAGE, at the Diverse Elders Coalition Congressional Briefing.

LGBT older adults face an array of barriers that complicate their aging: a thinner support network of caregivers, a lifetime of discrimination under the law, a lack of cultural competence among aging providers and health care professionals, profound health concerns and economic insecurity, and more. Yet this already vulnerable older population deals with another disparity within its demographics: LGBT elders of color and transgender elders often face additional barriers that place them at a significant disadvantage to their peers. Moreover, their unique needs are often invisible in both the aging

field and the broader LGBT movement.

It's in this context that SAGE launched two initiatives that began bearing fruit this summer. SAGE's leadership in the Diverse Elders Coalition—seven national aging organizations focused on policy improvements for elders of color and LGBT elders—has led to some early advocacy successes for our aging communities. Likewise, SAGE's partnership with the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) spurred an original policy report on the realities of transgender older adults.



AS DEMOGRAPHICS SHIFT, A COALITION RESPONDS

In mid-July, SAGE and its six partner organizations in the Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC) released a policy report on the economic barriers facing elders of color and LGBT elders. “Securing Our Future: Advancing Economic Security for Diverse Elders” describes how elders of color, across populations, and LGBT elders have dealt with a host of inequalities in their lifetimes that have diminished their economic security as they age. The report offers recommendations in policy areas such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and more.

To complement this report, the DEC has launched a news blog (diverseelders.org) with original commentary on the issues facing Black elders; Hispanic elders; Asian and Pacific Islander elders; American Indian and Alaska Native elders; and LGBT elders. And on July 25, it held a Congressional briefing in Washington, DC to discuss the report’s findings.

SAGE helped form this coalition in 2010, recognizing that the shift in our country’s demographics—a sizable increase in older people, a generation of “out” LGBT people reaching retirement age, and the rapid racial/ethnic diversification of the U.S.—would require specific attention on older people who face additional



vulnerabilities. With the passage of health care reform, the heightened attention on Social Security and other safety net programs, and the looming reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, policy makers in DC are focusing more intently on aging concerns. The goal of the DEC is to highlight our pressing issues.

In addition to SAGE, the Diverse Elders Coalition includes Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores, the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, the National Caucus & Center on Black Aged, Inc., the National Hispanic Council on Aging, the National Indian Council on Aging and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

A HISTORIC REPORT ON TRANSGENDER ELDERS

At the Philly Trans Health Conference in late May, SAGE and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) released a historic report on transgender aging. *Improving the Lives of Transgender Older Adults: Recommendations for Policy and Practice* offers more than 60 recommendations to policy makers, researchers, and aging and health care professionals on the issues facing transgender older adults.

This report makes a significant contribution to the aging field, serving as the first of its kind to comprehensively examine this growing yet neglected population.



This publication was informed by an advisory committee of 18 experts nationwide from different disciplines, including two SAGE staff members. Three key findings from the report:

Transgender people face high levels of employment and housing discrimination, and consequent economic and housing instability. Many have lost jobs and homes due to discrimination. The economic and personal impact of this discrimination can accumulate over a lifetime and impact lifetime earnings, savings, and Social Security benefits. Even those who are transitioning in mid-life and start out financially secure are often devastated by discrimination.

Multiple studies have shown that transgender people across the age

spectrum—and particularly transgender people of color—face alarmingly high rates of physical and verbal violence, including child abuse, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, workplace violence, and hate crimes. With smaller support networks, transgender elders are also at greater risk of elder abuse, exploitation and neglect, yet might be less willing to report cases of violence and abuse for fear of discrimination and further violence.

The research base on transgender aging is severely limited, which makes it difficult to assess the specific needs of transgender older people, as well as craft effective interventions for this population. An overarching problem is lack of data; most federal surveys and data collection systems do not assess gender in ways that allow for transgender individuals to be identified.

Did you know?

The Administration on Aging reports that communities of color, across populations, will grow dramatically by 2050.

For example, between 2008 and 2050, the Latino older population will grow from 6.8 to 19.8 percent of the U.S. population age 65 and older. In that time frame, the number of LGBT elders will double to more than 3 million.

To read the new report from the DEC, as well as original commentary on the issues facing LGBT elders and elders of color, visit diverseelders.org.

Source: National Academy of Sciences. (2011). *The health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people: Building a foundation for better understanding*. Washington, DC: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

A recent Institute of Medicine report on LGBT health identified transgender aging as a major research gap, naming topics such as elder abuse, substance abuse, risks and best practices for long-term hormone therapy, sexual health and cancer as areas in which more transgender research is needed.

To read the new report from SAGE and NCTE, visit sageusa.org.



SAGE thanks the Arcus Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies for their support of the Diverse Elders Coalition, and the Arcus Foundation and the David Bohnett Foundation for their support of the Transgender Aging Advocacy Initiative.

1. Earline Budd and Barbara Satin, of GLBT Generations and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, at the October 2011 meeting of the Advisory Council for the Transgender Aging Advocacy Initiative, Washington, DC.
2. (l-r) Daniel Wilson, NCOA; Dr. Yanira Cruz, NHCOA; Randella Bluehouse, NICOA; Christine Takada, NAPCA; and Doua Thor, SEARAC, at the Diverse Elders Coalition Congressional Briefing in Washington, DC on July 25, 2012.
3. Dr. Yanira Cruz, NHCOA, speaks during the Diverse Elders Coalition Briefing.
4. Mara Kiesling, Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), at the October 2011 meeting of the Advisory Council for the Transgender Aging Advocacy Initiative, Washington, DC. NCTE is SAGE's lead partner on this initiative.

RESOURCES FROM SAGE'S NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON LGBT AGING

Focus on Transgender Aging

Aging poses unique challenges for transgender older adults. They came of age during decades when transgender people were heavily stigmatized and pathologized. Some came out and made gender transitions during these years, while many others kept their identities hidden for decades and are now coming out and transitioning later in life. Many challenges facing transgender elders are common to the broader older lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender (LGBT) population, but some are different. With a growing older transgender population, there is an urgent need to understand the challenges that can threaten financial security, health and overall well-being.

The website for the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging serves as a robust hub of educational resources on LGBT aging. To educate aging providers, LGBT organizations and LGBT older people

about the many issues facing our aging communities, SAGE has created and compiled hundreds of commentaries, videos and publications. To learn more, visit lgbtagingcenter.org.

**National
Resource
Center**

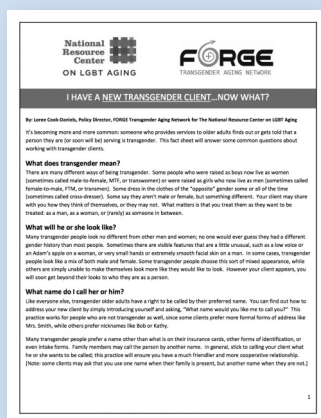


ON LGBT AGING



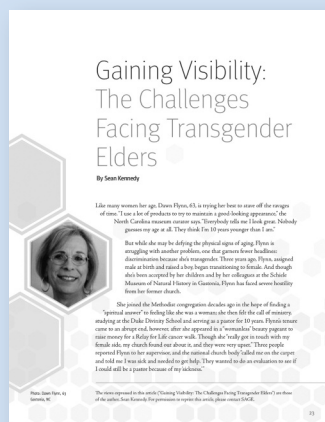
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF TRANSGENDER OLDER ADULTS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

Authored by SAGE and the National Center for Transgender Equality, this 2012 report provides more than 60 recommendations for policy-makers and practitioners.



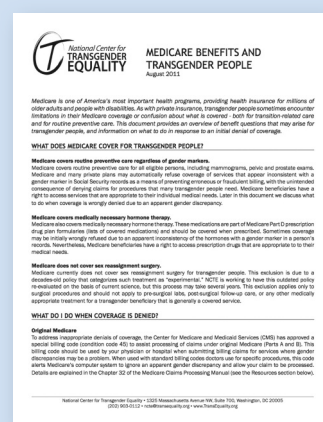
I HAVE A TRANSGENDER CLIENT...NOW WHAT?

Loree Cook-Daniels from FORGE Transgender Aging Network provides answers to commonly asked questions regarding transgender clients.



GAINING VISIBILITY: THE CHALLENGES FACING TRANSGENDER ELDERS

Journalist Sean Kennedy examines the realities of various transgender older adults around the country, from North Carolina to Colorado.



MEDICARE BENEFITS AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

An overview of Medicare, including what to do when coverage is denied or one encounters problems—from the National Center for Transgender Equality.

WHO'S WHO AT THE SAGE CENTER

In March 2011, SAGE proudly opened The SAGE Center, the country's first full-time innovative LGBT senior center. Since then, The SAGE Center has welcomed hundreds of LGBT older people for its weeknight meals, and a variety of engaging programs and services such as meditation, Zumba, a visiting nurse, computer classes, movie nights, and much more. Meet three of The SAGE Center staff who keep it all running.

SARAH SAVINO

Program Manager, The SAGE Center

What's your role? I supervise the staff of The SAGE Center and ensure that the daily operations of the center run smoothly. This includes overseeing the congregate meal program along with our incredibly busy and exciting calendar full of educational and recreational programming.

What drew you to SAGE? Since entering the field of aging seven years ago, I have marveled at the work that SAGE does on both a national and local scale and have often turned to them as a resource in my past positions. The traditional senior center environment oftentimes does not cater to the specific needs of LGBT elders. So the thought of being a part of the first, full-time center dedicated to the complex needs of this community was thrilling. The fact that SAGE was selected as an Innovative Senior Center (a program supported by the New York City Department for the Aging) means that we have an opportunity to rethink the way services are delivered, with an eye towards the inventive. The SAGE Center is the most technologically advanced center that I have ever seen—and the 15th floor view doesn't hurt either!

What do you hope to accomplish while at SAGE? I hope to live up to SAGE's longstanding reputation by shaping The SAGE Center into a safe, dynamic and innovative place for LGBT older adults. My goal is for the center to be "one-stop-shopping," where participants can find enrichment on all levels, whether that be through nutritious meals, health and wellness programming or classes on culture and the arts. I aim to set a high benchmark, making The SAGE Center an exemplary model to be replicated by the many future LGBT senior centers yet to be developed.

ROY INMAN

Administrative Associate

What's your role? I am Sarah's assistant, and I'm involved in all the day-to-day aspects of making sure the center runs smoothly.

What drew you to SAGE? I had been unemployed for a long while (downsized in the beginning of the great recession). A friend recommended that I go to SAGEWorks, SAGE's "back to work" assistance program. I went to the orientation and found it to be a comfortable fit. While I did not immediately find a new job, I became a volunteer with the SAGEWorks program, helping other attendees work their way through the computer programs used in today's workplaces. This fulfilled me in a number of ways, as I enjoy teaching and training others and it got me out of the house. I volunteered there for over a year, and then this job with The SAGE Center opened up.

What do you hope to accomplish while at SAGE? I want to see The SAGE Center succeed. There is so much purpose, and so much potential, in this place and I am happy to be one of the first staffers.



I work with a great group of people and the participants are overall very nice, and individually very interesting. The SAGE Center programs and activities are developing and growing, every day, and I'm a part of it. The SAGE Center is becoming a regular, daily place to go for many of the participants. They like coming here. And it's great to be a part of that, too.

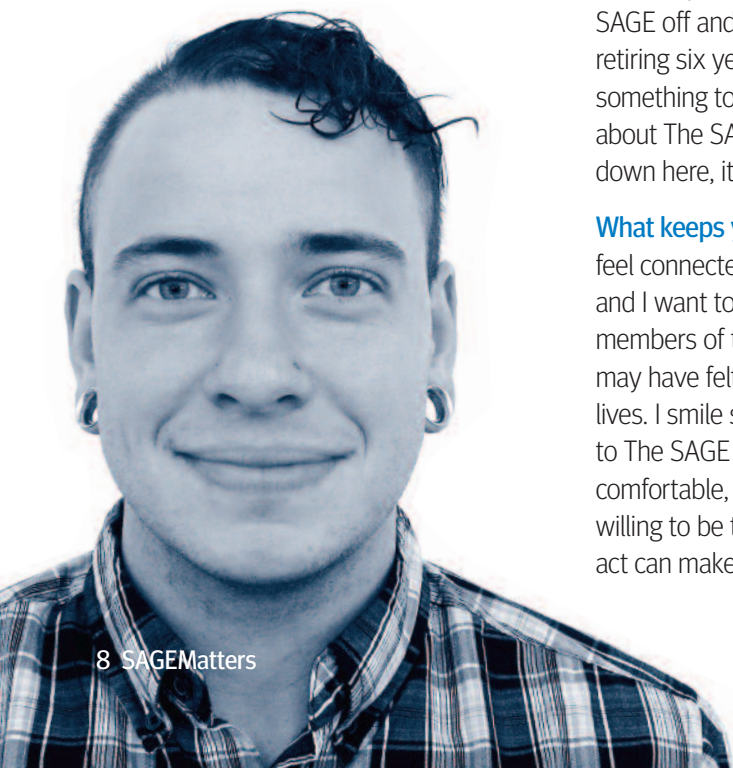
AL ROSENBERG

Food Service Coordinator

What's your role? All things food at The SAGE Center.

What drew you to SAGE? I have friends who have worked and volunteered with SAGE for a while and always said great things about the organization. When the Food Service Coordinator position was published for the new center, several people forwarded me the listing. The job looked like it would be a lot of fun, and I was very excited for the possibility of being part of the opening of the new SAGE Center.

What do you hope to accomplish while at SAGE? I hope to bring the daily meal count up, and to see the program thrive and expand.



VOLUNTEER LEADERS

SAGE is lucky to have numerous volunteers who make it possible for us to offer so many programs and services for LGBT older New Yorkers. Meet two of our volunteers who have become staples at The SAGE Center.

CAESAR LIBONATI

Longtime SAGE constituent and volunteer Caesar Libonati is a retired special education teacher who is widely known for his warm, welcoming presence at The SAGE Center's nightly dinner check-in. He is also the cofounder of The SAGE Center's weekly French conversation group.



Why did you want to volunteer at SAGE?

I knew Chris Almvig [one of SAGE's founders], so I was involved with SAGE from the very beginning. I was much younger back then, and was one of SAGE's first Friendly Visitors [a program that matches LGBT older adults with volunteers to form mutually beneficial friendships]. I've been involved with SAGE off and on since then, but after retiring six years ago, I was looking for something to do. I came in when I heard about The SAGE Center, and when I sat down here, it just felt right.

What keeps you coming back to SAGE?

I feel connected to the community here, and I want to put my energy into helping members of the LGBT community, who may have felt marginalized their whole lives. I smile so that when people come to The SAGE Center they feel more comfortable, less isolated and more willing to be themselves. This simple act can make a big difference; maybe

no one smiled at them all day. When I hear that my greeting helped someone feel good about being here, that makes me feel good too.

Any hopes for the future of SAGE?

Until society becomes completely tolerant and open, LGBT people of all ages need to have places to go where we can reenergize and feel comfortable being ourselves. The SAGE Center is a place where people can express themselves and grow, where they are seen as valuable and unique. I was recently in Vancouver and met a woman who runs an agency like SAGE. She told me that SAGE is the mother of all agencies like hers. So, I would think that SAGE will continue to be a model, and expand its work for the benefit of everyone.

MARIO "MARK" GALVEZ

Mark Galvez has been volunteering at SAGE since October 2008, and these days, he can be found serving meals a few nights a week at The SAGE Center.



Why did you want to volunteer at SAGE?

I have always had empathy for older people, even from a very young age. I remember walking with my family when I was 5 or 6 years old, and everyone was walking so fast. My grandfather was far behind us, and I made sure to stay with

Continued page 17

Throughout the summer, SAGE led a variety of initiatives in New York City and nationwide to improve the lives of LGBT older adults—and celebrated one of our most exciting Pride seasons yet! To see more photos from these events, visit [flickr.com/sageusa](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sageusa).

THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING ISSUES IMPORTANT NEW GUIDANCE THAT BENEFITS LGBT OLDER PEOPLE

In July, after a year of policy guidance offered by SAGE—in collaboration with a number of partner organizations in Washington, DC, including the Human Rights Campaign—the Administration on Aging (AoA) issued guidance that empowers the country's Aging Network to consider LGBT older adults as a population of “greatest social need.” LGBT older adults are at an increased risk for social isolation, experience poor health and health access, and face higher poverty rates than other seniors. Despite this increased need, this group is less likely to seek federal assistance and healthcare due to actual and perceived discrimination. This announcement paves the way for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to include LGBT older adults when prioritizing funding, engaging in outreach, evaluating unmet needs and collecting data.

GEORGE STEWART, SAGE CONSTITUENT, NAMED A WHITE HOUSE CHAMPION OF CHANGE This summer, George Stewart, a member of the NYC SAGE Communities Advisory Council, was officially selected as one of six White House Champions of

Change thanks to a video submitted by SAGE to a national LGBT Pride Month video challenge. On July 19, George, SAGE staff members Christina DaCosta and Aaron Tax, and SAGE board member Reggie Stanley attended a reception in Washington, DC where George accepted this honor. In addition, George's story was featured on the White House's blog. To view his winning video, and read the blog, visit [youtube.com/sageusa](https://www.youtube.com/sageusa)



Ken Goodman, President of SAGE South Florida; John Harris, Assistant Secretary of SAGE South Florida, and Tom Weber, Director of Community Services at SAGE.



George Stewart and Kathy Greenlee, Administrator, Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging, at the White House Champions of Change event in honor of LGBT Pride Month.

SAGEWORKS COMING TO SAGE SOUTH FLORIDA In July, Director of Community Services Tom Weber and SAGEWorks Program Manager Michele D'Amato traveled to SAGE South Florida to establish a new SAGEWorks site for LGBT older Floridians. SAGEWorks is a national employment assistance program for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender mature workers (ages 40 and older) who need or want to return to the work place. The mission of SAGEWorks is to improve the capacity of LGBT older adults to remain productive, vital and contributing members of the nation's work force. While in Florida, Tom and Michele also met with the staff of the Center on Aging at the University of Miami, one of SAGE's partners on

social work initiatives, to discuss their work on aging and workforce issues. SAGEWorks is funded in part by Walmart Foundation. To learn more about SAGEWorks, visit sageusa.org/sageworks

SAGE HOSTS A FOCUS GROUP ON LATINO LGBT AGING

On July 17, SAGE partnered with the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA) and the Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly (IPRHE) to host a Spanish language focus group on LGBT aging in the Latino community. Over 20 participants identified access to housing, culturally sensitive medical care, bilingual materials and acceptance of their sexual identities by their families and friends as critical issues in their everyday lives. NHCOA will host similar focus groups in Washington, DC and Miami, Florida later this year. The information gathered will help SAGE, IPRHE and NHCOA to better work with and create appropriate programs that accurately address the needs of Latino LGBT older adults.

SAGE TRAINS AGING PROVIDERS AT NATIONAL N4A

CONFERENCE On July 8 in Denver, Colorado, during the annual conference of the National Association for Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), SAGE trained 15 aging providers on how to make their agencies more welcoming to LGBT older adults. The training, funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, was conducted by National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Training Coordinator Doreen Bermudez and SAGE of the Rockies Program Coordinator Shari Wilkins. The n4a conference is the largest gathering of professionals from the nationwide network of Area Agencies on Aging, which plays a key role in providing services and support to older adults. Also in attendance at the conference was Aaron Tax, SAGE's Director of Federal Government Relations, who presented a workshop in collaboration with GMHC on HIV and aging. To learn more about trainings through the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging or to request a training, visit lgbtagingcenter.org

WILLIAMS INSTITUTE RELEASES NEW RESEARCH ON MEDICAID SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT PROTECTIONS

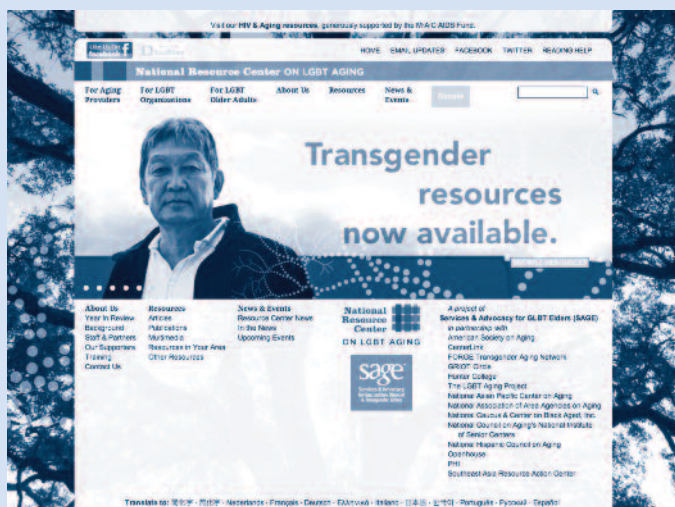
In 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that states are empowered to treat same-sex spouses and partners the same as married heterosexual couples when it comes to key protections from "spousal impoverishment" under Medicaid. Since then, state-level advocates have been working to ensure that all states take this important step to improve the well-being of LGBT older adults and others who need long-term care—and now they have new tools to help their work. In June, SAGE partnered with the Williams Institute to release and roll out new research, entitled "Securing Protections for Same-Sex Partners Against Impoverishment Related to Medicaid-Supported

Long Term Care Services." The research, authored by the Williams Institute, offers practical guidance to state-level advocates about the types of issues they should assess to move this advocacy in their states. The research also explains how states can implement these protections, even if they do not currently recognize same-sex relationships through marriage or an alternative, and examines differences across states in terms of Medicaid frameworks, LGBT concerns and state legal contexts. The reports were introduced to more than 50 advocates during a nationwide webinar hosted by SAGE and The Williams Institute. In related news, SAGE is pleased to report that in November 2011, a month after we issued guidance on these protections to New York State officials, New York extended spousal impoverishment protections to all legally married couples. And in May 2012, California became the latest state to extend these protections to same-sex registered domestic partners and same-sex married couples. To learn more about SAGE's Spousal Impoverishment Protections Initiative, visit sageusa.org/spousalimpoverishment

THE SAGE CENTER COMES TO THE OUTER BOROUGHES In June, The SAGE Center began its expansion into New York City's outer boroughs with a series of kick-off events in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island and Queens. In each borough, SAGE has partnered with community organizations to launch multiple satellite sites to provide vital programs and services to LGBT older people throughout the city. LGBT older adults, providers, friends and family were invited to the events to learn about The SAGE Center's services and programs, including the daily dinner offered at The SAGE Center headquarters in Manhattan. In addition, during the Bronx kick-off, SAGE gave a report on the results of SAGE's 2011 needs assessment of LGBT older Bronx residents. For more information on all of The SAGE Center's services and programs, including The SAGE Center's satellite locations, visit sageusa.org/thesagecenter

SAGE PARTNERS WITH GRANTMAKERS IN AGING ON

NATIONAL WEBINAR In June, SAGE and Grantmakers in Aging (GIA)—a membership organization of funders who support aging work throughout the U.S.—cohosted a national webinar on the challenges facing elders of color and LGBT elders. Part of GIA's monthly webinar series, "Diverse Elder Communities: Challenging Issues, Innovative Responses" highlighted the work of the historic Diverse Elders Coalition that brings together seven national aging organizations—including SAGE—to advance federal policy change for diverse elders. Read more about the Diverse Elders Coalition on page 3, or visit diverseelders.org



SAGE won 2011 Silver Communicator Awards for two sites, sageannualreport.org and lgbtagingcenter.org.

SAGE KEYNOTES AT DETROIT LGBT OLDER ADULT SUMMIT

On June 23, Aaron Tax, SAGE's Director of Federal Government Relations, gave the keynote address at the 2012 LGBT Older Adult Summit. The conference theme this year was Planning for the Future, and presented a wealth of information to LGBT older people in the Detroit area on financial planning, legal resources and more. The conference, attended by more than 100 LGBT older adults, was sponsored by the LGBT Older Adult Coalition and the Detroit Elder Project at KICK.

WHITE HOUSE LGBT CONFERENCE ON AGING

On May 7, SAGE partnered with the White House to host the first ever White House LGBT Conference on Aging. The conference was held in Miami, Florida at the Center on Aging at the University of Miami, a close partner organization of SAGE. More than 150 advocates, community leaders, and members of the public attended the conference from both the local area and from around the country to discuss the health, housing, and security needs of aging members of the LGBT community. The conference featured presentations by Kathy Greenlee, Administrator, Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging, and Raphael Bostic, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Policy & Research Development. Other speakers included SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams and Hilary Meyer, Director of SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.

NEW YORK CITY AND STATE ADVOCACY In May, SAGE took part in two advocacy events to raise the visibility of LGBT aging issues—and LGBT older people

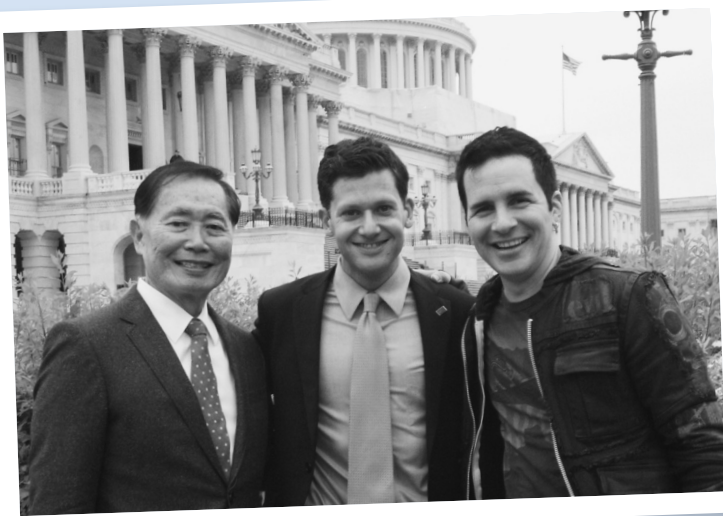
themselves—among city and state policy makers. The first, held in New York City, was the 17th Annual City Hall Advocacy Day sponsored by the Council of Senior Centers and Services. This was followed by Equality and Justice Day, a statewide advocacy day sponsored by the Empire State Pride Agenda. SAGE constituents traveled to Albany, NY, where they joined hundreds of activists, allies, and community members to advocate on behalf of LGBT New Yorkers. At both advocacy days, SAGE constituents testified about their lives and the many issues affecting LGBT older people in New York City and New York State.

SAGE RECEIVES 2012 COMMUNICATOR AWARDS FOR TWO WEBSITES

On April 30, the International Academy of the Visual Arts (IAVA) announced the recipients of the 2012 Communicator Awards, including two awards for SAGE. SAGE received Silver Awards of Distinction for the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging site (lgbtagingcenter.org) in the category of Website-Social Responsibility, and for the SAGE Annual Report site (sageannualreport.org) in the category of Website-Charitable Organizations/Nonprofit. The Communicator Awards, the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for communication professionals, is sanctioned and judged by the IAVA, an invitation-only body consisting of top-tier professionals from acclaimed media, communications, advertising, creative and marketing firms. This year's Communicator Awards received thousands of entries from companies and agencies of all sizes, making it one of the largest awards of its kind in the world.



NATIONAL WHITE HOUSE TELECONFERENCE On April 13, SAGE organized and hosted a national teleconference with the White House and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) titled, “A Special Conversation with The White House, HHS & SAGE.” Policy makers, constituents and allies joined the White House Office of Public Engagement, HHS and SAGE for this call to discuss the progress being made to support older Americans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender—along with an opportunity to ask questions. Participants received updates from SAGE and Administration officials on the key federal policies and national initiatives that are improving the lives of LGBT older adults. Participants included: Greg Case, Director, Office of Home and Community Based Services, Administration on Aging, HHS; Gautam Raghavan, Associate Director of Public Engagement, the White House Office of Public Engagement; Michael Adams, Executive Director, SAGE; Hilary Meyer, Director, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging; and Aaron Tax, Director, Federal Government Relations, SAGE. Nearly 100 participants from across the nation joined the hour-long call.



Actor George Takei, SAGE's Director of Federal Government Relations Aaron Tax, and actor Hal Sparks attended a Capitol Hill press event on April 26, 2011 where Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA) introduced legislation to eliminate discrimination against same-sex couples in Social Security.

SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AND PRESS CONFERENCE

In April, SAGE worked with the LA Gay & Lesbian Center and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force to host a Washington, DC press conference to announce the introduction of legislation by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA) that would eliminate

discrimination against same-sex couples in Social Security. SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams spoke at the Capitol Hill press event, along with several other public figures. SAGE has been a long-time advocate for making Social Security more equitable for same-sex couples, as well as preserving the critical safety net program for all older people. In 2011, SAGE developed a range of multimedia resources that detail the specific barriers facing same-sex couples under Social Security. To view these resources, visit sageusa.org/socialsecurity

HIV AND AGING ADVOCACY In recent months, SAGE has continued our focus on the policies that affect older adults with HIV, many of whom are LGBT. It's estimated that by 2015, one in two people with HIV in this country will be age 50 or older; at all ages, the greatest disparities are within communities of color, men who have sex with men, and transgender people. In early April, SAGE took part in an HIV and aging webinar aimed at community health centers around the country. The webinar was sponsored by the National Council on Aging in partnership with the Administration on Aging, and included: Greg Case, Administration on Aging; Ken Stone, American Academy for HIV Medication; Kelly D. Horton, MS, RD, NCOA's Center for Healthy Aging and Aaron Tax, SAGE. Approximately 50 people took part in the webinar. A few weeks later, we led a federal HIV policy briefing for the “Connecting HIV and Aging Programs and Policies” gathering in New York, co-led by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and SAGE. Finally, on July 25, SAGE, ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America) and GMHC worked with the International AIDS Conference to host a satellite conference on global issues related to HIV and aging, funded entirely by MAC AIDS Fund. The satellite, “HIV and Aging: The Challenge of the Epidemic's Fourth Decade,” took place in Washington, DC.

SAGE MARKS NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

On April 16, aging services providers around the country marked National Healthcare Decisions Day—an initiative to provide essential information to older adults about the importance of advance directives. In honor of this important day, SAGE held a series of seminars for LGBT elders to learn about health care proxies, living wills, powers of attorney, and other advance directives. Participants were able to get these important legal documents processed and done free of charge.

Thank you to all the attorneys who volunteered their time for this important initiative!



Top: Firemen from the Fire Island Pines Volunteer Fire Department. Bottom: Kent Dillion, an honoree at the Pines Celebration, with Jack Schlegel and Phillip Washburne.

SAGE'S SUMMER ON FIRE ISLAND!

This year, SAGE held a number of events on Fire Island—two annual events much anticipated by the community, and one new event sure to become a favorite. First up was the 20th anniversary of the SAGE Fire Island Pines Celebration, held on June 2 at the home of Dr. Ed Schulhafer and Crayton Robey. This party is an opportunity for SAGE to recognize the important contributions volunteers make to the Fire Island Pines community. This year, we honored Kent Dillion and the



Event coproducers Valerie Perez and Linda Gottlieb at Women's Pride in the Pines.

Fire Island Pines Volunteer Fire Department. "Kent and the Volunteer Fire Department embody the values that SAGE holds dear," said SAGE Board Co-chair David Canter, Esq.

Next, SAGE was, for the first time, the beneficiary of the Women's Pride in the Pines event, held on June 9 at Whyte Hall and co-chaired by Linda Gottlieb and Valerie Perez. More than 350 women attended the tea dance with music by DJ Stacey. A VIP dinner followed the tea featuring song stylist Joi Cardwell. The event raised more than \$50,000. In her remarks, SAGE Board Member Melora Love acknowledged the yearlong commitment of the event co-chairs: "This groundbreaking event didn't just happen... Linda and Valerie worked tirelessly to make it happen. The SAGE board and staff are thrilled to have the Pines Pioneers on our team."



Jack Dowling, host of this year's Cherry Grove event and SAGE's Stacey Lococo.

Finally, SAGE held our annual Cherry Grove Gathering on July 21 at the home of Jack Dowling. This event honored "two champions of change," as SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams called them: veteran LGBT activists, writers and historians Jonathan Ned Katz and Amber Hollibaugh. Jonathan recounted the history of Ruth "Peter" Worth, Holocaust survivor, who included the name "Peter" in her naturalization papers and bought her house in the Grove in the 1940s. At her death, she left bequests to Lambda Legal and to SAGE. Amber spoke of her increasing awareness of LGBT aging issues, having joined the SAGE Board as a younger member. Addressing the issue of older people's "invisibility in the larger LGBT community," she stressed that it is "important that we be recognized as an older population, not just a youth population." The event hosts included Jack Dowling, Jan Felshin and Ferdun, Troy Files, Audrey Hartmann, Michael Hertzman and Joel Ulster, and Frank Stark.



SAGE constituents and staff cheer for Pride!

NEW YORK CITY PRIDE

In June, SAGE led Pride events throughout New York City. Highlights included the Pride Postcard Show held at Casa Frela Gallery and featuring art from SAGE constituents, the SAGE Women's Pride Party, The SAGE Center's first-ever Pride Social, and the Uptown Neighbors Pride Celebration. In addition, SAGE was once again an official sponsor of Harlem Pride, and hosted the SAGE Harlem Pride Party. And on Sunday, June 24, SAGE constituents, staff and friends were proud to march near the head of the New York City Pride Parade, following SAGE constituents Phyllis Siegal and Connie Kopolov—the first same-sex couple to legally marry in New York City—who were grand marshals of the Parade.

1. NYC Pride Grand Marshals Chris Salgado, Phyllis Siegel, Connie Kopolov, and Cyndi Lauper
2. SAGE Executive Director and SAGE Board Co-Chair Roz Richter at the Pride Parade
3. SAGE constituent Michael Feurstein shows off a personal philosophy
4. Tina Turner (aka, Ron B.) performed for an adoring crowd at The SAGE Center Pride Social
5. All aboard the SAGE trolley!
6. More than 200 people attended the annual SAGE Harlem Pride Party, held on June 15, 2012 at historic Union Theological Seminary in Harlem





“Turning 50 a little over a year and a half ago had started me thinking more about getting older from a personal perspective and becoming more aware of some of the challenges faced by elders.”

Q&A WITH KEVIN WILLIAMS

SAGE Board Member

Kevin Williams, SAGE’s newest Board Member, serves as Senior Director/Group Leader in U.S. Medical Affairs for Rare Disease at Pfizer, recipient of a 2012 SAGE Award. He tells *SAGEMatters* readers why he wanted to work with SAGE.

What inspired you to join SAGE’s Board of Directors?

Often in life, timing is everything, and, in many ways, I feel that was the case in joining the SAGE Board of Directors. I have served on the Board of Directors of other LGBT and AIDS-related non-profit organizations over the years, but none since 2007. During that time, I have turned down multiple opportunities to reenter the non-profit world and frankly had more or less decided that I would support those organizations near and dear to my heart financially but that I really was not willing to devote the time and energy necessary to be a fully engaged and effective Board member.

However, a couple of things happened that made me open to the opportunity to join SAGE’s Board. First, turning 50 a little over a year and a half ago had started me thinking more about getting older from a personal perspective and becoming more aware of some of the challenges faced by elders on a more global basis. Second, Pfizer was preparing to launch its “Get Old” campaign at the beginning of the summer. “Get Old” is designed to advance Pfizer’s interest in partnering with society

to advocate for key health issues by engaging audiences in a dialogue about living longer and healthier lives.

So when current SAGE Board member Bill Weinberger approached me about my interest in learning more about SAGE and considering Board membership, the pump was already primed. Then I met with Michael Adams, who spoke so passionately about the work that SAGE does, I could not help but be inspired to do my part. And second, I had already begun to think about how SAGE might be able to leverage my joining the Board to partner with Pfizer on its “Get Old” campaign. So when I discovered from Michael that those conversations between Pfizer and SAGE had already started, the timing just seemed right for me to reenter the non-profit world and this felt like the right opportunity with which to do that.

What, in your opinion, makes SAGE and its mission so important today?

As a society, we are getting older as people are living longer. Still we remain a culture that is focused on youth. In addition, we are more fragmented and dispersed than ever—often

separated from family and close friends by large geographic distances. As one grows older, this can become even more pronounced and lead to isolation and loneliness, and I suspect this sense of isolation is probably even greater for LGBT elders.

The despair and loneliness that many experience as they age was driven home to me recently through a couple of personal tragedies. I had two friends who had recently turned 50 years old, one of whom I was extremely close to, commit suicide within a month of each other this past winter. Of course, there were other things that played a part in their decisions to take this step, but getting older was something with which both struggled. To me, one of the reasons that SAGE and its mission are so important today is that these deaths are particularly sad, because after living through the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 1990s, getting older is something we should be embracing and celebrating; and if we are not doing that, there is a need to address those issues that make it difficult for us to embrace growing older. Through its advocacy work and the services it provides, SAGE is a critical player in ensuring that we are able to age with dignity and celebrate getting older.

Are you an activist in other areas, and if so, how does that work intersect with SAGE?

I have really never considered myself an activist, though I do see myself as someone who is very committed to doing my part (however small that may be) to create a better world, particularly for LGBT people. As I was thinking about this question, I realized that I have been involved in non-profit work for the majority of the past 20 years. Much of that work has been in support of people living with HIV and AIDS, either volunteering my services as a physician to treat people living with the disease or serving on the Board of Directors of a couple of AIDS services organizations. In addition, a significant portion of my time and effort to “do my part” has been focused on LGBT issues in general, having served on the Board of Directors of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center for about four years and on the Board of Directors of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force for six years. In many ways, joining the Board of Directors of SAGE feels like a natural progression of the work in which I have been involved for the past 20 years to help make this world a better place for LGBT people.

Any other thoughts for SAGEMatters readers?

My only other thought is to say how excited I am about joining the SAGE Board of Directors. I want to believe that things happen for a reason, and so I cannot help but feel that Pfizer’s “Get Old” campaign, and Bill approaching me about board membership at a point in my life where I was open to it again, means that joining the SAGE Board is what I was meant to do. And if I believe that this is what I was meant to do, and I do believe that, then it is my duty to do the best that I can in my role as a Board member to advance the work that SAGE does.

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Continued from page 8


him, and he said, “Oh, Mark really loves me.” To this day, that is such a clear memory to me.

When I moved to New York, I applied to volunteer at a senior center near Washington Square, but that didn’t pan out. But I met Murray [Karger, the manager of the SAGE Theatre Desk] there, who told me that I could do similar volunteer work at SAGE. I had been to the LGBT Community Center and had seen the signs for SAGE, so I was interested.

What keeps you coming back to SAGE? It’s a good community, and I like the idea of helping older people. It’s also a safe place to volunteer. One’s sexuality is very personal and different people have a different comfort level in how out they want to be. I’m slowly coming out and SAGE is a good place for that.

Any hopes for the future of SAGE? SAGE is doing a great job for the older LGBT community, and I hope it continues to do this work and it doesn’t lose its passion. Also, I see myself as a constituent, now and in the future. Everyone does, even my roommate who is 27. We’re all going to be older someday, and it’s karma: if we treat the older generation shabbily now, we may be treated shabbily someday. In my roommate’s words, “Older LGBT people are the trailblazers. We enjoy the freedoms we do now because of them, and so we should give back.” My sentiments exactly.

The SAGE Center is funded in part by the New York City Department for the Aging. SAGE would also like to thank Walmart Foundation, MAC AIDS Fund and TD Charitable Foundation for their support of The SAGE Center’s nutrition program.

 To learn more about The SAGE Center, see a daily menu and a calendar of programs and services, visit sageusa.org/thesagecenter.

SAVE THE DATE

SAGE AWARDS & GALA

**MONDAY
OCTOBER 22, 2012**

**GOTHAM HALL
1356 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY**

6:00 PM COCKTAILS

**7:00 PM DINNER
AND PROGRAM**

This year's SAGE Awards & Gala promises to be one of the most memorable nights in our organization's history as we celebrate two incredible leaders who have helped SAGE realize a dream to build and sustain a home for LGBT older adults.

We are honored to recognize community leader and attorney **Judith E. Turkel, Esq.**, and the Commissioner of the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) **Lilliam Barrios-Paoli**. Our Gala Co-chairs are **Dorothy Sander**, retired corporate executive, community leader and current Board Co-Chair of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission,

and **Ana L. Oliveira**, President & CEO of The New York Women's Foundation. This year's corporate honoree is **Pfizer**.



Judith E. Turkel, Esq.

For decades Judith has provided critical leadership and oversight to LGBT organizations that have advanced the causes and quality of life for New York City's LGBT community. Her work includes being a

founding Board member of the Lesbian and Gay Law Association of Greater New York (LeGAL), Board Member of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund,

Vice President of the Board of the Paul Rapoport Foundation, and President of the Board of Directors of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center.

In 2005, Judith joined the SAGE Board of Directors and served as Co-Chair of the Board from 2007 to 2011.

It's especially meaningful for SAGE to be honoring Lilliam this year. Her experience in the non-profit sector, coupled with extensive, in-depth knowledge leading New York City agencies, has made her an effective leader in supporting critical community-based services for older adults. As DFTA Commissioner, she has demonstrated a commitment to building a stronger New York City aging network



Lilliam Barrios-Paoli

that is inclusive of all New York City elders. Lilliam's inclusive approach led to the opening of The SAGE Center, the first full-time LGBT senior center in the nation.

This milestone has offered SAGE an unprecedented opportunity to rethink how we can address the needs of LGBT older New Yorkers and create model programs that can be replicated around the nation.

effort "Get Old" to encourage and support a dialogue around the notion of getting older and living better. It is about inspiring and activating people of all ages to reconsider what it means to get old in terms of improving the quality of their lives, adding years to their lives and confronting the biggest and most important health challenges facing them and society as a whole. In addition, it includes a series of collaborative programs with SAGE that addresses the unique needs of LGBT older adults.

2012 SAGE CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD



We are proud to recognize Pfizer with the Corporate Leadership Award. In June, Pfizer launched a groundbreaking new

For more information on the SAGE Awards & Gala, including purchasing tables, tickets or journal ads, visit sageusa.org or contact Ector Simpson at esimpson@sageusa.org.



HONORING

Lilliam Barrios-Paoli

The Joyce Warshow Lifetime Achievement Award

Judith E. Turkel, Esq.

Paula L. Ettelbrick Community Service Award

Pfizer

2012 SAGE Corporate Leadership Award

Event Co-Chairs

Ana L. Oliveira and Dorothy Sander

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



sage

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Fax: 212-366-1947
www.sageusa.org

WAYS TO GIVE

SAGE thrives on the support of all those who have made a philanthropic investment in our work to improve the lives of LGBT older people. Whether you're a longtime donor or new to SAGE, consider joining one of SAGE's giving societies, making your gift go even further.

INVESTORS CIRCLE

(\$1,500 AND UP)

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

Investors Circle Clubs are found in cities across the country, including Los Angeles, CA; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Washington, DC; and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

ASSOCIATE INVESTORS

(\$60-1,499)

SAGE Associate Investors are core stewards of SAGE and its mission, generously contributing time, talent and financial resources. They enable SAGE to do what it does best: provide an

essential safety net for LGBT older adults through our innovative services and groundbreaking advocacy work at the local, state and national levels that address the full range of issues facing LGBT older people—including financial insecurity, inequality under laws and policies designed to protect elders, housing, health and more.

"After volunteering for over seven years with the SAGE legal clinic, supporting SAGE gives me an avenue to honor the people who paved the way for me to thrive as an out gay professional. As a donor, I can ensure that such services and advocacy will be there for me when I need them." — THOMAS SCIACCA, ESQ
INVESTORS CIRCLE MEMBER



TAYLOR SOCIETY

Taylor Society recognizes and honors individuals who have made planned gifts to SAGE. These visionaries make a timeless commitment to current and future LGBT older adults by making SAGE a beneficiary of their estates. SAGE named Taylor Society after an educator, author and longtime quiet donor "C.T." Taylor, who left his estate to SAGE; his family asked SAGE to tell others about his gift in hope that they will follow his example.

You can join the Taylor Society by:

- Naming SAGE in your will
- Making SAGE a beneficiary of your 401k, 403b, IRA or life insurance policy
- Giving appreciated securities
- Planning to leave real estate and other property to SAGE
- Naming SAGE as a beneficiary of your charitable trust

For more information on these giving societies, and other ways to support SAGE, contact Kenneth Cox at [212-741-2247 ext. 233](tel:212-741-2247) or kcox@sageusa.org.

"SAGE has meant so much to me. When I came to SAGE in my fifties, I was in the closet. I met my partner of 25 years here and my way of life was affirmed. So I want to help make SAGE and its services possible for others as a way to thank SAGE for all it has done for me."

— MADELIN ALK
ASSOCIATE INVESTOR

"Planned giving 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."

— CAROL GARCIA
TAYLOR SOCIETY MEMBER



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday
November 13, 2012
6:00 to 8:00 pm

AN EVENING WITH SAGE'S CHICAGO INVESTORS CIRCLE

SAGE is pleased to announce our first Chicago Investors Circle event! Join our hosts, SAGE Board Members [Magda Houlberg, M.D.](#) and [Chuck Middleton, Ph.D.](#), to learn more about how we improve the lives of LGBT older people through our federal policy work, and through direct services and advocacy in local communities across the country.

For more information, or to RSVP to this event, please contact Stacey Lococo at [212-741-2247 ext. 123](tel:212-741-2247) or slococo@sageusa.org.

SAGE METRO ST. LOUIS

SAGE Metro St. Louis Executive Director Sherrill Wayland tells us what it takes to advocate for affordable housing for LGBT older adults.

SAGE Metro St. Louis recently received a grant from the City of St. Louis to provide technical assistance to city housing providers who are aiming to create non-discriminatory policies and practices to better serve LGBT older adults. We talked with SAGE Metro St. Louis Executive Director Sherrill Wayland to learn more about this unique program and the state of affordable housing for LGBT older adults in the region.

Sherrill, what prompted SAGE Metro St. Louis to work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other city housing partners to create this outreach project on fair and affordable senior living communities?

The number one request regarding housing in St. Louis is for affordable housing. With this in mind, we knew it was important to develop relationships with affordable senior housing communities in the St. Louis Region. The city of St. Louis has a non-discrimination ordinance and we began discussions with the City of St. Louis Office of Civil Rights and Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council to explore

how our three agencies could work together to ensure LGBT safe and welcoming senior housing in the City of St. Louis. Around this same time HUD issued a ruling that LGBT people must have access to their core housing programs regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This LGBT Equal Access Rule gave us leverage

to educate operators of supportive housing for elders, called Section 202 and 232 properties by HUD.

We also received a grant through the St. Louis City

Community Development Agency to implement the St. Louis City LGBT Senior Outreach Project. Through this program, SAGE Metro St. Louis hopes to increase access and availability of affordable senior housing for LGBT older adults across the region.

What are the major components of this program? The major components of this program are to provide educational seminars to Section 202 and 232 properties, to identify ten housing providers in the City of St. Louis who will join the SAGE Information and Referral Network, to create an LGBT welcoming housing guide, to host SAGE Advocacy Council Meetings to provide education on the new HUD LGBT Equal Access Rule and promote self-advocacy among LGBT older adults.

What have been the biggest challenges and the most rewarding parts of this project so far? The biggest challenge has been engaging housing providers, but that has also proven to be the most rewarding part of this project as well. While housing providers are not rushing to our door to become LGBT welcoming, we have had some very positive responses and have set up our first technical assistance meeting to bring a Section 202 property onto the SAGE Referral Network. Additionally, one of the largest religious affiliated housing providers had us provide an in-service training for their property managers and social services team. They are now better equipped to approach their administration to add sexual orientation and gender identity to their non-discrimination policies.

How can other SAGE affiliates create a similar program in their community? I recommend that other advocates make connections with city and state regulatory agencies involved in senior housing and affordable housing. Offer to provide training and technical assistance regarding the new HUD LGBT Equal Access ruling. Once that conversation has been initiated ask if they are aware of any grant funds at the city level. Leave no stone left unturned. The HUD LGBT Equal Access Rule creates an opportunity for SAGE affiliates to become the leaders and experts in implementing this new policy in our communities and creating greater access to affordable housing for LGBT older adults.



In communities across the country, SAGeNet affiliates are providing vital services and resources to LGBT older adults, and working with aging providers and policymakers to ensure that LGBT elders' needs are addressed. Here are highlights from a few of our affiliates.

SAGE CENTER ON HALSTED In September, SAGE Center on Halsted hosted "Taking Pride in Wellness: LGBTQ Healthy Aging Fair." This free community fair focused on education and strategies for healthy aging, and featured a range of LGBT-friendly vendors, information workshops, free health screenings, flu and pneumonia shots, and more.

SAGE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY On May 7, SAGE of the Genesee Valley opened an LGBT senior center, providing LGBT older people in the Rochester area programs and services to help them stay active, healthy and connected. "We know that community connection is one of the hallmarks of good health and psychological well-being," said Kelly Clark, Director of Intergenerational Programming at the Alliance.

SAGE LONG ISLAND At the March 2012 Long Island GLBT Conference, SAGE Long Island ensured that the aging perspective was well represented. Irene Tsikitas, SAGE Long Island's Director of Adult and Senior Services, facilitated a panel of LGBT older adults who spoke about their unique experiences of growing up LGBT and coming out later in life, and best practices for supporting the LGBT aging population.

SAGE METRO DC On August 27, SAGE Metro DC hosted the presentation "Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid" for LGBT older adults and those who work and advocate on their behalf. The presentation highlighted the benefits available now to LGBT people; the barriers and potential hardships for LGBT couples and individuals; and the policy work going on to eliminate inequities under current laws. Speakers included Jan Witt, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and Laurie Young, Ph.D., National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

SAGE OF THE ROCKIES Earlier this year, SAGE of the Rockies conducted training seminars related to LGBT elders and spousal impoverishment protections under Medicaid with a wide variety of policymakers and health care professionals in Colorado, including the Denver Regional Council of Government, district attorney offices, doctors, in-home care providers and charities. The trainings focused on the unique needs of LGBT elders, and how lack of legal recognition of same-sex relationships negatively impacts the economic security and well-being of LGBT older people.

SAGENET MEMBERS

NORTHEAST REGION

SAGE Long Island
sageli.org

SAGE Hudson Valley
lgbtqcenter.org

SAGE Hudson County
hudsonpride.org

SAGE Philadelphia
waygay.org

**SAGE of the
Genesee Valley**
gayalliance.org

SAGE Upstate
sageupstate.org

**SAGE Western
Pennsylvania**
persadcenter.org

**SAGE Western
Massachusetts**
sagewm.org

MIDWEST REGION

**SAGE Center
on Halsted**
centeronhalsted.org

SAGE Metro St. Louis
sagemetrostl.org

SAGE Milwaukee
sagemilwaukee.org

SOUTH REGION

SAGE CenLa
sagecenla.org

SAGE of South Florida
sagewebsite.org

SAGE Atlanta
rushcenteratl.org

SAGE Metro DC
thedccenter.org

SAGE Central Virginia
gayrichmond.com

SAGE Tulsa
okeq.org

WEST REGION


SAGE of the Desert
thecenterps.org

SAGE Olympia
sageolympia.org

SAGE of the Rockies
glbtcolorado.org

SAGE Utah
utahpridecenter.org

SAGE Metro Portland
friendlyhouseinc.org/
programs/gay-and-grey/

 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 AND SERVICES

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Bereavement
Breaking Anxiety and Depression
Coming Out Later in Life
From Isolation to Socialization
Maintaining Sobriety
Men's Coming Out
Multiple Sclerosis
Women Our Evolving Lives
Women's Relationship Group

SAGE POSITIVE

Case Management
Men's HIV Support Group
HIV Prevention/Education
New Beginnings Harlem
Men's HIV Group

THE SAGE CENTER

HOT DINNER

M-F 5:00-6:30 pm
\$2 suggested donation
for 60 yrs and older;
\$4 for others

SOCIAL SERVICE CASE ASSISTANCE

By appointment:
M-F 3:30-6:30 pm
Drop-in: M, W, F 2:00-3:00 pm

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND FITNESS PROGRAMS

Beth Israel Nurse Services
Wellness Groups
Health and Wellness Presentations
Male Cancer Survivor Group
McBurney YMCA Voucher Program

Senior Splash at Tony Dapolito Pool
SAGE Walking Club
Yoga
Zumba
SAGErcize
Health Fair
Wii Bowling and Boxing
Meditation
Tai Chi and Qi Gong
Billiards
Ping Pong

ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

Booklovers Discussion
Theatre Desk
Morning at the Opera
Walks/Outings to Cultural Institutions
Knitting Group
Creative Writing Workshops
Art Classes
Musical Theater Writing Workshop
SAGE Singers
Singing Out!
SAGE Center Library
Musical Performances and Concerts

CAREGIVERS

Support Groups (afternoons and evenings)
Respite Support Group
Financial Help
Friendly Visiting
Home Care
Lend-A-Hand

SAGECAP—CARING AND PREPARING INITIATIVE

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Conscious Creative Aging
Life Issues Beyond Retirement
Thursday Men's Discussion Group
Men's 50+ Discussion Group
75+ Senior Elders Group
Women's Discussion Group
Gay Widowers

SOCIAL

Bridge
Mah Jong
Brunch
Bus Trips
Memorial Service
Daily Drop-In at LGBT Center
SAGE Center Cafe
Dating and Relationship Programs
Gay Pride Celebrations
History and Heritage Programs
Holiday Parties
Intergenerational Programs
Uptown Neighbors Group
SAGE Socials
Women's Dances
Women's Programs

INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Drop-in Community Meetings
Health Information Clinic
Legal Clinic
Money and Finance Programs
Volunteer Orientation
Outreach and Tabling

LIFELONG LEARNING

Creative Writing Classes
Foreign Language Classes
Intergenerational Theater Workshop
Art Class
Genealogy
Film Viewing and Discussion
Elder Spirit

SAGEWORKS

Orientations
Skills Building Seminars
Computer Classes
Job Coaching Sessions
Resume Assistance
Cyber Center Walk-in

HARLEM

Visiting Nurse Services
Health and Wellness Presentations
Arts + Craft for Healing
Buddy-2-Buddy
Computer Classes
Women's Support Group
Cultural and Social Programs
Men's Support Group
New Beginnings Men's HIV Support Group
Latino Men's Support Group (Spanish)
HEAT (Harlem Elders Aging Together) Meetings
Meditation Comes to Harlem (AA Meeting)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Information and Referrals
Case Management
Benefits and Entitlement Assistance
Friendly Visiting
Brief one-on-one counseling
Group therapy

SAGE OFFICES

THE SAGE CENTER AND DAVID BOHNETT CYBERCENTER

305 Seventh Avenue
15th floor
New York, NY 10001
646-576-8669
HOURS
Mon.-Fri., 1 pm-8 pm

SAGE HARLEM

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

SAGE SOCIAL SERVICES

305 Seventh Avenue
6th floor
New York, NY 10001
212-741-2247
BY APPOINTMENT
Mon.-Fri., 10 am-7 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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