

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

sageSM

Matters

FALL 2015

BLAZING NEW TRAILS

Older, bolder, wiser.

See what SAGE is doing across the nation.



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*Supreme Court plaintiff
Jim Obergefell shares why
“progress for some
is not progress for all.”*

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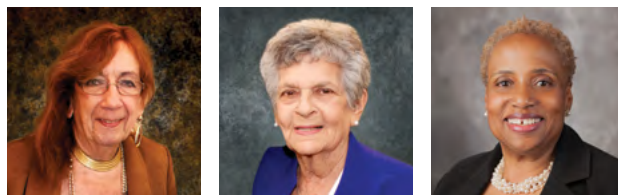
Held on June 3, SAGE's 2nd Annual **HARLEM INVESTORS CIRCLE** celebrated SAGE Center Harlem's huge expansion in both space and services. Supporters gathered at the home of Kevin Curry and Abdou Seye for an intimate evening to learn about new initiatives SAGE Center Harlem is spearheading. SAGE was proud to welcome the return of Macquarie Group as a Founding Sponsor. The evening raised \$53,000 to support SAGE's programming and services in Harlem.

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Former SAGE Board Member Stacia Murphy and current Board Secretary Dr. Kevin W. Williams.

Jason Russo

SAGE Matters 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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Propelling our Movement Forward

THE LGBT MOVEMENT has had countless heroes. From activists who have graced magazine covers, to individuals who have shaped their world more quietly—simply by living authentically and visibly—each has propelled our movement forward in their own way. Many have been LGBT older people upon whom we proudly bestow the title: elder.

In this issue, you will read about activists like Jim Obergefell, plaintiff in the historic Supreme Court ruling that ended our fight for marriage equality and began a new chapter in U.S. history. Obergefell's courage and persistence led the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm that his love for John Arthur was no less than that of heterosexual spouses. It also gave fuller respect for LGBT caregivers and surviving partners. We also share a conversation with Jay Kallio, whose battle against breast cancer as a trans man highlights the healthcare struggles of so many in our community. Jay's inspiring story also illuminates the ways in which our community members support each other across generational lines in times of need.

This past July 13, I proudly joined three elders who championed our collective cause at the White House Conference on Aging. In this issue, you can also learn about their experiences as part of the intensive campaign that SAGE suc-



Next Magazine/Wilson Models

Former SAGE Board member Edie Windsor & Michael Adams celebrating the Supreme Court decision on *Obergefell v. Hodges* outside the Stonewall Inn in NYC.

cessfully led, in partnership with our affiliates throughout the country, to ensure that LGBT older people were at the top of the agenda at this historically important meeting.

These are just a few of the exciting stories in our latest issue of *SAGEMatters*. It's your steadfast support that makes this work possible. Thank you!

MICHAEL ADAMS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As you may have noticed, this issue of *SAGEMatters* incorporates numerous design and editorial improvements. When you have a moment, please share your reactions via our online survey at sageusa.org/magazinesurvey.



SAGE Nation

Making an Impact Across the U.S.

Queering Black History at the New York Public Library



This summer, **SAGE CENTER HARLEM** constituents collaborated with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture to record a new series of African American LGBT oral histories. The project captured a rich mosaic of personal stories from trans men and women, lesbians and gay men ranging in age from 52 to 83. These stories have been permanently added to the Schomburg Center's "In the Life

Archive." Souleo Wright, Program Coordinator of SAGE Center Harlem and originator of the project, spoke to the depth and importance of LGBT history in a *New York Times* article about the project published in July: "The LGBT experience is more than just what we see today."



Legend in My Living Room Oral History Project Participants.

Christopher Stahling

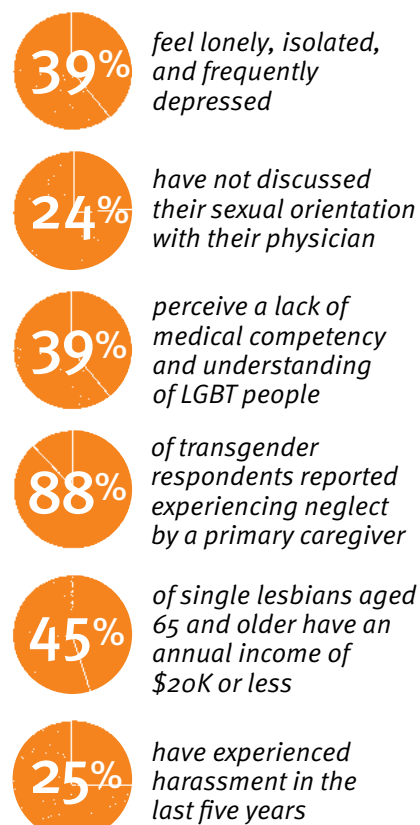
SAGE Expands in the "Show-Me" State

This summer, **SAGE METRO ST. LOUIS** merged with PROMO Fund, Missouri's largest LGBT advocacy organization. "Our programs had primarily been focused in the St. Louis region, but we were getting calls from across the state. Joining PROMO Fund expands our reach to constituents living in other cities, and in more isolated areas," said Sherrill Wayland, who founded the St. Louis chapter in 2008. The merger combines PROMO Fund's statewide presence with SAGE's training and service expertise. Referral, training and advocacy services have already begun in Kansas City. Because Missouri's non-discrimination laws do not include sexual orientation or gender identity, SAGE's LGBT-friendly housing and provider referral program are also critical in this state.



Diagnosing Ohio's LGBT Health Gap

The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland and **SAGE CLEVELAND** issued an alarming report this June. It shows that LGBT elders continue to face profound barriers and poorer health. Among LGBT older adults in Northeast Ohio, the report found:



Now Serving LGBT Elders in Tampa Bay and Detroit

This September, two new cities joined the growing network of SAGENet affiliates across the country. **SAGE TAMPA BAY** operates within Metro Wellness & Community Centers, which also hosts the first and only primary care facility for the area's LGBT community. "We are excited that this partnership will provide a greater connection to health services for LGBT older people," noted Chris Rudisill, Metro's Director of LGBT Community Center Services. Services include men's and women's gatherings, a friendly visitor program, transgender support groups, and help with legal, financial and housing needs. SAGE Tampa Bay also offers cultural competency training to local businesses.



SAGE METRO DETROIT came on board in September to serve LGBT older people in the Motor City. Co-organizer Kathleen LaTosch remarked that the affiliate's work is designed for maximum impact: "We have brought in partners across the region that serve a range of cultural backgrounds from various neighborhoods." Curtis Lipscomb, Executive Director of LGBT Detroit, expanded on this idea of



Key players in the creation of SAGE Metro Detroit.

building on local requirements by saying, "Because of the segregated nature of the region, we've established two main offices—one at a local senior services organization accessible for our predominantly African American Detroit seniors and one at the LGBT community center north of the city that will be more accessible for our mostly white suburbanites."

In mid-October, this new SAGE affiliate collaborated with its partners in Grand Rapids to celebrate National Coming Out Day by screening the documentary *Gen Silent*. The event activated awareness about LGBT older people and the sobering reality of individuals "going back in the closet" when they become reliant on caregivers. SAGE Metro Detroit will also put a spotlight on LGBT concerns on the state level, as Michigan anti-discrimination statutes do not include sexual orientation or gender identity.

Caring for Baltimore's Caregivers

Many LGBT older people are cut off from their families, and depend heavily on support from friends and other caregivers. In partnership with Chase Brexton Health Services, SAGE is replicating its **SAGECAP** program—offering support and resources for informal, unpaid LGBT caregivers—in Baltimore.



"All older adults and caregivers are entitled to dignified and engaged lives. After seeing SAGE's innovative caregiver resource programs in New York and online, we wanted to make them available in Maryland," stated Michael Marcus, Program Director for Older Adult Services of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, which provided support for the replication.

Since establishing SAGECAP in 2009, the program has grown to include caregiver support groups, individual counseling, and referrals to legal and medical assistance.

“All older adults and caregivers are entitled to dignified and engaged lives.”

— MICHAEL MARCUS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR OLDER ADULT SERVICES, HARRY AND JEANETTE WEINBERG FOUNDATION



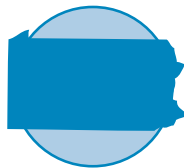
SAGE Story Ignites Action in Pennsylvania

SAGE has joined forces with Equality Pennsylvania's Campaign for Fairness to create a three-part series of online videos to open minds and fight discrimination. As part of the **SAGE STORY** program—which offers a diverse look at what it means to be older and LGBT—these video narratives highlight the lives of older LGBT Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania has no state anti-discrimination law protecting LGBT people; only 34 municipalities have enacted local protections. SAGE and its partners hope to ignite conversation so more cities—and eventually, the entire state—will bar discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition to the video series, SAGE will collect stories from across Pennsylvania, reaching deep into rural areas and underrepresented communities (such as older adults of color

and transgender older adults) for use in a photo campaign. The first video produced through this partnership features Chrisie Kaczowski and Charlotte Shannonz of Gibsonia, PA (pictured at left).



Joseph Ruesch



Nicole Kushner, Alpenglow Photography, on assignment for Out Front Colorado

An Honor to Serve Those Who Served Us

SAGEVETS was recently launched to serve LGBT veterans over the age of 50 who reside in New York State. In partnership with Veterans Justice/LGBT Projects of Legal Services NYC, this program helps SAGE constituents who are military service veterans improve their access to VA benefits and their overall health and wellness. In addition to general assistance, SAGEVets will provide guidance to veterans hurt by decades of discriminatory military discharge policies.

Are you an LGBT veteran living in New York, or do you know one who may need assistance? Call SAGEVets: 212-741-2247 x138.



Washington, D.C.

SAGE in the Capitol, June 12

Over 100 new supporters gathered in D.C. to learn more about SAGE's groundbreaking federal policy work. Highlights included an update on SAGE's National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative and work to ensure that the Older Americans Act specifically addresses the unique needs of LGBT older people. Jack Nadler, a partner with the law firm of Squire Patton Boggs, accepted SAGE's inaugural **EDIE WINDSOR ADVOCACY AWARD** in recognition of the firm's generous pro bono support of SAGE's federal policy initiatives.



Elizabeth Schwartz,
SAGE Board Co-Chair
and Jack Nadler, Partner,
Squire Patton Boggs.

Jason Russo

Out of the Closet and on to the Big Screen

LGBT history will grace the silver screen in **REEL IN THE CLOSET**, a new documentary by Stu Maddux, director of the hit documentary *Gen Silent*. Sponsored by SAGE, this film illuminates the everyday lives of generations past. As Maddux puts it, *Reel in the Closet* “helps us connect with queer people from the past through the rare home movies that they left for us.” SAGE is working to arrange a series of screenings in 2016 through our 29 SAGENet affiliates. For more information, visit closetreel.com.



Building an Ecosystem of Better Care

Protecting Our Elders Launches in Florida

by Kira Garcia

SUN AND SAND aren't Florida's only assets. The state's vibrant community of people over 65—making up more than 19% of the total population—offers a wealth of knowledge, creativity, and political power. SAGE is now laying the groundwork to also make the region a leader in cultural competency training for those who serve LGBT older people. In partnership with Our Fund, a local LGBT community foundation, SAGE launched a new initiative called Protecting Our Elders to help providers understand the experiences of older LGBT people. It will also offer action steps so organizations can better serve this growing market. Protecting our Elders builds upon a training approach that SAGE pioneered to prevent ostracism, neglect, and abuse in nursing homes and other care facilities.

Why Cultural Competency Training, Anyway?

Using in-person workshops and webinars, SAGE has empowered care providers to create inclusive, safe, and welcoming environments for LGBT people since 2011. “Most people want to support their LGBT constituents, but lack the knowledge, resources or training to do so,” noted Tim Johnston, SAGE’s Assistant Director of Social Enterprise and Training. In South Florida, 73% of the region’s providers and facilities reported having served the LGBT community, but less than one-third had initiated LGBT competency training.

Collaboration Sets the Stage for Success

Led and coordinated by SAGE, Protecting Our Elders kicked off when Our Fund underwrote a comprehensive needs assessment earlier this year. In the first phase of the project,



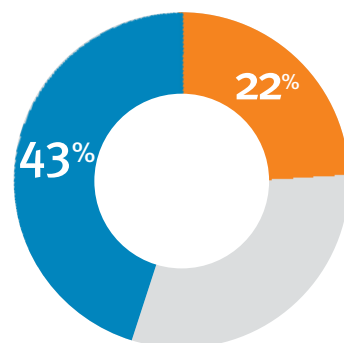
Robert Boo

Participants at the Protect our Elders Campaign Kick-off Event led by SAGE’s Assistant Director of Social Enterprise and Training, Tim Johnston, PhD.

the University of Miami asked providers how they served LGBT individuals and what training needs exist. In the second phase, SAGE will equip and coordinate an impressive lineup of local partners, including the Pride Center and Sun-Serve Social Services in Ft. Lauderdale, Compass

Health Systems in West Palm Beach, Metro Wellness, and Jewish Community Services in Miami.

LGBT Residents at Long-Term Care Facilities



- Feel they could be open about their LGBT identities with staff.
- Reported incidents of mistreatment.

ONLINE RESOURCES



SAGE’s National Resource Center

on LGBT Aging also maintains a publicly accessible, searchable database of agencies that have received our trainings. You can find it at lgbtagingcenter.org/training/agencies.cfm.

A Ripple Effect Towards Progress

In 2016, Our Fund will also begin publishing a directory of South Florida providers who have completed training and demonstrated support for LGBT elder needs.



Emma Parker Photography

Why We Fight

The Supreme Court validated the relationships of LGBT people across the nation this year when it handed down its decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Plaintiff Jim Obergefell took the time to speak with us about his experience in this history-making moment.

Q How did you feel at the moment the Supreme Court decision came down? Can you describe it?

When Justice Kennedy read our case number, I grabbed the hands of friends sitting on either side of me and listened intently. The first few sentences were a roller coaster of emotions, as I thought “we won”—followed closely by doubt. When it became clear that we had indeed won, I burst into tears and cried throughout the rest of his decision. I felt a mixture of sadness, joy, and satisfaction. Sadness, of course, because John wasn’t there to experience the win with me. It was impossible not to feel joy at that moment! Here was the highest court in the land saying that John and I—and couples like us—exist and are just as valid as any other couple. I also had a sense of satisfaction because I’d lived up to my promises to love, honor and protect John. It was a bitter-sweet day, but definitely more sweet than bitter.

Q Caring for a terminally-ill partner requires profound physical and emotional strength. You’ve said that John gave you “the strength to do this.” How did family, friends and community reinforce that strength?

I know I had moments when I was completely exhausted, emotionally and physically, but I always thought back to John and the fact that I was fighting for him, our marriage, and people across the country. I found that no matter how busy I was, I was energized by meeting people, talking

I'D LIVED UP TO MY PROMISES TO LOVE, HONOR AND PROTECT JOHN. IT WAS A BITTERSWEET DAY, BUT DEFINITELY MORE SWEET THAN BITTER.

about John, and speaking out for equality. My family and friends worried about me, but they understood how important it was, and they could also see how passionate I was about what I was doing. They also kept me grounded and sane by checking in with me and, more importantly, making time for me whenever I was home in Cincinnati. It's impossible not to be energized when strangers stop me to say thank you, tell me stories, or share why my fight mattered to them.

Q In winning a battle for you and John, you won something for all of us. Have you met any older—"SAGE age"—couples who've tied the knot since this summer's Supreme Court victory? How have they inspired you?

I have, and quite a few! I remember how frequently people were surprised by how long John and I were together, so I've loved meeting couples who have been together as long or longer. There's been such a look of joy and contentment on their faces, and I can't imagine a better thank you. I know how meaningful getting married was for John and me after twenty years together, so I understand a bit of how they feel. Every time a couple tells me they've finally married after being together for so long—or that their marriage is now recognized in all 50 states—I'm humbled to be part of that.

Q In remarks following the decision, you shared your hope that the ruling would decrease LGBT stigma and discrimination. You also acknowledged the crisis in Charleston, saying we must continue to fight as "progress for some is not progress for all." What issues do you hope to address in the coming year?

Our country still hasn't lived up to the promise of equality that's part of our shared American identity, and my experience fighting for marriage equality has inspired me to continue being involved until we do. I'll be working toward passage of the Equality Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity in federal non-discrimination protections. I'll continue to speak out on behalf of our transgender brothers and sisters and lend my time and energy toward gaining much-needed protections for them. I also plan to become more involved with fighting homelessness among LGBTQ youth.



TALK BEFORE YOU WALK

The confetti has cleared, but the impact of this year's Supreme Court decision on marriage equality will be felt for generations.

Immediately following the decision, SAGE launched "Talk Before You Walk." This web-based resource enables LGBT Americans to consider both the benefits—and potential risks—that may arise from marrying later in life. Here are just a few:



SOCIAL SECURITY & DISABILITY

Legally recognized marriage may make it possible for surviving partners to retain spousal benefits if one of you passes away. However, marriage can also increase your household income, which affects your eligibility for some benefits.



MEDICARE & MEDICAID

Like Social Security, these benefits are also based in part on household income. When you marry this income may increase, impacting your eligibility for lower-cost long term care and other benefits.



TAXES

Taxes are complex. If partners have different income levels and tax brackets, some may face a higher effective tax rate after marrying. Consult an accountant in advance.



LAWS & DISCRIMINATION

Marriage can "out" LGBT people in ways that can make them vulnerable, since workplace and housing discrimination is still legal in many states. In order to ensure that LGBT people can exercise their right to marry without fear of discrimination, SAGE and its allies are fighting toward a federal law to bar sexual orientation and gender identity-based discrimination. Read up on your state local laws to make sure you're fully informed.

Check out sageusa.org/talkbeforeyouwalk for more information.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

SAGE's Four Points of Impact

SAGE constituents, staff and board members from across the nation rose to action in the months leading up to this year's White House Conference on Aging. This influential event is held every ten years to shape our nation's policies on aging and enhance the quality of life of older Americans. Here are some key areas where SAGE made a big difference.



SAGE LEVERAGED ITS ROBUST NATIONAL NETWORK to place an LGBT community member, armed with talking points, in every regional listening session organized by conference leaders before the big event at the White House on July 13. Advocates were disappointed by the absence of LGBT topics on some agendas. They seized these moments as opportunities to create new dialogue, and took the concerns of LGBT older people to the table—literally.

MAKING INROADS NATION-WIDE

1

MEDIA ADVOCACY IGNITING ACTION

2



SAGE HARNESSED MAINSTREAM MEDIA through strategic efforts that led *The Washington Post* to publish a full article on LGBT aging issues the week before the conference. Articles in *Time*, the *Washington Blade*, and the *Huffington Post* also highlighted the need for LGBT-inclusive policy shifts. The result of this strategy? Elevated conversation, increased pressure, and this *Washington Post* headline on the conference's opening day: "HUD moves to protect older LGBT people."



In Their Own Words

Reflections from sage elders who made an impact at the conference.



“For me, the opportunity to be in that gathering was a significant step forward in a march to equality that is maddeningly slow for LGBTQ seniors. Too many of us are currently living in apprehension and isolation. Those who will be joining that aging constituency over the coming years will come with different expectations—and demands—than their current ‘Silent Generation’ cohort.”

— **BARBARA SATIN, MINNESOTA**



FOLLOWING SAGE'S VOCAL AND PERSISTENT ADVOCACY, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a strong directive to protect LGBT older people from discrimination in federally subsidized and insured housing. SAGE is pressing HUD for concrete actions to make sure this breakthrough policy victory is effectively implemented.

BUILDING BETTER HOUSING POLICY

3

SAGE is also pushing officials for more than twenty additional policy improvements covering critical areas including health disparities, elder abuse, discrimination in care settings, and retirement security.

FORWARD MOMENTUM

4



AS A RESULT OF SAGE'S ADVOCACY, the federal Administration for Community Living, in collaboration with SAGE, will bring together federally-funded aging providers from across the country to talk about how they can do more for LGBT older people. SAGE Chief Executive Officer Michael Adams describes the gathering's purpose as "ensuring that LGBT people are truly being served by the Older Americans Act." We intend to use the Denver convening to hammer out clear action steps for the federal government and aging providers.

GETTING RESULTS



Penelope Starr from Arizona reported, "The people at my table heard my impassioned plea to change the culture of prejudice and discrimination against older LGBT people that denies them access to safe, affordable and appropriate health care."



U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Tom Perez posed this question—one of three SAGE questions asked during the conference.



SAGE USA @sageusa Jul 13

How can we bolster [#retirement](#) security for [#LGBT](#) elders, who face high rates of poverty & thinner family/social supports networks? [#WHCOA](#)



To ensure that individual LGBT voices would be heard at the Conference, SAGE called on its affiliates in 21 states to compile personal stories about LGBT aging. In response, SAGE organizers received incisive comments, heartfelt advice and urgent calls to action from around the country. Nearly 200 of these accounts were submitted to the White House. Our community's resounding messages:

- **LGBT older Americans hail from all states and communities.**
- **Our identities are multifaceted and intersect gender, class, and race.**
- **We *will not* be aging in the closet.**



“ I said, 'I do not want to come in to a system that we know is homophobic, and where I will have to go back into the closet. And I want you people who are making changes in these laws to make sure that there is wording that bans

discrimination against all kinds of people giving and needing care.' After I sat down, everyone clapped.”

— **SANDY WARSHAW, NEW YORK**



“ I've had discussions with lots of folks who were there ten years ago. Some of these people talked about the fact that there were not even seats for people who identified as LGBT. It's a disgrace to say we are only going to talk about aging every ten years.”

— **DR. IMANI WOODY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Connecting Across Generations

Jay Kallio gained nationwide visibility in 2012 when he shared his story about navigating the healthcare system as a transgender man living with breast cancer. Now in the midst of a new battle, Jay talks about how a younger community of activists has connected him to newfound strength and courage.

by Timothy Wroten

Q Earlier this year, you were diagnosed with a new condition: terminal lung cancer. Many of us would have given up. Where were you at this point?

Most terminal cancer patients go through a process called “purging” where they start giving away their possessions. I found myself doing the same thing through the “Queer Exchange” Facebook group. When folks came to pick up my castaways, I brought them downstairs because I was ashamed of my apartment’s terrible condition. I live in public housing, which entails a lot of delayed repairs and maintenance. I didn’t have money to do repairs myself like I used to. One of the people, Ella Grash, was concerned and questioned me in detail about the apartment. I described how the bathroom ceiling was going to fall, that lights were out, fixtures had short-circuited, and that the plumbing was backed up—numerous problems.

Q How did Ella and other young activists you met through Queer Exchange help you get what you needed?

Despite being trained in activism, I was too sick to advocate for my own needs. They got to work and generated networks, resources, and money. Ella knew a wonderful woman named Brianne Huntsman who set up a fundraising campaign on GoFundMe. She works in social media marketing, so she had the skills to do it right. They raised money to repair my apartment and also to pay for some healthcare costs not covered by Medicare. People started to send in money, \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500...it was an enormous help.

I couldn’t manage navigating the bureaucracy of my housing authority, either. I was overwhelmed by the bare minimum I needed to do to survive. Several young people became involved: social workers, someone who works in the mayor’s office, and others. They started making phone calls for me, knowing whom to call and how to get things done. My plumbing problems were soon taken care of. Slowly, many things improved.

Q You said that meeting younger activists from around the country through Queer Exchange and GoFundMe fueled you to generate yet another bout of activist energy. Tell us about the campaign they helped you fight against your insurance company.

My insurance company refused to cover an experimental cancer treatment—immunotherapy—because it cost too much. It was my only hope for remission. A number of



Rosa Goldensohn/DNAinfo.com

younger activists got involved with my own organizing efforts. First, they joined me at this summer's Pride March. It was amazing to see the older generation of "ACT-UPers" pushing me in a wheelchair, alongside younger LGBT and health care advocates. Taking the money raised, we planned a rally in front of the insurance company. We videotaped it so we could do an online campaign. We used so many different campaign tactics including street theater, online petitions, and a Twitter war against the insurance HMO. We contacted politicians' offices, which also added pressure.

WE NEED CROSS-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT FOR YEARS TO COME...ACTIVISM WORKS. GET INVOLVED.

As we started the rally, one of the executives of the insurance company came to us and said, "Have you talked to your doctor yet this morning?" My doctor had already been e-mailed with an approval for my immunotherapy treatment. They had done a 180 on a life-saving treatment that had previously been denied. It's because younger activists got involved and gave me a big shot in the arm that I can fight for myself again.



Simone Kolysh and Jay Kallio march with the National LGBT Cancer Network.

Q In spite of this battle and other health concerns, your rebel heart still beats strong. How have you helped SAGE and other communities fight for better care and equity?

I have worked with SAGE a lot on LGBT cultural competency and healthcare. I am writing chapters for a guidebook to help healthcare professionals better understand the needs of LGBT cancer patients. I have also presented at a few conferences to

advance palliative care funding. I'm getting an awful lot done that will not only help LGBT cancer patients, but also Medicaid recipients and cancer patients across the board.

Q How can young people join in this fight?

After meeting so many young LGBT activists this year, I've said, "If you liked doing this with me, why don't you consider volunteering with SAGE? We need your help. Beyond pushing us in the wheelchair at the next march, we need you to work with us on advocacy!"

The fight goes beyond about being gay. It's about supporting anyone who may be gay and vulnerable, which includes those who are also young, old, of color, or poor. We need cross-generational community and support for years to come. With our mutual vulnerability, we also share strengths to remedy that vulnerability. Activism works. Get involved.

Fire Island Pines, New York

23rd Annual Pines Celebration, June 6

This record-breaking event raised over \$45,000 and honored awardees Lina Bradford, Ward Auerbach and Walter and Karen Boss for their leadership and services to SAGE and the LGBT community. It was capped by an emotional plea by new **SAGE CENTER** member and long-time supporter, Harvey Alter. A stroke survivor and long-term cancer patient, Harvey urged attendees to give to SAGE, saying "SAGE does not replace your friends, but they become one of them. SAGE has the knowledge, experience, support and love to help you through the most crucial parts of your life." Harvey added that the services he received from SAGE's Wellness Counselor, Dojun O'Connor,



HeyMrJason Photography

were lifesaving in helping him cope with his partner's death and his own illness. In thanks, he announced that he was leaving a \$300,000 bequest to SAGE in his will. Over 250 friends and supporters gave Harvey a standing ovation and celebrated the achievements of SAGE and its awardees.

Older and Bolder

Starting a second or third chapter? Think big.

We're taught that most people spend their retirement years baking cookies, tinkering in the garage, and playing dominoes. But a new generation of LGBT older people is thinking bigger and bolder. Fueled by increasing life expectancy many are now calling a "longevity bonus," they are creating new narratives about what it means to be "SAGE age."

BRENDA CULHANE is passionate about her pursuits. She's a 75-year-old lesbian activist and SAGE constituent living in Portland, Oregon. Brenda plays a powerful role on a local housing committee in Portland and advocates for LGBT needs in assisted and independent living communities. She notes that "We've



all had friends who have had to go into [these facilities] and do not feel safe coming out in that environment. It's so sad." Brenda's work doesn't stop there, though—she also speaks about LGBT issues at civic events and local colleges. Students often want to know how and when Brenda came

out, and what her parents thought. She responds with patience and honesty, and values the chance to turn her own life experience into a teachable moment.



Advocacy has also defined 68-year-old **BRUCE WILLIAMS'** second chapter. His life changed dramatically in 2006 when he was fired from his longtime role as the executive director of a retirement community in Texas. Looking back, Bruce believes he

was terminated because of his sexuality. It was a terrible blow, but he still remembers the work fondly. "I had the luxury of watching people go through the last third of their lives," he recalls. "I saw com-

monalities and individualities, and the choices they made. Some were good, some were bad, some were frighteningly ugly."

When Bruce relocated with his partner to South Florida in 2013, he began volunteering at the Pride Center at Equality Park. Given his background, he gravitated toward the issue of long-term care and reached out to local providers to find out which ones were LGBT friendly. After a rocky start and a lot of rejection, he hosted a small LGBT community health fair. Fast forward to 2015, and Bruce is now preparing for his sixth event as the Pride Center's Senior Services Coordinator. He remarks that the Pride Center "wanted me to come to work as a gay man—that was the first time in 65 years that had happened!" He's thrilled to be making an impact with his work, and has plans to do more. "No one's written a guidebook for getting old—I think I'll do that!"

Retirement has put the spotlight on **DORRELL CLARK'S** creative side—literally! This 63-year-old lesbian retired from a job as a subway train operator in 2011 and began volunteering at the Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance. "I am not an artist," Dorrell says, "I'm a technical person. So to be in the same space as these creative souls was awesome!" She dove into new artistic pursuits, first taking the stage in a gender-bending role as a young gay man struggling to make peace with a homophobic brother. Later, some of her life stories were transformed into a dance performance by local artist Jessica Danser. What's it like for Dorrell to fulfill a lifelong dream of creativity? "There are no words," she says. "Seeing my work onstage, I had tears in my eyes."



READY TO START YOUR NEXT CHAPTER?



Check out sageusa.org/successfulaging

for short activities on subjects like unlocking creativity, financial planning and sexuality.



WASHINGTON, DC



BRONX, NY



DENVER, CO



DETROIT, MI

SAGE Pride Across the USA

This summer's Pride festivities got an extra boost with the incredible news of the Supreme Court's decision validating marriage equality! Members of SAGE affiliates across the United States shouted from the rooftops and danced in the streets to mark this singular historic moment of hard-won victory.



PORTLAND, OR



PORTLAND, ME



CHICAGO, IL



ST. LOUIS, MO

WHY I GIVE

“

While sitting at the memorial service for Katherine Rerecich, I was moved by the stories of her life and what it represented in the context of our historical struggle.

It inspired me to donate part of my estate to SAGE.

The marriages and families we create today will transform our future. Yet there remains a history to be honored and not forgotten, of all it has taken us to get here and all those who did not live to see this.

My bequest is in honor of all those who came before me, who in their strength and courage, paved the way for my generation to have things easier.”

— MISHAEL CARR-SCOTT

Join Mishael in honoring our history and ensuring that we all can age with the support and dignity we deserve. Name SAGE in your will and be part of our Taylor Society or join our Investors Circle. Learn more by contacting Jerry Chasen, Director of Legacy Planning at 212-741-2247 x240 or jchasen@sageusa.org.



Services & Advocacy
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SAGENet Affiliates

Blazing New Trails

With this issue, SAGE welcomes Detroit and Tampa Bay to the SAGENet family, bringing the total to 29 cities in 21 states.

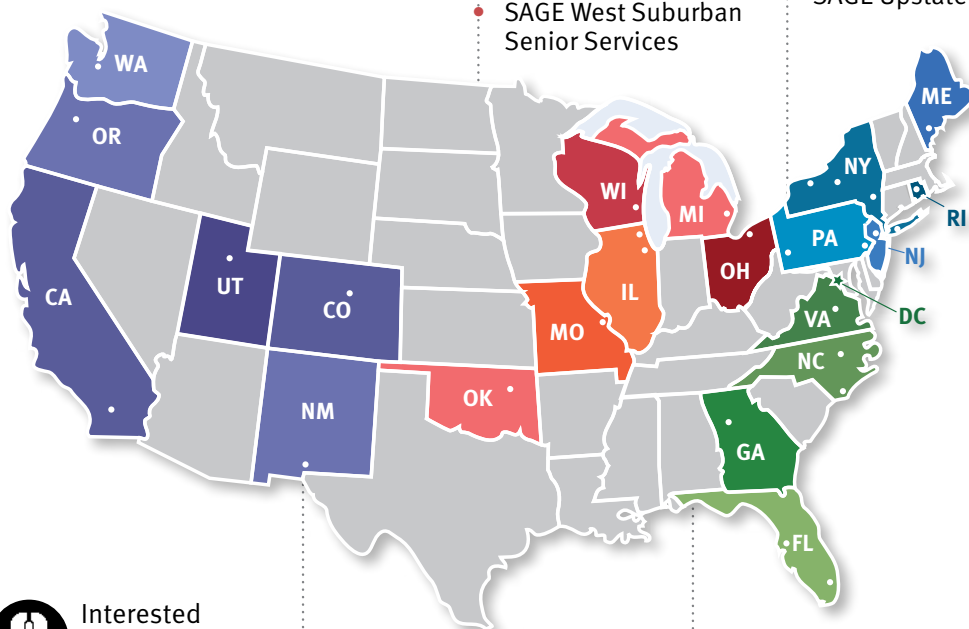
In communities across the country, SAGENet is building a movement to reduce isolation, improve financial security and enhance the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults.

MIDWEST

- SAGE Center on Halsted
- SAGE Cleveland
- SAGE Metro Detroit
- SAGE Milwaukee
- SAGE of PROMO Fund
- SAGE Tulsa
- SAGE West Suburban Senior Services

NORTHEAST

- SAGE Hudson County
- SAGE Hudson Valley
- SAGE Long Island
- SAGE Maine
- SAGE Philadelphia at William Way
- SAGE Rhode Island
- SAGE Rochester
- SAGE Western Pennsylvania
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more at [sageusa.
org/sagenet](http://sageusa.org/sagenet).

AT SAGE, WE'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT DELIVERING POWERFUL STORIES ON LGBT AGING.

To that end, we've begun to make some changes to the way *SAGE Matters* looks and sounds. We're planning further improvements, and we need your help!



Visit sageusa.org/magazinesurvey to complete a quick survey by December 15, 2015.

Thanks for helping us amplify the voices of LGBT older people!

