

sagematters

SPRING 2007

10 HEALTH ISSUES GLBT ELDERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

>> GLBT elders can use this resource to advocate for the best care from their physicians. *See page 4.*

SAGE HONORS DR. RENÉE RICHARDS

>> Transsexual role model and pioneer receives SAGE's Lifetime Achievement Award. *See page 3.*

GLBT ELDERS AROUND THE COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS BUFFALO

>> This city in upstate New York has a fascinating history and a vibrant community for GLBTs. *See page 7.*

SAGE Restores Funding for Harlem Program with Support from New York City Council

BY BETH KLING

Like many nonprofit organizations in New York City, SAGE relies on government funding to operate several programs and initiatives. But last summer, SAGE heard the dire news that the city would not renew funding for SAGE HEAT (Harlem Elders Advocating for Themselves), one of the organization's most ambitious programs. What happened after that is a great lesson in not giving up on a good cause. Despite a few sleepless nights along the way, SAGE staff, volunteers, board members and allies banded together and — through a heartfelt appeal to key City Council leaders and an aggressive education campaign — managed to get funding for this vital program restored.

"We had to go into overdrive with the education process and demonstrate to the city that our Harlem program deserves to be funded and supported," said Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE. "In some ways, that meant asking the city to think a little outside the box. And we would never have succeeded if it weren't for the steadfast support of key city leaders."

Originally funded through a generous 2 1/2 year grant from The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, SAGE HEAT was designed to ensure that GLBT seniors living in Harlem have access to services in their own neighborhood, and have a way to come together and advocate for themselves. To make this possible, SAGE opened a centrally located Harlem office, where seniors can connect to services and meet on a regular basis to discuss what they need and how to get it. The program also hosts community events and activities and includes an initiative to encourage mainstream Harlem-area facilities to become more gay-friendly.

When SAGE started the program, the organization made a commitment to continue

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Florida Agency Receives Training from SAGE

BY LIZ FERRIS

A few years ago, Debbie Kleinberg, executive director of the North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizen Services, attended a national conference on aging and heard someone speak about an organization called SAGE. It was an eye opener to learn about the work of the oldest and largest organization in the country serving GLBT seniors.

Debbie's agency had been serving home-bound seniors since 1974, providing case management, counseling, home-delivered meals, transportation, nutrition education, home companions, friendly visits, and telephone reassurance calls, all with the help of over 200 volunteers.

But learning about SAGE's work, she was struck with the realization that, unlike the growing Haitian, Hispanic and Filipino populations in North Miami, the GLBT senior population was largely unidentified and unserved.

Last year a grant provided the funds to do what Debbie had been dreaming of — sending two representatives of her agency to New York to pick the brains of people at SAGE on how to identify and serve the GLBT elder

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Member Bequeaths Large Estate to SAGE

BY BETH KLING

His family described "C.T." Taylor as an enormously private person — and sometime during his later years he made the private decision to leave a financial legacy to SAGE. A longtime donor to SAGE, C.T. made financial contributions to SAGE almost every year since 1985 — including one just days before his passing. When he was preparing his will several years ago, he told his sister, Lee Koren, that he wanted to leave money to certain charitable organizations.

"I think it's up to individuals to decide where to leave their money," said Mrs. Koren, who told her brother she supported his decision, although she wasn't aware at the time of which organizations would benefit.

The bequest of approximately \$600,000 came as a surprise to SAGE, since C.T. was not a New York resident, client, or volunteer with SAGE, and his only contact with SAGE had been through the \$5 and \$10 contributions he mailed to us three or four times a year. A resident of Norfolk, Virginia, Mr. Taylor passed away in March 2006 at the age of 74 and left the vast bulk of his estate to SAGE. Most of the funds are being used by SAGE to create a cash reserve — a "rainy day" fund to help the organization through any tight financial times that may emerge in the future.

"C.T.'s generous gift is helping SAGE emerge from a financially challenging period in our history and will help us continue to provide vital services as we

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Mainstream Senior Agency Receives Technical Assistance from SAGE

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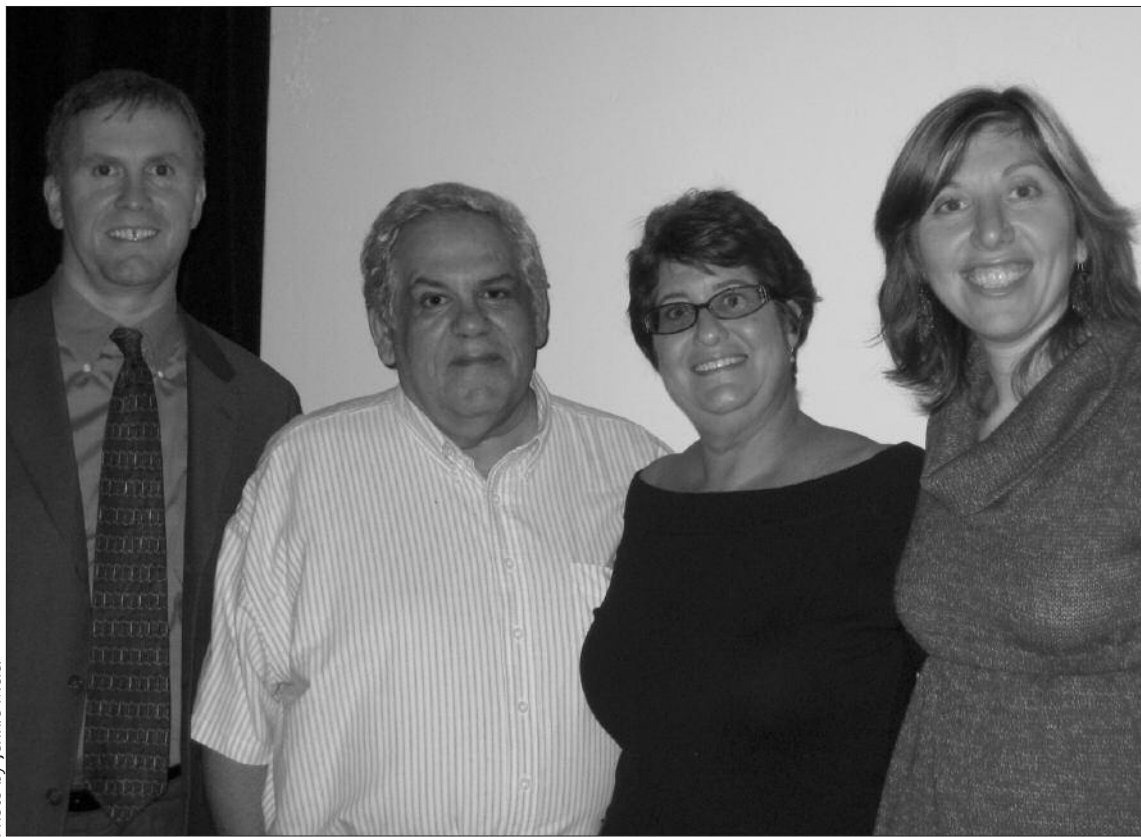


Photo by Jennie Meier

Sandy Dioli-Kumm (2nd from right) and David O'Kurliand of the North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizen Services spent two days with SAGE. Executive Director Michael Adams (far left) and Catherine Thurston, director of Clinical and Social Services, joined them for a photo.

population. SAGE often provides training and technical assistance to organizations around the country that want to learn how to offer programming for GLBT seniors. So in November 2006 we were happy to welcome Sandy

Dioli-Kumm, the North Miami Foundation's volunteer coordinator and administrator, and David O'Kurliand, a North Miami social worker and openly gay staff member, to New York for two intensive days of listening and learning

at SAGE.

"We didn't want to try and reinvent the wheel when SAGE has been doing this for over twenty-five years," said Sandy. David and Sandy were trained by Tom Weber, SAGE's director of community services,

and Catherine Thurston, SAGE's director of clinical and social services.

"Catherine and Tom really opened our eyes to this population," said Sandy. "Humans are humans but everyone has their own special interests and needs. Something as simple as filling out a form, for example. Are you married, single, or divorced? Which box do you check? Some brave souls may write in 'gay and single' or 'lesbian in a relationship,' but not many if the environment isn't welcoming," she said.

Sandy and David attended the annual SAGE Member Thanksgiving lunch and were given a very warm welcome by the guests. They also accompanied Tom Weber to Harlem to meet with SAGE's community organizing manager, Doreen Bermudez, and to attend the monthly gathering of SAGE HEAT (Harlem Elders Advocating for Themselves). And they spoke with Sandy Warshaw, former SAGE

staffer who now lives in South Florida. Sandy offered some important tips on programming ideas that require minimal funds (a SAGE specialty!).

What do Sandy and David see as the biggest challenge? "We've got to get out there and find the seniors before we can offer them services," said Sandy. "Miami Dade has a large GLBT population and as they age, we want to be ready. SAGE is the model for the country right now." Sandy and David will no doubt get help from SAGE South Florida, which offers social programs for GLBT seniors in Ft. Lauderdale.

What impressed David and Sandy the most? "SAGE is trying to make sure that GLBT seniors are embraced and supported, to create unity in the gay community in a way we don't yet see here in Miami," said David. "We hope to be able to imitate that." ■

SAGE Annual Women's Holiday Party



sagematters **The Newspaper on GLBT Aging**

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Services and Advocacy
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To learn more about SAGE, please call (212) 741-2247 or visit www.sageusa.org

SAGE Honors Dr. Renée Richards, Pioneer and Role Model

BY BETH KLING

On October 30, 2006, SAGE bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award on Dr. Renée Richards. For anyone who remembers the 1970s, Renée Richards needs no introduction. Born Richard Raskind, Richards underwent sexual reassignment surgery and later won the right to play professional tennis in the women's league. At that time, she was as recognizable as the Pope or Muhammad Ali — except it wasn't so much fame as "overwhelming infamy," as she explained.

When SAGE notified her about the award, Richards wasn't sure why SAGE would honor her. "I've never been an activist for the gay community," she explained, "and I've never been outspoken in any transgender causes or organizations."

But Richards was a pioneer and a role model, even if she never set out to be one. Her experience brought a high level of

attention to transsexual rights and set a positive example for sexually disenfranchised people, at no small price to her life and privacy.

A well-known ophthalmologist and highly ranked amateur tennis player in New York City, Richards underwent sexual reassignment surgery in 1975, at the age of 40. In an attempt to live as a woman without acknowledging her former



Dr. Renée Richards (right) with friends at SAGE's 11th annual awards celebration.

identity, she moved 3,000 miles away to Orange County, California, where she established an ophthalmology practice as Dr. Renée Richards and continued playing amateur tennis.

Richards' anonymity was shattered when she won an

amateur tournament in La Jolla, and the press got wind of the fact that the winner had been born a man.

"The whole world suddenly knew all about me. And then they said, 'Well, she may have won this tournament, but she certainly could never play as a professional on the women's tour,'" recalled Richards, who had never aspired to play professionally. But the challenge pushed her to fight for her rights. "When somebody says you can't do something, suddenly you feel that you want to do it, and so I decided to challenge the powers that be," she said.

That decision led to major change in Richards' life. She left her ophthalmology practice and sued the US Tennis Association for the right to play professionally in the women's league. With the support of an affidavit from Billie Jean King, she won her case and spent the next five years on the professional tennis circuit, traveling around the world. She became friends with and coached Martina Navratilova.

Despite the excitement surrounding her life change, Richards found the experience to be a major upheaval. "It was terrible in the sense of what it did to my privacy." And she still wonders whether pushing for the right to play professionally was the best

decision for her. "That was the real crisis of my life — not whether or not to have a sex change, which was predetermined in a way," she explained. "I could've gone back to practicing in Orange County . . . and gradually things would have died down. But I made the other decision."

Despite the difficulty this decision may have wrought in her life, Richards' actions served as a positive example for others whose rights have been challenged, including many GLBTs who are now elders in the community. When she was considering whether or not to accept SAGE's award, Richards turned to two friends for advice.

"They both said essentially the same thing: 'You came out and you were not only fighting for the rights of transsexuals, but you were a living example of what they were fighting for.'" As her friends explained, standing up for her rights empowered others, whether gay or straight, to advocate for themselves.

Richards is back to practicing ophthalmology in New York City, and has a home in the country. She has recently written a book entitled, *No Way, Renée*, in which she talks about her life and some of the consequences of her choices. The book was published by Simon & Schuster in February. ■

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10 Health Issues GLBT Elders Should Know About

BY EDUARDO SANCHEZ

Below is a list of health issues that disproportionately affect the GLBT community. GLBT elders need to be aware of these concerns and to insist that health care providers know about them as well. The list is not exhaustive or exclusive, but can serve as a resource to enable GLBT elders to advocate for the most complete care from their physicians.

1. HIV/AIDS

The last ten years have seen the return of many unsafe sex practices, and a resulting surge in the number of cases of HIV among men over 50. Safe sex is proven to reduce the risk of receiving or transmitting HIV. GLBT elders should insist on being tested if they feel they have placed themselves at risk. It is well documented that some doctors confuse symptoms of HIV in older adults with age-related diseases and forgo HIV tests.

2. STDs

GLBT elders have also experienced a rise in the rate of STDs. This includes STD infections for which effective treatment is available (e.g. syphilis, gonorrhea, etc.), and those for which no completely effective cure yet exists (HIV, HPV, and others). GLBT elders should insist on getting screened for STDs.

3. Depression/Anxiety

Many GLBT elders have experienced chronic stress from a lifetime of homophobic discrimination. For some, this stress may be

compounded by the need to hide their orientation from family and work colleagues, or by the loss of vital emotional support after revealing their sexual orientation. Additionally, many GLBT elders have seen a whole generation of friends decimated by the HIV/AIDS crisis, leaving them without companions or potential caregivers and at the mercy of the formal support system.

4. Breast Cancer

Lesbians have a richer concentration of risk factors for breast cancer than any other subset of women in the world. In addition, many lesbians over 40 do not get routine mammograms, do breast self exams, or have a clinical breast exam, and so this cancer may elude early diagnosis, when it is most curable. Having regular screenings can facilitate early diagnosis and a better chance for cure.

5. Prostate, Testicular and Colon Cancer

Gay men may be at risk for prostate, testicular, or colon cancer. Screening for

these cancers occurs at different times across the life cycle. Challenges in receiving culturally sensitive care may limit access to screening services for gay men, who should undergo these screenings regardless of age (just like the general population).

6. Alcohol/Substance Abuse

Alcohol and substance use and abuse may be higher among GLBTs than their heterosexual counterparts, leading to higher rates of addiction and its physical, emotional, and social consequences. GLBT elders need access to culturally sensitive treatment programs.

7. Tobacco

Research indicates that GLBTs may use tobacco and smoking products more often than their heterosexual counterparts. Tobacco-related health problems include lung disease and lung cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, and a whole host of other serious problems. All GLBT elders should be offered culturally sensitive

prevention and cessation programs for tobacco use.

8. Hepatitis Immunization

Men who have sex with men are at an increased risk of sexually transmitted infection with the viruses that cause hepatitis. These infections can lead to very serious long-term conditions such as cirrhosis and liver cancer and are potentially fatal. Fortunately, immunizations are available to prevent two of the three most serious viruses. Universal immunization for hepatitis A virus and hepatitis B virus is recommended for all men who have sex with men. Safe sex is currently the only means of prevention for the very serious hepatitis C virus.

9. Anal Papilloma

Of all the sexually transmitted infections for which gay men are at risk, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) — a family of viruses with over 30 strains that cause anal and genital warts — is often thought to be little more than an unsightly inconvenience. However, these infections may play a role

in the increased rates of anal cancers in gay men. Some health professionals now recommend routine screening with anal Pap smears, similar to the test done for women to detect cervical cancer. Treatments for HPV do exist, but recurrences of the warts are very common. Safe sex should be emphasized, as infection can be spread easily between partners.

10. Fitness (Diet and Exercise)

Problems with body image are more common among gay men than their straight counterparts, and gay men are much more likely to experience eating disorders such as bulimia or anorexia nervosa. Research confirms that lesbians on average have higher body mass than heterosexual women. Obesity is associated with higher rates of heart disease, cancers, and premature death. GLBT elders need competent and supportive advice about healthy living, healthy eating, and exercise. ■

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Coming Out as HIV-Positive: Another Closet Opening

BY RICHARD W. KELSO

Years ago, I came out to my mother about being gay. Recently, I came out to her again, this time about being HIV-positive.

"Why bother?" you might ask. Some people don't ever come out about their HIV status (only their doctor knows). I didn't want to be one of them.

I'm 64; my mother is 85. As my mother ages, she talks about her medical problems. She survived a stroke a few years ago, and I was there during part of her recuperation. I saw and heard about the meds she takes, the doctors' visits, the symptoms that came and went. I had a similar medical scenario, but I was afraid and ashamed to describe it because of the risk of hurting her or of being rejected, since HIV

remains one of the most highly stigmatized diseases. The irony that my mother could openly talk about her health issues while I could not (or would not) talk about mine became annoying and unacceptable.

Distance had helped me keep the secret. I live in New York City; she lives in Des Moines, Iowa. During our phone chats, I avoided talking about my health as she talked freely about hers. On visits to Des Moines, my partner and I took our meds surreptitiously when we had meals with my mother. In addition, we brushed off her comments about our weight loss, attributing it to our advancing age. (She, on the other hand, like many older people, had gained weight as she aged.) I didn't want to let my mother

know about my health issues because I knew she was a worrier. I was afraid of opening a Pandora's Box of well-intended but tedious questions about my health and my partner's health.

Just after my 64th birthday, I decided the secret was a barrier I wanted to remove while my mother and I were still alive. I went to Des Moines, solo, on this mission, having discussed my intentions in my SAGE HIV+ support group for men over 50, and with my partner and my two brothers. I'd rehearsed some possible presentations, but I didn't really know what I would say or do. On my second day there, my mother and I were having breakfast, and she was talking about one of the supplements I'd recommended

to her.

At that point, I said, "The reason I know a bit about these supplements is because I'm HIV-positive and I take quite a few myself."

My mother didn't faint or cry or drop her toast in her coffee in shock. Instead, her surprise (if indeed it was surprise) was muted, almost as if she'd heard I was coming down with a cold.

She asked, "Do you take medications?" I told her that yes, I do take medications, and that my partner is also positive. She asked if he is okay, and I answered in the affirmative.

Then my mother asked, "How long have you been positive?" Still cautious, I said, "A long time." I then rushed to add a non sequitur, telling her that I had told my two brothers. She said, "Well, I'm glad you did because I wouldn't want to say something to them by accident if they didn't know."

And that was it. After a moment of silence, we went on to talk about other things. I immediately felt relieved, however. The secret was out, and indeed seemed miniscule upon its release, compared to the elephantine proportions it had assumed over the years. Now I could take my pills without being sneaky and feeling like a pariah.

And her acceptance drew me closer to her. I slept well that night.

But the conversation was not over. The next day, she was still curious.

"So just how long have you been positive?" she asked. I tilted my head to the side and said, "Nineteen years."

More relief ensued because instead of being angry over my having withheld the information so long, she was actually impressed. "That long!" she exclaimed. I think the length of my survival reassured her that I would continue to be okay. Later that day, we were weatherproofing her patio door, and she asked, "Do you sometimes have good days and bad days?" And I said, "Mostly good days, but I do have aches and pains that I think may have more to do with aging than with HIV." And without skipping a beat, she said, "Oh, yes. I know about aches and pains, and I've got 20 years on you."

Having come out as a person with HIV, I have some sense of liberation from the scourge of shame and guilt surrounding the infection. My mother and I may never again have a conversation about HIV, but it's no longer a subject to be avoided. The door on this closet is now open.

The author is a member of SAGE Positive Support Group for HIV+ Men over 50. For more information, contact SAGE at (212) 741-2247. ■

Charitable Giving: It's Not Just for the Rockefellers

BY THOMAS SCIACCA, ESQ.*

While very few Americans consider themselves philanthropists, many consider themselves charitably inclined. Charitable giving is not something just for the Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, and Astors of the world; there are a myriad of charitable giving techniques available to even those of modest means. This article focuses on charitable giving through Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's).

An IRA is a retirement account that you establish while you're working. You contribute pre-tax dollars to your IRA, thereby deferring income taxes until you begin taking funds out of the account (and by then you're likely to be in a significantly lower tax bracket). If you have an IRA, you can begin taking distributions without penalty from the account once you reach age 59 1/2; you must begin taking at least some minimal distribution once you reach 70 1/2. When you take distribution, you must count the money you receive as income for tax purposes that year. Once you pass away, any funds remaining in your IRA will be paid to the beneficiaries you have selected during your lifetime.

There are two simple ways you can use your IRA (regardless of its size) for charitable giving:

- **Naming a charitable beneficiary.** Listing a charitable organization as a partial or total beneficiary is a great way to make a charitable gift. The IRA funds will remain available to you as long as you're alive, but upon your death they pass to the charitable organization free of income and estate taxes.
- **Directing the required minimum distribution to a charity.** In August 2006, Congress enacted a law allowing IRA participants to direct required minimum distribution directly to a charity. If you do this, the required minimum distribution is excluded from your adjusted gross income, and will not result in an income tax liability. This technique is a great option for people who do not need the required minimum distribution and want to avoid income tax liability.

If you are interested in taking advantage of these techniques, contact the financial institution that manages your IRA. Often, a simple form will be the only requirement to direct payment to a charitable organization. If you would like more information, please contact SAGE's Alan Francisco-Tipgos at (212) 741-0381 or afrancisco-tipgos@sageusa.org.

This article is intended to provide general information and is not a substitute for the advice of the reader's own legal, financial, and tax advisors. ■

* Thomas Sciacca, Esq. is an attorney with Freedman Fish & Grimaldi, LLP in New York City, focusing his practice on Wills, Trusts, and Estates.



Resources for Caregivers Available at SAGE

BY TRUMBULL ROGERS

Recently, a friend went into the hospital on what looked to be a protracted stay. Shortly afterward, I became his Health Care Proxy and Power of Attorney, an adventure in itself.

causes. My friends and relatives had become the only outlet for my frustrations, which was unfair to them, no matter how willing they were to listen to the details of my adventures in Wonderland.

From the outset, I realized

Support Act.

Although individuals must be over 60 years of age or HIV positive and over 50 to qualify for most SAGE services, clients in SAGE's Caregiving Program have different criteria to meet. To qualify for the

locating GLBT-sensitive services, including home-care and long-term care. The program provides friendly visiting, assistance with shopping through SAGE's Lend-A-Hand service, and limited financial subsidies for caregiving needs.

Once the person is in the Caregiving Program, he or she is eligible for all services SAGE offers, regardless of age. According to Catherine Thurston, the director of clinical and social services at SAGE, this is because "The program acknowledges that GLBT people create families that are different from traditional families, and we want to support those families however we can when they face the stress of caregiving."

For me, that support has come from the Caregiver Support Group. It has been crucial in helping me survive this experience, by giving me a safe place where I can talk about the things

that are bothering me and receive feedback from others who are in similar situations. My stress level is lower now, and I have a resource I can turn to when things threaten to become difficult or overwhelming.

I have also been able to find the strength to deal with nursing home staff members and outside agencies I would have tried to avoid in the past. In learning to manage the day-to-day crises and events, I am discovering things about myself that over time have allowed me to continue evolving in my process of personal growth — in fact, I think other members of the group are also experiencing the same thing.

The most important lesson I have learned from the Caregiver Support Group? That's easy. It's the thing that I would term the number one rule of caregiving: to take care of yourself so you can take care of the other. ■

"To qualify for SAGE's Caregiving Program, one of the applicants must be over 60 and one must be GLBT."

At first, I took the subway to the hospital every day, where I spent most of my time trying to find a nurse to take care of his needs, talking to the social worker about various aspects of the current and future course of his care, and hoping to see his doctor to get updates on his condition and progress.

As a result of all the activity pertaining to my friend's well-being, I found myself being sucked into the maw of his situation. I was now in a constant state of stress and the fatigue it

I would need some kind of outside support. Luckily, SAGE offers a Caregiver Support Group. After an interview to assess my eligibility to join the group and the okay from the members of the group, I was accepted into it. This group is part of SAGE's Caregiving Program, which is funded by a Caregiving grant from the New York City Department for the Aging through the State Office for the Aging (SOFA). It originates with federal money provided under the National Family Caregiver

SAGE Caregiving Program, one of the applicants must be over 60 and one has to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. This means, for example, that a 35-year-old lesbian caring for an 82-year-old mother would be eligible to join the program. Also, once a person has joined the Caregiver Support Group, that person can remain in the group for as long as is necessary.

In addition to the support group, SAGE's Caregiving Program also provides clients with information and assistance in

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Power of Attorney: To designate who can make legal and financial decisions in case of your incapacity

Living will: To prevent you from receiving unwanted medical treatment to sustain your life if you are unable to speak for yourself

Last will and testament: To direct which loved ones and organizations will receive your estate



Support GLBT seniors by including SAGE in your will or by making SAGE a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. You may designate SAGE — Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders or United Community Services for the Aging.

For more information about remembering SAGE in your will, contact Alan Francisco-Tiggos at (212) 741-0381.



GLBT ELDERS AROUND THE COUNTRY

“Where Have All the Gay Kids Gone?” Gay Seniors in Buffalo, New York

BY MADELINE DAVIS WITH DANNY WINTER
AND THE RAINBOW ELDERS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER

My friend Mary still refers to the people who hang out in the public gay/lesbian community as “the gay kids.” Mary is 72. It tells me something significant about gay life in the city of Buffalo, where many of us born in the 40s and 50s didn’t experience the full flush of our youthful exuberance and passion until well past our teenage years. Only then were we old enough to enter gay bars or to find the few gays and lesbians who might have worked alongside us at our jobs or just happened to belong to an ostensibly straight organization like the scouts or a softball team.

Buffalo is a working class city situated on the Niagara River between Lakes Erie and Ontario. In our youth, Buffalo was a thriving industrial metropolis. Gays from Toronto and Rochester would come to Buffalo bars because this was a gay center, as opposed to their towns where nothing was happening. (Can you imagine?!) There were more gay and lesbian bars in the late 1940s than there are today, partly because they were able to pay off the police with bottles and banknotes to keep their doors open. It was not until the late 50s when Rockefeller ran on a platform that included cleaning up the police that bars were raided and shut down and a period of bar-lessness descended upon the city.

In December of 1969, six months after Stonewall, Frank Kameney of the New York and Washington Mattachine Societies was invited by a bar owner to speak in Buffalo. He addressed about 200 people in the back of a smoke-filled illicit bring-your-own-bottle club. Two weeks later the first gay liberation organization was formed, and within a few months, the bars started to come back.

Throughout its 15 years of existence, Mattachine’s influence on the social life of gay Buffalo was overwhelming. Buffalo’s Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier was a much more aggressive organization than the other Mattachine Societies. We fought police entrapment, opened the only self-sustaining gay center in the country, picketed politicians and bar-owners alike, appeared on radio and TV and formed a base for the rise of a new sense of entitlement in the modern GLBT community.

Buffalo Today

In 2007, Buffalo is still a place where gay and lesbian people can feel welcome. Buffalo is not a tourist town, but we do have Niagara Falls to the north, wonderful ski areas to the south, lovely beaches and lushly treed parks. Although it is currently economically depressed, Buffalo is truly “the city of good neighbors.” Since most of its members are long time residents of the region, people grow older among friends. Bars and organizations still hold some attraction but it is in personal friendship groups that GLBT elders seem to function most successfully.

There is one organization dedicated to the needs of older GLBTs — Rainbow Elders of the Niagara Frontier, which has existed for two and a half years. Our monthly gatherings include a short meeting, a planned program and a potluck dinner. Programs have been varied and have included: slides of an all gay trip down the Colorado River, a demonstration of a Wiccan healing ceremony, a talk and discussion on transgender issues with a transgender woman, a holiday gift bag filling evening, a lively discussion on Marriage Equality, and picnics and movie nights. A small but dedicated core group of men and women have found this organization a good way to get out into the community in safe space not centered around alcohol. For information about the group, contact Danny Winter at (716) 881-7234.

Buffalo’s Pride Center offers a number of activities where seniors can find a place, including discussion groups, rapid HIV testing, two gay AA groups, an OA group, GIST (Gender Identity and Support), and a coming out and support group for all ages. In addition, GLBT seniors can feel welcome in various arts and cultural organizations including The Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus, two film societies, and three gay-oriented theatre groups. Many local faith communities are comfortable spots for GLBT seniors to find interesting programs and a welcoming congregation. There are also local GLBT groups of diverse interest and several bars and restaurants where GLBT seniors can feel welcome.

Although Buffalo is neither Fort Lauderdale nor San Francisco (what is?), it offers a lively and diverse life for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors if they choose to pursue it. My suggestion: Drop in at the Pride Center, 18 Trinity Place in downtown Buffalo and ask Bryan what’s going on. He either knows or knows someone who knows. Or call the center at (716) 852-7743. If you’re not in the area yet, visit the Pride Center web site for information (www.pridecenterwny.org). Meanwhile the “gay kids” of Buffalo welcome you. We’ll do lunch!

Madeline Davis is director of the Buffalo GLBT Archives, documenting the history of the Buffalo GLBT community. She can be reached at (716) 631-7670. She is author with Elizabeth Kennedy of Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community. (See page 11 for a review.) Parts of this article are based on research completed for the book. ■

GLBT Groups of Interest in Buffalo include:

- Rainbow Elders of the Niagara Frontier
- Buffalo Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
- Alternative Volleyball
- Buffalo Historical Bowling League
- Queen City Softball League
- Women’s Recreational Softball League
- Buffalo Gay Bike Club
- MOCHA (Men of Color Health Alternative)
- Buffalo Bears
- Gay Chubs and Chasers
- All About Us (gay, bi and MSMs of African Descent)
- The Imperial Court of Buffalo
- Bi-ways of WNY catering to the needs of bisexuals
- Spectrum Transgender Group
- GLBT Educators
- Buffalo United Artists
- HAG Theater (lesbian)
- The New Phoenix Theater
- Women’s Book Discussion Group
- The Buffalo GLBT Archives (open for browsing and research by appointment only)

Buffalo’s Welcoming Congregations include:

- First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Unitarian Universalist Churches of Buffalo, Williamsville, East Aurora and Hamburg
- Pilgrim St. Luke’s United Church of Christ
- Unity Church
- Kenilworth UCC
- Trinity Episcopal
- Temple Sinai
- Temple Beth Zion
- Congregation Havurah
- The WNY Gay and Lesbian Mishpacha Group

Member Bequeaths Large Estate to SAGE

work to meet growing demand," said Alan Francisco-Tipgos, director of development and operations at SAGE. "This is a perfect example of why planned giving can make such a difference." SAGE is developing a formal planned giving program to encourage others to make a lasting difference for GLBT seniors as part of their legacy. (See "Secure Your Legacy" on this page.)

According to Mrs. Koren, C.T. shunned public recognition of his personal achievements. Nonetheless, C.T.'s family wanted to share the news of his

bequest in the hope that it will inspire others to make legacy gifts — of any amount — that will help to sustain the growth of SAGE's programs for GLBT seniors in the future.

An educator and author, C.T. cared deeply about his country, the educational system, and politics. He gave to several charities throughout his lifetime, and the fact that he left his estate to an organization dedicated to helping others did not surprise his sister or his friends. At C.T.'s funeral, two of his close friends described SAGE's new benefactor. One friend said

that C.T. had taught him a lot about "things like honesty, integrity, and pride." Another said that the day C.T. died, "The world looked a little dimmer, yet heaven just got a lot more interesting when he entered."

SAGE and the GLBT seniors SAGE serves owe a big debt of gratitude to C.T. Taylor!

We at SAGE greatly appreciate the gifts of all our donors, who make it possible for us to make a difference for GLBT seniors.

If you would like to leave a gift to SAGE in your will or learn about other options for making planned gifts to SAGE, please contact Alan Francisco-Tipgos at (212) 741-0381 or email him at afrancisco-tipgos@sageusa.org. ■

Secure Your Legacy with a Gift To SAGE

Planned Giving Can Make a Big Difference to a Growing Organization

BY ALAN FRANCISCO-TIPGOS

Would you like to be remembered by your community and make a difference for SAGE and GLBT seniors? Including SAGE in your will or retirement plan is one of the easiest ways to leave a lasting legacy of your own. Such a gift to SAGE lives on in the many SAGE programs you'll help to support.

A bequest in your will or a beneficiary designation in your retirement plan or insurance policy is more than a gift to SAGE. It is also your gift to the community-at-large. By naming SAGE as a beneficiary in your estate planning, you will help ensure that the critical services and advocacy that SAGE provides for GLBT older people will continue for future generations.

Many of you already contribute to SAGE, whether through your membership fees, other donations, or the time you give as one of SAGE's many volunteers. Your financial support and your participation keep SAGE's programs going on a daily basis. SAGE is grateful and remains indebted to every one of our supporters.

But as you read the article above and learn about the life of C.T. Taylor, we ask you to consider doing even more to support SAGE's programs. Planned gifts — gifts that you make through your will, life insurance policy, or retirement plan — can also be an important source of support for SAGE and the GLBT seniors we serve.

There are many reasons why planned gifts are so

vital to SAGE. Large planned gifts have been used in years past to create new SAGE programs. And C.T. Taylor's gift will create a critically important reserve fund for the organization. Smaller planned gifts have paid for such things as an issue of *SAGE Matters* or new senior-friendly chairs for our meeting areas.

Now is the best time to include SAGE in your estate plans if you haven't already done so. In March 2006,

Already, many of SAGE's board members, donors, volunteers and staff members have chosen to become part of the SAGE Legacy Society by making a planned gift to the organization.

Regardless of whether you're ready to join SAGE's Legacy Society, planning for your future is extremely important. In the year ahead, SAGE will sponsor events like financial planning seminars to help with the sometimes complicated

Important Information:

To include SAGE in your estate plans, be sure to use SAGE's full name, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), indicate the organization's current business address (305 Seventh Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001) and include our taxpayer identification number (13-2947657).

Join Terrence McNally and Second Stage Theatre in Supporting SAGE!

Call now at (212) 246-4422 or order online at www.SecondStageTheatre.com for tickets to Terrence McNally's new play, *SOME MEN*.

Use the code "SAGE" when ordering tickets and Second Stage Theatre will generously **donate 1/3 of the \$65 ticket price to SAGE!**



SOME MEN
By **Terrence McNally**
Directed by **Tripp Cullman**

March 2 - April 15, 2007
Tickets: \$65

SOME MEN is Tony Award winner Terrence McNally at his best. Often funny and sometimes touching, *SOME MEN* looks at same-sex life and love against a background of some of the events that shaped the last century, from the Harlem Renaissance through Stonewall to current time.

Join us! SAGE receives a donation any date you buy tickets for. Order now.

All sales final. No refunds, exchanges or retroactive discounts.
All artists/schedules subject to change. Regular service fees apply.

we'll introduce The SAGE Legacy Society — the first time SAGE will publicly thank and recognize those who have chosen to make a big difference in the life of GLBT seniors by making a planned gift to SAGE. (Of course, SAGE respects the privacy of all its donors and will only publicly recognize donors when authorized.)

SAGE's planned giving program is being led by a special committee that includes some of our community's best-known and well-regarded financial advisors and lawyers. The committee also includes concerned individuals who have made their own planned gifts to SAGE and who want to encourage others to do the same.

process of planning for tomorrow. And as The SAGE Legacy Society grows, we'll be announcing events, benefits, and recognition opportunities for these special members who have made an extraordinary commitment to SAGE's future.

We hope you share our excitement about the launch of The SAGE Legacy Society. Please let us know if you are, or would like to become, the newest member of The SAGE Legacy Society by contacting us at (212) 741-0381 or by emailing Alan Francisco-Tipgos, director of development and operations, at afrancisco-tipgos@sageusa.org. ■

SAGE Offers Services for Aging GLBTs

SAGE is the oldest and largest organization in the country dedicated to meeting the needs of GLBT people as they get older. SAGE provides dozens of activities, groups, and programs to ensure the voices of GLBT older people are heard and to encourage GLBT seniors to connect with each other and the community.

Through direct services and a wide variety of enriching, life-enhancing programs, SAGE is creating a better aging experience for GLBT seniors in New York City. Through education and advocacy, SAGE is contributing to a better future for older GLBT people throughout the United States.

Support Groups

- Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
- SAGE Positive HIV 50+ Support
- Bereavement Group
- Caregiver Support Group
- Gay Widowers Support Group
- Men's Coming Out
- MS Support Group

- Older Than Springtime – Men's Support Group
- Women's Support Group

Discussion Groups

- Conscious Creative Aging
- Life Issues: Beyond Retirement
- Men 40+ Rap
- Men 50+ Rap
- Savings & Investments
- Senior Elders: 75+ Support

- Tuesday Daytime Discussion
- Women: Our Spiritual Journeys

Art & Culture Programs

- Acting Class
- Art Studio
- Booklovers' Discussion Group
- Book Readings
- Creative Writing Workshop

- Discounted Theatre Tickets
- Morning at the Opera
- Movies
- Women's Music Salon

Social Activities

- Brunch Bunch
- Bus Trips
- Dating & Relationship Workshops
- Daily Drop-In Center
- Drop-In Monthly Birthday Party
- Drop-In Parties
- Gay Pride Activities
- Holiday Parties
- SAGERCIZE
- Scrabble & Bridge
- Socials
- Walks
- Women's Monthly Birthday Party
- Women's Dances
- Women's Parties

Helping Services

- Benefits Counseling
- Friendly Visitors
- Legal Clinic
- Lend-a-Hand

Informational Programming

- Health and Wellness Presentations
- Heritage and History Presentations
- Legal Issues Presentations
- Money & Finance Presentations

Women's Programming

- Women's Dances
- Women's HIV+ 50+ Support Group – Harlem
- Women's Monthly Birthday Party
- Women's Music Salon
- Women: Our Spiritual Journeys
- Women's Parties
- Women's Support Group

Clinical/Counseling Services

- Case Management
- Individual Counseling
- HIV Related Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Benefits Counseling
- Legal Counseling
- Walk-In Social Services Clinic
- Help Finding a Safe & Friendly Long-Term Care Facility
- Help Finding Homecare

SAGE Communities

- SAGE Harlem NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community)
- Monthly HEAT (Harlem Elders Advocating for Themselves) Meetings
- Social Activities
- Informational Presentations
- Information & Referral
- HIV Services

Upper West Side Neighbors

- Monthly Socialization Programming

Education & Advocacy

- National Conference on Aging in GLBT Community
- HIV and Aging Advocacy
- SAGE Curriculum: "No Need to Fear, No Need to Hide"
- SAGE Matters Newspaper
- Website www.sageusa.org

Services for Caregivers

- Respite Services
- Caregiver Support Group
- Financial Assistance for Caregiving Needs
- Subsidized Home Care
- Subsidized Adult Day Services

SAGE Positive Programming

- HIV Counseling
- HIV 50+ Men's Support Groups – SAGE at the Center
- HIV 50+ Men's Support Group – Harlem
- HIV 50+ Women's Support Group – Harlem
- HIV Testing w/GMHC – Harlem
- HIV Prevention & Education – Harlem

Community Meetings

- Monthly Drop-In Community Meetings
- Monthly HEAT (Harlem Elders Advocating for Themselves) Meetings
- Upper West Side Programming Planning Meetings

Volunteer Services

- Friendly Visitor Trainings & Support Meetings
- Monthly Volunteer Orientation

Associated Supermarket
 212-645-7260
 255 W 14th Street
 New York, NY 10011

SAGE Restores Harlem Funding with Support from City Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Harlem work even after the foundation grant ended. Last year, it was time to make good on that commitment. In thinking about where to find new funding, SAGE recognized one overwhelmingly important fact — thanks to

Although SAGE's Harlem program does not strictly fit this definition, it has the same purpose as traditional NORCs — to enable seniors to “age in place” rather forcing them to relocate as they get older.

With this argument, last

NORC money to those programs that fit the traditional definition, leaving only a small pool of money for “alternative” programs like SAGE HEAT.

Once again, SAGE argued vociferously that adhering to the conventional definition of a NORC was unfair to GLBT seniors in Harlem, who have the same right to receive services as any other group of seniors. Since GLBT seniors often feel uncomfortable accessing mainstream services, SAGE's Harlem NORC is vital to the group of seniors it serves.

Key New York City Council leaders and friends of the GLBT community heard these arguments, were persuaded, and became critical allies with SAGE to get funding restored for the HEAT program. City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, a strong supporter of SAGE, emphasized the need for GLBT elders to have access to public support and NORCs.

“By supporting and providing services to Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, we enable our City's elders to remain in comfortable and familiar surroundings. LGBT seniors deserve no less. This is why I am proud the Council secured a total of \$1.5 million in funding for NORC

projects,” said Quinn.

In addition to the Speaker, Harlem City Council Members Robert Jackson and Inez E. Dickens lobbied hard for the HEAT program. Council Member David Weprin lent an important hand. And critical support came from the Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Aging, Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, who described SAGE HEAT as “one of our City's models for how NORCs can operate and provide comprehensive support services that our City's elderly

would otherwise not receive.”

Adams emphasized that such broad-based support shows that SAGE's Harlem program is a vital service for seniors, for Harlem, and for the city as a whole.

“So many people really went to bat for SAGE HEAT,” he said. “It's a tribute not only to the program we fought so hard for, but also to the commitment and vision of our friends and partners. SAGE and GLBT seniors are fortunate to have such great allies — and I'm very grateful for their support.” ■



City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn (left) and City Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo helped restore funding for SAGE's Harlem program.

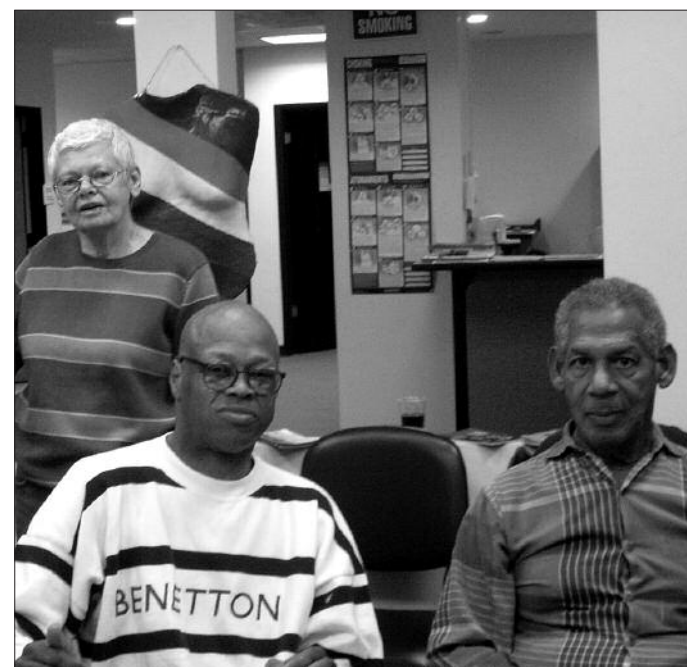
HEAT, GLBT seniors in Harlem were joining together to form a community that was making it possible for them to get services and support that previously were not available.

Citing the development of this community of elders, SAGE eventually convinced the city that HEAT should be funded as a “NORC,” or Naturally Occurring Retirement Community. NORCs are generally centered in residential buildings with large senior populations where services are made available.

year SAGE succeeded in convincing New York City that the program constitutes a “NORC of affinity” because it gathers together seniors who share a GLBT cultural identity and creates a community where members can access services that let them “age in place,” in their own neighborhoods, just as they would in a traditional NORC.

While SAGE's efforts to secure public funding for the program worked last year, this year proved much more difficult because New York City allocated most

SAGE Harlem NORC está creciendo . . .



POR DOREEN BERMUDEZ

Después de un arduo e intenso esfuerzo para mantener la iniciativa de Harlem y East Harlem activa, SAGE exitosamente continua creando comunidad para los envejecientes de la comunidad HLBT (homosexual, lesbiana, bisexual y transgénero).

En los siguientes meses SAGE Harlem NORC re-establece reuniones mensuales para todos aquellos miembros de la comunidad interesados en formar parte de nuestro programa. A la vez vamos a ofrecer programas educativos y sociales para ayudar a crear vinculos colaborativos entre individuos y el resto de la comunidad. Para más información sobre este programa puede llamar a Doreen Bermúdez al (212) 741-2247 extensión 242.

Para más información por favor de llamar a nuestra oficina al (212) 741-2247.

Hablamos Español.

SAGE Harlem NORC Office

Located in the Harlem Independent Living Center
289 St. Nicholas Avenue, at 125th Street
(A, B, C & D trains)

Press the buzzer for Harlem Independent Living #21
Open Tuesdays & Fridays 9-5

Call the Harlem office at (212) 222-7122 or
Doreen Bermudez at (212) 741-2247 x242 for more information.

Events include:

- SAGE HEAT Meetings - Monthly constituent meetings to plan programming. All are welcome. Check the calendar for dates.
- Weekly Support Group for HIV+ Lesbian and Bisexual Women over 50
- Weekly Support Group for HIV+ Gay and Bisexual Men over 50
- HIV Prevention and Education Talks for Women in Spanish at the Leonard Covello Senior Center in East Harlem
- HIV Prevention & Sex Positive Talks with Gay Men in partnership with Gay Men of African Descent
- Gay Pride Events to be announced

SAGE Welcomes Old Lesbians to New York

SAGE's annual women's holiday party had special guests this year — representatives from OLOC (Old Lesbians Organized for Change), a group looking to revitalize its New York chapter. Myra Brahms and Kostya Branwein Sudice, OLOC New York's co-organizers, welcomed participation by all interested SAGE women and conducted a brainstorming session to identify what direction the group will take.

OLOC chapters all over the country work to fight ageism, racism, lesbo-phobia and other concerns for aging lesbians through a variety of activities developed by each group. If you'd like to become involved or learn more about OLOC, please contact KostyaBranwenSudice@verizon.net.

SAGE's Legendary Oldest Anonymous Donor Passes On

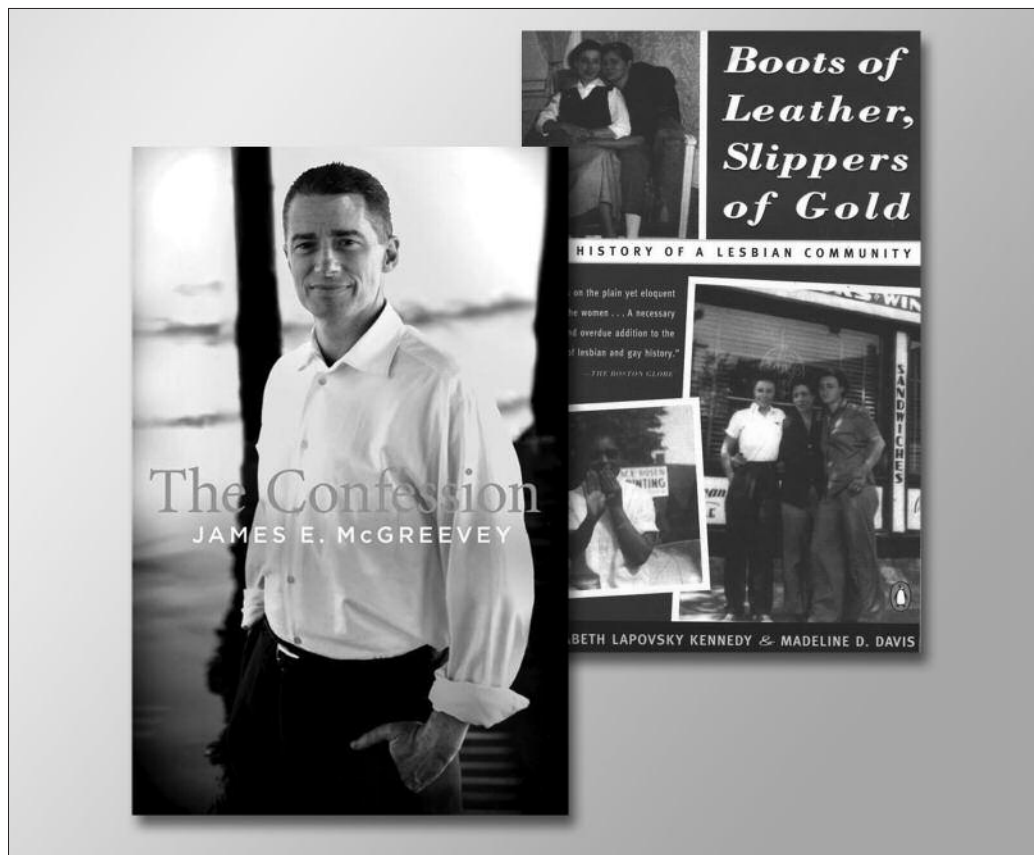
If you've been a part of SAGE over the years, chances are you've heard of our Legendary Oldest Anonymous Donor. For many years he made a huge difference for SAGE and GLBT seniors in New York City. He paid for full page ads for SAGE in *The New York Times* at a time when it seemed nobody except SAGE recognized that GLBT people are an important part of the senior scene, and that seniors are an important part of the GLBT community. He repeatedly underwrote the annual SAGE Awards, giving us the opportunity to honor our heroines and heroes. And on more than one occasion he helped bail out SAGE during difficult financial times.

SAGE's Legendary Oldest Anonymous Donor passed away in February. He was an extraordinarily important supporter of GLBT seniors, and a generous philanthropist for many other GLBT community organizations and causes. He was a man of strong spirit and unique vision. Our lives here at SAGE will never be quite the same now that he has left us. Here's to the memory and the legacy of SAGE's Legendary Oldest Anonymous Donor. ■

RainbowVision Club Condo

Beautiful, new two-bedroom and two-bath unit for rent in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Upgraded amenities for 1200 sq.ft. unit include fireplace, kitchen, W/D, AC, backyard patio, security, parking, among others. Two options to rent: (1) with RainbowVision membership (meal plan, fitness center & spa, among others) for \$2400/month, or (2) without membership for \$1500/month. RainbowVision is located in a unique, prime location in beautiful Santa Fe, close to downtown shopping, arts, healthcare and other facilities. If interested, please call (212) 875-8833 for more information.

S A G E B O O K S H E L F



Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community

Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy & Madeline D. Davis
434 pages, Penguin Books, Paperback, 1994

This stunning history of working class lesbian society in Buffalo before Stonewall is a major contribution to lesbian culture. Meticulously researched, footnoted and indexed, it reveals the gut-wrenching struggle of lesbians to survive from the 1930s through the early 1960s in this specific locale. This is revealed through the oral histories of some forty women. I quote, "Things back then were horrible and I think that because I fought like a man to survive I made it somehow easier for the kids coming out today. . . . they'd come up and say, 'Are you gay?' And I'd say, 'Yes, I am.' Pow, they'd hit you. For no reason at all. . . ."

But once in a while, you hear a lilting waltz as when a young lesbian discovers a gay bar and finds that it is filled with women just like her. We hear a lot about heroes. Well, here is a whole bevy of heroines that I would love to have the opportunity to meet, to give each a hug and to say thank you. A gay man reviewing a lesbian history of a particular period? You bet! I'm honored to have the privilege. Read it.

— Garrison Phillips

Madeline D. Davis writes about the GLBT Community in Buffalo in this issue of SAGE Matters as part of our continuing series on GLBT Elders Around the Country. See page 7.

***The Confession* James E. McGreevey**

384 pages, Regan Books, 2006

Seven years after Ellen Degeneres's primetime self-outing, and years after Americans welcomed NBC's "Will and Grace" into their homes, James McGreevey, former governor of New Jersey, shocked the world when he announced that he was a "gay American." CNN described the announcement as a "bombshell." Rather than being a liberal media fixture, McGreevey was an elected official, father and husband who was very much in the public eye.

In his autobiographical book, *The Confession*, McGreevey attempts to paint a picture of the reasons that kept him in the closet for many years. McGreevey details his strict Irish Catholic upbringing in Carteret, New Jersey, his introduction to the New Jersey political machine, and a career where image was nearly as important as truth. In attempting to build the only life he believed would appeal to voters, he married not once, but twice.

The Confession is as much about the inner workings of New Jersey politics and the politician as it is about the private life of James McGreevey. The book gives readers some insight into why a self-proclaimed "gay American" decided to step out of his personal and political closet and into a different future.

— Mike Nadeau



SAGE VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED YEAR-ROUND

Every year at the annual Volunteer Recognition Party, SAGE celebrates the contributions of our volunteers, who are vital to our work. This year, special recognition was given to SAGE's Friendly Visitors, who provide a crucial service in helping homebound elders remain a part of the community.

We want to take this opportunity to thank ALL of SAGE's wonderful volunteers. Your hard work, support, and dedication are greatly appreciated!



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