

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

sageSM

Matters

SPRING 2011

**THE HISTORIC LAUNCH
OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST
NATIONAL RESOURCE
CENTER ON LGBT AGING**

**A PHOTO BOOK OF OUR EXCITING
FALL & WINTER ACTIVITIES**

**OUR FRIENDS TELL US WHAT
INSPIRES THEM ABOUT SAGE**

**THREE SAGE AFFILIATES
DESCRIBE THEIR LOCAL EFFORTS**

**THE NYC DEPARTMENT FOR
THE AGING'S GROUNDBREAKING
SUPPORT OF SAGE**



Matters

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

sageusa.org

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GLBT Elders (SAGE)

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been quite a busy fall and winter for SAGE!

Over the past several months, we've moved forward with numerous new initiatives that will improve the lives of LGBT older people in New York City and nationwide.

Three major events defined the fall/winter season.

One of the most exciting was our open house to celebrate SAGE's newly expanded office in Manhattan.

For the first time in our 32-year history, SAGE owns its own home, a place that LGBT older adults can rely on permanently for top-notch programming. We were able

to purchase an entire floor in our Chelsea building thanks to generous funding from the New York City Council, the Manhattan Borough President and the Calamus Foundation.

We just completed the first phase of renovation of the new floor. To ensure that we're able to offer the most innovative programs to as many LGBT older adults as possible, in the months ahead, we'll be reaching out to SAGE's friends and supporters to support a second phase of renovation.

The second big event of the season was "The Future of Aging Is in Our Hands"—our first-ever national conference planned by, for and about LGBT older people. SAGE and the constituent-led conference committee recognized the importance of creating a space where LGBT older people could come together to discuss the issues they face and share their solutions. As a result, the conference addressed big picture issues such as federal aging policy as well as everyday practical issues of personal finances and health and wellness. From my conversations with conference participants, people ended the weekend feeling a renewed sense of connection and commitment, ready to apply what they learned in their local communities. SAGE is grateful to The Atlantic Philanthropies and M•A•C AIDS Fund for providing the funding to make this conference possible.

Finally, SAGE and our partners officially launched the federally funded National Resource Center on LGBT Aging in October. This was a monumental step forward for LGBT elders, and represented an important acknowledgment by the federal government of the unique needs of SAGE constituents across the country. The Resource Center's training, technical assistance and website will serve as critical resources for LGBT organizations and aging providers so that they can provide culturally competent services and support to LGBT elders. You can read more about the exciting launch and the continuing development of the Resource Center in this issue.

As if this weren't enough, SAGE has also continued to strengthen our policy advocacy work at the federal level and increased our advocacy activities in New York City. Through SAGE's new office in Washington DC, we're working closely with our Diverse Elders Coalition allies to fight for a reauthorized Older Americans Act that addresses the needs of LGBT and people of color elders. Here in our hometown, we were proud to participate in the first-ever hearing on LGBT aging issues by the New York City Council in January.

Through it all, we remain grateful to you for your support and commitment to SAGE's work and to LGBT older people nationwide. Together, we are transforming the LGBT landscape!



Michael Adams, Executive Director

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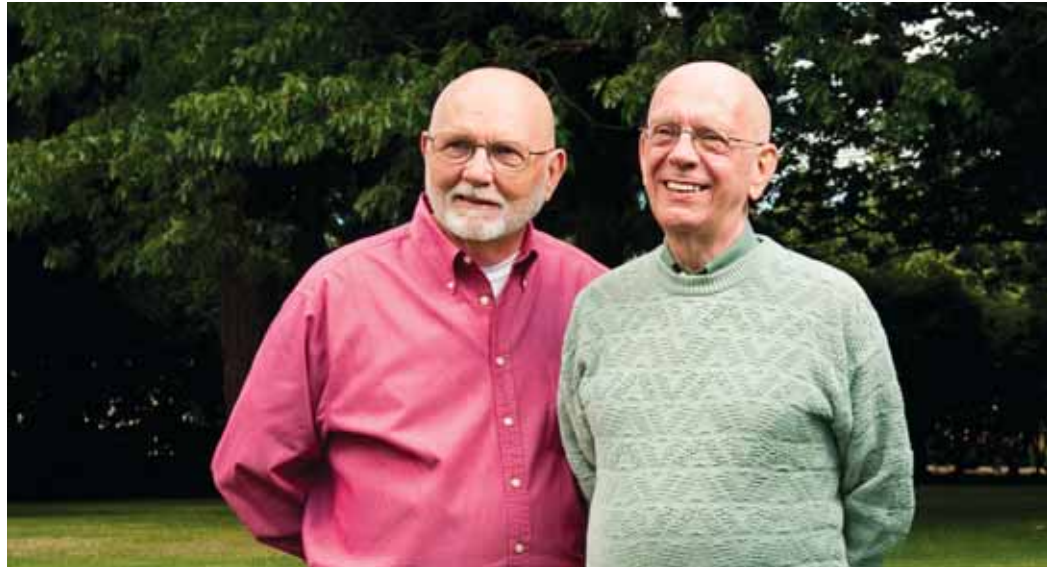
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Did you know you can give online? Visit sageusa.org/donate.

History in the Making

How SAGE Built the Country’s First National Resource Center on LGBT Aging



IN 2010, SAGE RECEIVED A HISTORIC GRANT to seed the creation of the country’s first ever National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, aimed at improving the quality of support and services offered to LGBT older adults nationwide. Let’s take a look at how we got there, and where we’re going.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE. In 1965, Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) to strengthen the services offered to older adults nationwide, with particular attention to serving populations with the greatest social need. Thus, the Administration on Aging (AoA) has historically funded organizations to serve as technical assistance resource centers for marginalized communities, including Hispanic/Latino communities, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islander communities, and Native Americans/Alaska Natives, and others.

A MONUMENTAL STEP FORWARD. When the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the AoA announced, in October 2009, plans to fund a technical assistance center for

“The Administration on Aging frequently turns to national organizations to support the Aging Network in their efforts to work with specific minority populations that are traditionally undeserved... [W]e now recognize that LGBT older adults also represent a community with unique needs that must be addressed.”

—KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, U.S. SECRETARY FOR HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, ON THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON LGBT AGING

LGBT older adults, it was a breakthrough for LGBT communities. Forty-four years after the passage of OAA, it was the first time the federal government had
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“The U.S. Administration on Aging is proud to have played a part in the creation of a Resource Center designed to engage, empower and support mainstream aging providers, LGBT service providers and LGBT older adults. It will help ensure that LGBT elders have the supports they need to successfully age in place.”

—KATHY GREENLEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AGING,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

acknowledged that LGBT older adults have unique needs and concerns that must be addressed by aging providers, and that the federal government has a role to play in supporting these efforts. In response to this announcement, SAGE—leading an unprecedented partnership with 10 aging and LGBT organizations nationwide—proposed to build the country’s first National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.

THE NEED. The Resource Center will provide information and tools to LGBT older adults, aging providers, and LGBT organizations. Many LGBT older adults enter retirement age without the necessary financial and legal precautions in place—a troublesome fact since many of our country’s safety net programs treat LGBT people and their loved ones differently, and lifelong inequality has meant lower incomes, even poverty, for many of today’s LGBT older adults. In addition, because many LGBT older adults have faced a lifetime of stigma and

discrimination, they often fear more of the same from service and care providers. In turn, few professional caregivers have been trained to deal with, or even be aware of, LGBT older adults’ unique needs. Add to this that few LGBT organizations offer programs specifically for older adults, so as LGBT people age, the community they traditionally turn to for support is no longer there.

A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT. In February 2010, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that SAGE had received the grant to establish the Resource Center. Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging at HHS, stated, “The U.S. Administration on Aging is proud to have played a part in the creation of a Resource Center designed to engage, empower and support mainstream aging providers, LGBT service providers and LGBT older adults. It will help ensure that LGBT elders have the supports they need to successfully age in place.”

A GROWING WEBSITE. Central to the Resource Center is the unveiling of its website (lgbtagingcenter.org), which over time will grow into a highly interactive, multimedia site that will equip LGBT older adults and their loved ones with information on legal issues, caregiving, lifelong planning and housing, among other areas. The site launched in October 2010, garnering thousands of hits in its first few weeks.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. LGBT cultural competency training for aging providers, as well as training on ageism issues for LGBT organizations, are key to the work of the Resource Center. Recent research shows that aging providers acknowledge the need for, and are open to receiving, training that will help their staff better serve LGBT elders (see “New Report Highlights Importance of LGBT Aging Training for Service Providers” on page 5). Resource Center staff kicked off trainings in the fall and

winter, conducting a series of webinars and in-person trainings on LGBT aging issues with a variety of aging providers. And in December 2010, we conducted a three-day “train the trainer” curriculum at SAGE’s New York office to begin building a corps of national trainers that will reach local community organizations and aging providers across the country.

The Resource Center offers four cultural competency trainings, two for aging services organizations and two for LGBT organizations. Interested in receiving training, or becoming a trainer? Visit lgbtagingcenter.org.

STARTING WITH CAREGIVING. In spring 2011, the Resource Center website will

debut its caregiving portal, aimed at presenting information and tools that specifically address the needs and issues of LGBT individuals providing informal care to partners, family members, friends or loved ones. Resources on other issue areas—such as legal and financial planning, housing, HIV/AIDS, ageism and more—will be rolled out over the next several months.

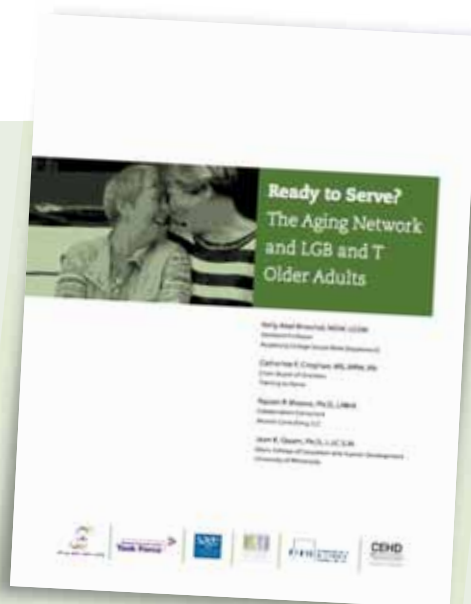
To sign up for updates, and to tell us what you think we should include on the Resource Center’s website, go to lgbtagingcenter.org or facebook.com/lgbtagingcenter.

New Report Highlights Importance of LGBT Aging Training for Service Providers

In December, SAGE and four other aging and research organizations released the results of a nationwide survey of the national aging network’s capacity to meet the specific needs of LGBT older adults. The report, *Ready to Serve? The Aging Network and Older LGBT and T People*, found that few agencies offered LGBT-specific programs or outreach, but a majority were willing to offer LGBT aging training to staff. Agencies that had provided such training were more likely to offer targeted services and outreach to LGBT older adults, and were two to three times more likely to have received a request for help from an LGBT older adult—suggesting that training is a key to ensuring that agencies meet the needs of LGBT elders.

This study was conducted in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, PFund Foundation, and the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development.

To read the full report, go to sageusa.org/uploads/ReadyToServe.pdf.



In addition to HHS, SAGE would like to thank the Gill Foundation, the H. van Ameringen Foundation and M•A•C AIDS Fund for their support of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. The Gill Foundation and H. van Ameringen Foundation are currently matching donations to the Resource Center dollar for dollar. Visit sageusa.org/donate to learn more.

Our National Partners

The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging is a project of SAGE in partnership with 10 organizations nationwide with expertise in aging, housing, research, diversity, and more. Our partners include:

American Society on Aging
asaging.org

Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity, Hunter College
brookdale.org

CenterLink
lgbtcenters.org

FORGE Transgender Aging Network
forge-forward.org/tan/

GRIOT Circle
griotcircle.org

The LGBT Aging Project
lgbtagingproject.org

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
n4a.org

National Council on Aging’s National Institute of Senior Centers
ncoa.org/strengthening-community-organizations/senior-centers/nisc/

Openhouse
openhouse-sf.org

PHI
phinational.org

National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Team

Meet the dedicated people committed to improving supports and services for LGBT older adults nationwide through the Resource Center.



HILARY MEYER

Director, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging

Her role: To guide the development of the Resource Center's content, curriculum and best practice publications.

On what inspires her about the Resource Center: I'd say the team of expert partner organizations who are dedicated to delivering a "one-stop shop" of information on LGBT aging—resources which were previously scarce and scattered at best. Also, I think the federal government's decision to fund the Resource Center shows that the needs of LGBT older adults are finally being understood and recognized by policymakers. It's a sign of progress for LGBT older adults, and for the LGBT movement as a whole.

On the Resource Center's impact: Our long-term goal is to improve LGBT older adults' lives by providing them with the tools that they need to age successfully. To reach this goal, in the short term, we will build out the NRC website with comprehensive and interactive resources. In addition, we're developing a technical assistance module that will give service providers and other organizations a robust toolkit that will help them to best serve LGBT elders, wherever they may be located.

DOREEN BERMUDEZ

National Training Coordinator

Her role: To create and facilitate trainings nationwide for aging providers and LGBT organizations about the needs of LGBT older adults.



On what inspires her about the Resource Center: I am really excited about helping raise the visibility of a community that, for years, has gone unnoticed and underserved by aging policies and services. I think the Resource Center symbolizes the fall of some of the barriers that previously existed for LGBT elders. It will usher in an enhanced and deepened understanding of LGBT elders within society at large, and will result in them receiving the care and services they deserve.

On the Resource Center's impact: I envision that aging service providers will seek out more programming and services that affirm LGBT identities, and will sign up for the webinars, trainings, and toolkits that the NRC offers. Long term, I believe that the growth of the Resource Center will foster a deepened consideration of how aging policies can include and recognize the specific needs of the aging LGBT population.

CHRISTINA DACOSTA

Online Media Manager

Her role: To build out the Resource Center website and guide a social media strategy to generate knowledge, networking, and information sharing on LGBT aging.

On what inspires her about the Resource Center: What inspires me most about the creation of the National

Resource Center is the collaborative effort that went into creating it, from an inkling of a dream, to the realization that will make the Resource Center the clearing-house for trusted and reliable information on LGBT aging.



On the Resource Center's impact: I get a lot of requests from people—LGBT older adults as well as aging service providers—in non-urban areas about obtaining reliable information about LGBT aging. I think the Resource Center has the tremendous potential to facilitate the spread of information and increase the national dialogue on LGBT aging issues. Also, I hope that our constituents in urban areas, such as the New York City area, will see an increase in services, laws, and policies that affirm the diversity in aging experiences.

MARIBELLE VAZQUEZ

SAGE Constituent Leader

Meet Maribelle Vazquez, a SAGE Harlem member committed to creating safe spaces for Latina lesbians.

For years, Maribelle Vasquez strived to live up to her parents' expectations to be a good daughter, wife and mother. "My mother wanted me to be like her,

so I tried to be straight, but I never met a man who interested me. When I was 35, I heard that people were calling me *jamona*, which means old maid, behind my back. Well, I decided that I would rather be called a lesbian than an old maid!"

Today, Maribelle is 54 and happily married to her partner of 10 years, Sophia. Maribelle is also one of the original members of Charla!, a bilingual support

group for Latina lesbians over 40 that meets at SAGE Harlem. other women because they're not into the club scene. Here we can talk about anything, and release our frustrations. We get positive feedback from each other and different perspectives on the problems in our lives."

Maribelle also enjoys the friendly and diverse community of the Harlem Center. She and another Charla! member regularly attend a weekly group for

“At SAGE’s conference in November, I attended a discussion group for people of color. One woman spoke about how isolated she used to feel as a woman of color and a lesbian, but because of SAGE, she had a place to connect to people her age and from her culture. Maybe because of SAGE, the next generation won’t have to suffer like we did.”

—MARIBELLE VAZQUEZ

group for Latina lesbians over 40 that meets at SAGE Harlem.

Maribelle first heard about SAGE over a decade ago, but was not sure if the organization would be welcoming to a woman of Puerto Rican descent born and raised in the Bronx. When she found out that SAGE was opening an office in Harlem, she decided to take another look. "Having a location in Harlem shows that SAGE is thinking about the wider LGBT community, and issues of diversity. Harlem is very accessible to upper Manhattan and the Bronx, where many people of color live."

Since attending the first meeting of Charla!, Maribelle has been an outspoken advocate of the group. To her, it is a much needed space where members can talk freely about their shared experiences as women, Latinas and lesbians. "Many of the women who come here feel lonely outside the group because they have demanding jobs, family commitments or don't know where else to go to meet



African American women, who welcome all women regardless of race or ethnicity. And she finds joy in listening to the stories of the African American men who attend the Harlem Center's programs, who always tell her what Harlem was like in their day.

Overall, Maribelle is excited about SAGE's future and potential to change the aging outlook for LGBT people. "At SAGE's conference in November, I attended a discussion group for people of color.

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One woman spoke about how isolated she used to feel as a woman of color and a lesbian, but because of SAGE, she had a place to connect to people her age and from her culture. Maybe because of SAGE, the next generation won't have to suffer like we did."

Maribelle Vazquez is currently embarking on a career change and studying to be a paralegal. This article will also appear in Generación L (generacionl.presspublisher.us/), the online magazine of Las Buenas Amigas.



ROSALYN (ROZ) RICHTER Secretary, SAGE Board of Directors

Roz joined SAGE's Board in 2010, and has already taken on two leadership roles: Secretary and Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee. She tells us why.

What made you want to join SAGE's Board of Directors, and take on a leadership role? I was already familiar with SAGE's work from many years of being part of New York City's LGBT community. I'm also good friends with both current and former board members. Also, I was at a point in my life where

I was thinking about my own aging future. I've served on boards of both gay and non-gay community organizations and my fellow Board members thought I had certain skills from my prior service to offer SAGE. I hesitated at first, because I didn't know if this was right for me and for SAGE, but I was persuaded.

Could you describe the work of the Nominating and Governance Committee?

While I oversee the work of the whole committee, [SAGE Board member] Pat Wiley chairs the nominations subcommittee. On the governance side, I'm focused on guiding our transition from a local to a national Board. We just brought on new members from Washington DC; this is the first time we've had national Board members. Also, I work to ensure that as a Board, we evaluate our own work so that we are an effective body, and I work with Michael Adams and the executive committee to ensure SAGE has appropriate policies in place.

What do you feel makes SAGE a vital organization in the LGBT community?

SAGE is absolutely vital, or I wouldn't be here. My partner and I are both caregivers for my mother and stepmother. SAGE is providing a lot of support to lesbians of my generation in that role, and that's unique. I'm over 50, and while retirement is a long way away, I like to think that when I get there, it will be better because SAGE will have created services so that I can stay in my home, or communities where I feel comfortable. The retirement communities that my mom and stepmom live in now are not somewhere I'd feel comfortable, because, as far as I know, they don't have many LGBT residents.

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

I'm very involved in women's issues in

the legal profession, and ensuring that women lawyers have a voice. I know that SAGE is committed to ensuring that women have a leadership role here, so that's a definite overlap. I've mostly concentrated on building the leadership skills of young women, and I like to think that now I'll learn something about creating leadership roles for women a decade or two older than me.

Rosalyn Richter is an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, New York State Supreme Court.

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

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

SUSAN R. HESTER
Member-at-Large

ROSALYN RICHTER
Secretary

REGINALD T. STANLEY
Member-at-Large

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

ALLISON AULDRIDGE
Policy Associate, Policy and Communications

GLENI GARCIA
Senior Accountant

HILARY MEYER
Director, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging

CARLOS NORENA
Comptroller

SUZY RITHOLZ
Director, Social Services

SIU LING WONG
Junior Accountant

Over the past several months, SAGE took advantage of numerous opportunities to reach out to LGBT older adults around the city and state, policymakers, aging providers and other influential parties to advance our work on behalf of LGBT elders. The photos and words in the pages ahead showcase our work by, for and about LGBT older adults in New York City and around the country. [For more photos, visit flickr.com/sageusa.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sageusa/)



Above: New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn writes best wishes to SAGE during the dedication of SAGE's newly expanded New York office. **Below:** Constituents and friends arrive at the 15th Floor Opening reception.



SAGE constituent Madelin Alk celebrating the opening of SAGE's new 15th floor space, which will house SAGE's expanding social and community programming services.



EXPANDING SAGE'S NEW YORK OFFICE. On November 8, SAGE welcomed friends and supporters, including New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, to celebrate the unveiling of its new space at 305 Seventh Avenue, 15th floor. Made possible through a generous award from the New York City Council, the Manhattan Borough President and the Calamus Foundation, the new space will be dedicated primarily to expanding SAGE's services and programs to the thousands of LGBT older adults who live in New York City.



Tom Weber, SAGE Director of Community Services, visited with Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a reception to celebrate LGBT Pride Month.

PRIDE IN THE CITY. Tom Weber, SAGE Director of Community Services, was warmly greeted by New York City Mayor Bloomberg at Gracie Mansion in honor of LGBT Pride Month. This annual reception celebrates New York City's LGBT residents and serves as a welcome before NYC's annual Gay Pride Parade.

THE 15TH ANNUAL SAGE AWARDS & GALA. On October 25, 2010, SAGE hosted its 15th Annual Awards & Gala, honoring those who have made significant contributions to improve the lives of LGBT older adults. Held at New York City's Gotham Hall, hundreds of guests, including Kate Clinton and Anthony Romero, turned out to honor Edie Windsor, recipient of the Joyce Warshaw Lifetime Achievement Award; Urvashi Vaid, recipient of the Ken Dawson Advocacy Award; and MetLife, recipient of the first ever SAGE Corporate Leadership Award.



Above: Honorees Urvashi Vaid and Edie Windsor with Ginny Apuzzo reunite at the 15th Annual SAGE Awards & Gala at Gotham Hall. Top left: Bill Mullaney, President, U.S. Business for MetLife, Inc., accepts the 2010 SAGE Corporate Leadership Award. Bottom left: SAGE Harlem constituent Geo Genao speaks at the 15th Annual SAGE Awards.



Sandy Warshaw, SAGE constituent, testifies at a hearing of the New York City Council's Aging Committee on culturally competent care and services to LGBT elders.

SAGE APPEARS BEFORE CITY COUNCIL. SAGE Policy Associate Allison Auldridge stepped into the political spotlight this winter to advocate on the behalf of the city's LGBT older adults. In November, Allison appeared before the New York City Council's Aging Committee to discuss the susceptibility of LGBT older adults to elder abuse, and, in December, on how city budget cuts affect SAGE's homebound constituents. In January, Allison also testified at a hearing on providing culturally competent care and services to LGBT older adults, where she was joined by SAGE constituent Sandy Warshaw, who gave personal accounts of her experiences in health care settings. To read transcripts of the testimonies, visit sageusa.org.

WORLD AIDS DAY. In commemoration of World AIDS Day, SAGE, alongside ten other leading community organizations, co-sponsored "Out of the Darkness," a candlelight vigil and gathering to honor those we have lost. The gathering included a march, as well as a planned Time of Reflection and Reading of Names of Those We Have Lost to AIDS.



SAGE constituent Paula Ferrara attended SAGE's annual Thanksgiving Party in November, joining over 140 other attendees.

GIVING THANKS. SAGE hosted two Thanksgiving parties this November to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season and to share in food, friends, and extended families. First, SAGE hosted its annual dinner at the LGBT Center, where over 140 attendees were served a full Thanksgiving dinner by Deutsche Bank volunteers and SAGE staff. Later that evening, SAGE Harlem hosted its first Thanksgiving potluck celebration, with neighbors and friends each bringing a special dish.

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR KIDS & SENIORS On Friday, December 3, over 2,000 guests attended the Holiday Gifts for Kids & Seniors Party at Chelsea Piers, Pier 60. SAGE is proud to be a beneficiary of this annual holiday tradition and grateful to have received over \$12,000 in charitable gifts from attendees. Even after bestowing donations and holiday treats on SAGE, many generous individuals gave a little extra to have a photo taken with SAGE's Friendly Holiday Visitor, Andrew. SAGE extends our thanks to hosts Robby Browne, David Tufts and Chris Kann, as well as to raffle prize donors JetBlue and Eyal Feldman, Boy Butter Lubes CEO.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. SAGE kicked off a month of festivities by hosting three holiday parties this December for its constituents around the city. December 4, SAGE and the Stonewall Quarter Share, a circle of young professionals effecting positive change in New York City's LGBT community, co-hosted the 2010 SAGE Holiday Social, featuring a Tina Turner impersonator and a talent show. Eight days later, SAGE threw a "Women's Holiday Party," where the attendees lunched together and exchanged gifts. Finally, SAGE Harlem celebrated Kwanzaa, complete with food, music, and dancing.



SAGE Senior Director for Development Kenneth R. Cox, and SAGE Board Member David W. Canter accept the GLAAD Media Award in Advertising in the Outstanding Social Marketing category for our SAGECAP media campaign.

SAGE WINS A GLAAD MEDIA AWARD. In September, SAGE received the GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Award in Advertising in the Outstanding Social Marketing category for its ad campaign highlighting SAGECAP (Caring & Preparing), an innovative program to aid caregivers as they offer care to an aging loved one. This award-winning ad campaign ran for seven weeks last June and July throughout the MTA subway system, as well as in print and online magazines, blogs, and other publications throughout New York City.



Attendees at the 2010 Holiday Gifts for Kids & Seniors Party pose for a photo op with Andrew (in a bow tie), SAGE's friendly holiday helper.



Representatives from SAGE affiliates across the country attended the annual SAGENet Gathering, sharing advocacy tools and brainstorming solutions to policy challenges. For a current listing of SAGE affiliates, visit sageusa.org/about/sagenet.cfm.

SAGENET AFFILIATE GATHERING. In November, representatives from all 17 SAGE affiliates traveled to New York City for the annual SAGENet Gathering. This year's gathering focused on building affiliates' fundraising and advocacy work, and highlighted the work that affiliates are leading in their local communities. We were proud to welcome three new affiliates to this year's gathering, including SAGE Metro DC (Washington, DC); SAGE CenLA (Alexandria, LA); and SAGE Philadelphia at William Way (Philadelphia, PA). John Phillips of SAGE CenLA said of the gathering, "The experience of being able to meet so many people who are working to ensure that the LGBT aging community and LGBT elders have a voice, and to participate in as well as simply listen to discussions about issues currently affecting our lives, was incredible, to say the least."



SAGEWORKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. In 2010, SAGEWorks Program Manager Michele D'Amato and SAGE Director of Community Services Tom Weber traveled across the country to share the success of the SAGEWorks program with four SAGE affiliates: SAGE Upstate (Syracuse, NY), SAGE at the Center on Halsted in Chicago, SAGE Metro St. Louis, and SAGE of the Rockies. At each site, they met with the local SAGE staff, volunteers, and board members and showed them the SAGEWorks model and how it could be effectively implemented in their own communities. The pair also worked to establish them as certified "WorkSearch" centers, the AARP Foundation's online work readiness program and one of the keystones for SAGEWorks. Since then, each affiliate has launched its own SAGEWorks program, which teaches participants the technology skills to help them find paid employment.

RUBY FERNANDEZ-BROWN RECEIVES FUSIÓN AWARD. SAGE Harlem Program Manager Ruby Fernandez-Brown received a 2010 Fusión Award for her years of work on behalf of New York City's LGBT Latino community. The Fusión Awards recognize the contribution of individuals and associations that belong to and promote positive images of the LGBT and Colombian community. They are presented by O.S.C.O. (Organización Señorita Colombia), which promotes and strengthens the cultural and social values of LGBT people within the Colombian community. Congratulations!

Left: Participants in the SAGEWorks presentation at SAGE Metro St. Louis.



SAGE Harlem Program Manager Ruby Fernandez-Brown was awarded the 2010 Fusión Award for her work with the Latino LGBT population.



Michael Adams, second from left, speaks at the first White House Conference on HIV and Aging Meeting in Washington, DC.

CAPITOL HILL BRIEFING ON THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT. This past fall, SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams joined other leaders of national aging organizations at the Capitol Hill briefing, “Aging Issues of Diverse Older Adults.” The briefing was an important public forum focused on the opportunities for diverse older adults in this year’s reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). In addition to SAGE, representatives from the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA), the National Caucus & Center on Black Aged (NCBA), and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) highlighted key issues, from health and economic concerns to barriers to accessing services, and made recommendations for OAA reauthorization.

THE AGING FACE OF HIV. SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams spoke at the first White House Conference on HIV and Aging Meeting, held on October 27, which brought together leading advocates from around the country to discuss program interventions and policy solutions that will better support the first generation of older adults to live and age with HIV/AIDS in large numbers. Research shows that by 2015, the majority of people with HIV in the United States will be age 50 and older.

SAGE AND MAP RELEASE NEW ISSUE BRIEFS. Six months after the release of the groundbreaking report *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*, SAGE and the Movement Advancement Project (MAP) released eleven Issue Briefs, each detailing how current aging policies, laws, and benefits can better support LGBT older adults. Each brief targets one particular issue, including Estate Tax and Inheritance, Pensions, Inhospitable Care Environments, Health Disparities, and Medicaid Long-Term Care. To read the briefs, visit sageusa.org/improvingthelives.



The Social Security Issue Brief, one of eleven briefs released by SAGE and the Movement Advancement Project as a follow-up the groundbreaking report *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*.

A HISTORIC MEETING OF DIVERSE ELDERERS. In December, SAGE and its six partners in the Diverse Elders Coalition met for the first time as a coalition in Washington, DC to begin concretizing a policy agenda that would reach across our communities. At the meeting, the coalition began exploring collaborative work on looming policy concerns such as the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, implementation of the Affordable Care Act and Social Security. The coalition also agreed on a unifying purpose: “To win policy gains that improve the lives of low-income people of color, American Indians & Alaska Natives, and LGBT elders, and to educate and engage our communities on policies that impact our lives.”

REWARDING EXCELLENCE. In February, SAGE was proud to present the Minneapolis-based PFund Foundation with the SAGE Advocacy Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues at the Creating Change conference, hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. PFund has been committed to improving the quality of services and support offered to LGBT older adults since 1991, when it offered its first grant to an LGBT aging project.



PFund Foundation Co-Executive Directors Susan Raffo and Kate Eubank accept the 2010 SAGE Advocacy Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues.

SAGE AND AARP. SAGE continued our collaboration with AARP by joining them at their “Orlando@50+” conference in September. Working with PRISM—AARP’s LGBT network for members, allies, and staff—Catherine Thurston, SAGE Senior Director for Programs, joined PRISM Training Coordinator Imani Woody, AARP writer and producer Dave Singleton, and Lambda Legal staff attorney Natalie Chin on a panel that explored what it means to age “out and proud” in the later years of one’s life. This interactive session was followed by the Third Annual LGBT@50+ Reception hosted by Kate Clinton.



Serena Worthington, SAGE Director of Community Advocacy and Capacity Building, met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

REACHING OUT TO AGING PROVIDERS. On November 11, SAGE presented a groundbreaking half-day, pre-conference session at the Gerontological Society of America conference in New Orleans, leading the conference’s first-ever session dedicated to LGBT aging. SAGE Director of Community Advocacy and Capacity Building Serena Worthington chaired the panel, which focused on the latest research on LGBT older adults and the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.

COMMENDING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. This past fall, at a public meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Serena Worthington met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and thanked her for her work to pass the Affordable Care Act. Over the next five years, community health centers across the country will receive \$11 billion in funding, which has the potential to help LGBT older adults secure better health care and protect them against insurance discrimination.

IDENTIFYING KEY OPPORTUNITIES. In early December, SAGE Senior Director for Policy and Communications Robert Espinoza served as a panelist for the plenary, “State of the Movement: Fresh Perspectives on Issues Facing the LGBT Community,” at the 26th Annual Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Robert discussed the state of LGBT aging and how key policy opportunities, such as the reauthorization of the OAA, benefits LGBT persons of all ages. The other panelists included representatives from the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, “Freedom to Marry” media, and GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders).



SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams joined SAGE constituent Sandy Warshaw, New York City Department for the Aging Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, the Administration on Aging’s Greg Case, Amy Gotwals of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the New York State Office for the Aging’s John Cochran for a discussion of the Older Americans Act and its impact on LGBT older adults.



Mandy Carter, co-founder of the National Black Justice Coalition, speaks at the conference’s opening plenary as fellow speakers Jonathan Ned Katz, Patty Collins and Barbara Satin look on.



Sherman Walker, one of the members of the constituent-led conference planning committee, speaking at a workshop.



Amy Gotwals, Director of Public Policy and Legislative Affairs, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.



Several attendees took advantage of the Legal and Financial Clinics staffed by volunteer lawyers and other experts.

THE FUTURE OF AGING IS IN OUR HANDS. On November 13-15, SAGE held its first-ever conference created by, for and about LGBT older adults, “The Future of Aging Is in Our Hands.” This unique conference brought together LGBT older adults from around the

country for three days of interactive workshops, exciting plenary sessions and multiple networking opportunities, providing LGBT older adults with the resources they need to advocate on their own behalf—and reshape the future of LGBT aging.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

SAGE POSITIVE

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

CAREGIVERS

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

SAGECAP – CARING AND PREPARING INITIATIVE

SOCIAL & WELLNESS

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

INFORMATION PROGRAMS

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

LIFELONG LEARNING

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

SAGEWORKS

Orientations
 Monthly Seminars
 Computer Classes
 Coaching Sessions
 Resume Assistance

HARLEM

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

SAGE OFFICES:

SAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

SAGE @ THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

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

WALK-IN HOURS


Monday-Friday, 2 pm – 5 pm

SAGE HARLEM CENTER

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

WALK-IN HOURS

Fridays, 2 pm – 8 pm

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

SAGE National Leadership Council

Q&A with Co-Chairs Larry Chanen and Joy Tomchin



When did you first become involved in the LGBT movement, and in what capacities?

Larry: I first became active in the LGBT movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s as a volunteer cooperating attorney for Lambda Legal—thereafter as a member of Lambda’s Legal Advisory Committee. I subsequently became involved in a number of other LGBT organizations as well as political and judicial campaigns.

Joy: For over 30 years I’ve been supporting countless LGBT, women’s and children’s rights organizations—as an

activist and donor. In the beginning, I would send anonymous money orders to the National Gay Task Force (now the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force)—I was too afraid to come out! “Who is this anonymous donor?” asked (then) Executive Director, Virginia Apuzzo, and the rest is activist history.

What organizations have you served since and how?

Larry: In addition to Lambda, I’ve been active in other LGBT organizations, including serving on the Board of Directors (BOD) for Empire State Pride Agenda; co-founding the Lesbian and Gay

Community Mediation Service (now Center Mediation Service) in 1990; and, most recently, serving as Co-Chair of the SAGE BOD. For many years, I was a counselor and Board Member of Identity House, an LGBT peer counseling organization and have been a senior sponsor of the JPMorgan Chase Pride employee networking group.

In November 2010 I received the “Out and Proud Corporate Counsel Award” from the National LGBT Bar Association and will be honored at SAGE Awards 2011.

Continued on the next page

Joy: I joined the BOD of Gay Men’s Health Crisis in 1987, served as Board President from 1989 to 1992, and there, co-founded the Lesbian AIDS Project. In 1990 I was appointed by New York City Mayor David Dinkins to the Economic Development Corporation Board of NYC and served for four years as the only openly gay or lesbian member. I joined the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund BOD in 1993, serving as national co-chair for four years. I’ve also assisted numerous lesbian and gay organizations in their search for a home (including SAGE) and served on the Mishkin Committee of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah.

Currently, I’m co-producing a documentary (with journalist David France) about how the LGBT community beat the pharmaceutical battle against AIDS and changed the way the government handles approval of life-saving drugs. We are looking forward to early screenings at Sundance and the Toronto Film Festival.

Why, in your opinion, is SAGE and its mission so important today?

Joy and Larry: Today, SAGE is uniquely positioned to transform the aging experience for LGBT older adults nationally. With the aging of LGBT “baby boomers,” demographics are shifting and the number of LGBT people aged 65 and over will increase 60% by 2030. Despite a growing population, LGBT concerns are nearly absent from local and national policy discussions on aging. This historic challenge requires a rapid response on a nationwide basis—a response SAGE will make successfully.

Why did you agree to co-chair the SAGE National Leadership Council (SNLC)?

Joy and Larry: We have been involved with SAGE for years as board members and advocates in the community. SNLC is an opportunity to extend those historic efforts and create a legacy for future generations. It’s an exciting time and we

are thrilled to help SAGE find the national support necessary to accomplish its national mission.

What do you envision SNLC accomplishing for SAGE?

Joy and Larry: SNLC will galvanize leadership volunteers in regions across the country and establish advocates for SAGE in new audiences. Members of the SNLC are building relationships, raising awareness and inspiring change—change that touches the lives of LGBT older adults locally and across the country.


Any other thoughts for SAGEMatters readers?

Joy and Larry: SAGE’s mission addresses a critical facet of the broader LGBT movement in the United States. New York has benefited from SAGE’s work for over 30 years—it’s time for this work to have a national impact.

ABOUT SAGE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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

James C. Hormel Honorary Co-Chair
James M. Johnson Honorary Co-Chair
Lawrence N. Chanen, Esq. Co-Chair
Joy A. Tomchin Co-Chair
Herbert I. Cohen, MD
Jon C. Nathanson
Steve A. Rabin
John B. Roberts, Esq.
Dorothy Sander
George Zuber, CPA

 To learn more about SAGE National Leadership Council, please contact C. Nathan Harris at nharris@sageusa.org or 212-741-2247.

Eugene “Jim” Pryzbyl

(July 8, 1935 – July 22, 2009)

SAGE’S 2011 Taylor Society Honoree

Q&A with Pryzbyl Estate Trustee, Judith D. Grimaldi and his friend, Mary Elizabeth Smith

Tell us a bit about Mr. Pryzbyl.

Judith and Mary: Born in Ohio in 1935, Jim happily relocated from the Midwest to live in Manhattan as a young man. Beginning as a stock boy at Lord & Taylor (and eventually a salon shoe buyer at Saks), Jim had a creative eye and a passion for fashion. In the 1970s he moved from Manhattan into a four-story brownstone on Prospect Place in Park Slope—a funky, edgy area at that time.

Jim lived life fully—expressed in his voracious reading, interest in world history, patronage of the Metropolitan Opera, prolific gardening, zest for food and impeccable upkeep of his home (a particular joy). There, Jim hosted legendary Christmas gatherings. His hand-crafted decorations were breathtaking as guests indulged in four dinner courses, one hosted on each floor of the brownstone. Jim compiled countless albums of memorabilia and photographs documenting his convivial hospitality over the years. He was known throughout his life for his generosity and affection towards friends and family.

How did you become connected to Mr. Pryzbyl?

Judith: As Jim aged, he grew ill. Although a fiercely independent, resilient and positive man, his illness led to the amputation of one leg at the age of 65. After surgery, Jim needed some assistance to return

home. With the imminent expiration of his Medicare coverage, Jim’s ability to access and afford home care was threatened. A social worker from Visiting Nurse Service Center of Brooklyn contacted me.

What circumstances made his planned gift a winning move for Mr. Pryzbyl?

Judith and Mary: Financially, he was in a common situation—Jim was “house rich” and “cash poor.” His most significant asset, the brownstone, would’ve prevented him from qualifying for the Medicaid benefits he needed to access and afford home care. Legally, the solution was clear. His home and other assets were transferred into an irrevocable, Medicaid-approved trust. Qualifying for Medicaid, Jim was able to receive 12-hour homecare service, retain and live in his home and enjoy his later years.

Jim returned to his Elizabethan garden and life as usual in his cherished brownstone. As an amputee, Jim was still incredibly independent. He regularly navigated the city’s ADA accessible transportation in a motorized wheelchair to attend opera outings and enjoy meals at his favorite restaurants—always arriving promptly and independently to his appointments. Jim spent hours on his computer and never missed his favorite shows and movies. He remained in his home until his passing.

Why did Mr. Pryzbyl decide to make a gift to SAGE?



Judith and Mary: First and foremost, Jim cared for his family and friends. When he passed, the trust was distributed to his brother, sister and dear friend of over 32 years, Mary. In his charitable giving, he wanted to honor and support the arts (Metropolitan Opera of New York), youth (Police Athletic League) and “his community” (SAGE).

What should LGBT older adults consider when it comes to their own estate planning?

Judith: I encourage readers of SAGEMatters to reach out for help within the community when they need it, to access people and resources that will allow them to live and age successfully in place.

Photo: A 1976 notice announcing Jim Pryzbyl’s appointment as salon shoe buyer at Saks Fifth Avenue, one of his jobs in the fashion industry.

Estate and Healthcare Planning for Mr. Pryzbyl and You

By JUDITH D. GRIMALDI, ESQ.

Planning ahead can mean optimum care and the chance to age in place at home.

As an elder law attorney practicing for almost 20 years in New York City, I have come to admire the clients who recognize the need to plan in advance for their long-term care. One example was Eugene “Jim” Pryzbyl. Jim came to planning a bit late, but his story shows the rewards of addressing the financing of health care in later years. I met Jim while he was a resident of a Brooklyn nursing home, and as a new elder law attorney, I committed myself to his goals. He coupled his drive and determination with the good planning techniques of trusted professionals. We became a team.

Although Jim’s condition was expected to improve, he needed help with some activities due to his mobility limitations. Jim had funneled his savings into the purchase and maintenance of his four-story brownstone. His other savings were modest and he had just begun to receive Social Security funds and a small city pension. He did not have the cash to cover his care costs and therefore needed Medicaid. His home’s rental income, however, an important element to his financial and emotional well-being, would’ve limited his Medicaid eligibility.

Our solution was to place the title to his house into an Irrevocable Living Trust, shelter the rental income to cover his living costs while allowing him the use and enjoyment of his property. As a result, Medicaid could not make a claim against



the property. Jim used his personal income for his personal expenses, and excess income above the Medicaid income rules was placed into a second trust called a pooled income trust. As a result, Jim received Medicaid homecare seven days a week and was able to resume his life. Medicaid personal care and home care services “rescued” Jim Pryzbyl and helped him remain at home until he passed.

Medicaid successfully covered Jim’s home care needs. Fortunately for Jim, New York has opted to have the most comprehensive Medicaid homecare program in the nation. It might be interesting for the LGBT community to know that New York State’s Medicaid program also acknowledges the validity of same-sex marriages performed in states that have accepted these

marriages. New York State affords Medicaid spouses privileges to same-sex marriages. For example, transfers of assets between spouses will not cause any Medicaid ineligibility for the spouse applying, and New York allows spouses to refuse to contribute their income and resources to the cost of the applying spouse’s care. These special rules make Medicaid a positive option for same-sex couples.

Judith D. Grimaldi is a partner in the pioneering elder law firm Grimaldi & Yeung LLP. As an attorney for 17 years, Ms. Grimaldi has represented the rights of the elderly and disabled and her unique perspective was shaped by more than a decade of experience as a social worker.

To read more from Judith about how estate planning and long-term health care planning relates to Medicaid nursing home coverage, Medicaid community-based care, and New York State law regarding Medicaid and same-sex married couples, please visit sageusa.org/estateplanningandyou.

Interested in discussing your planned giving with SAGE? Contact C. Nathan Harris at taylorssociety@sageusa.org or 212-741-2247.

SAGENet

Meet three SAGE affiliates that are changing the lives of LGBT older adults in their communities. We asked them to tell us about their local projects—and here are their stories, in their words.

SAGE OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

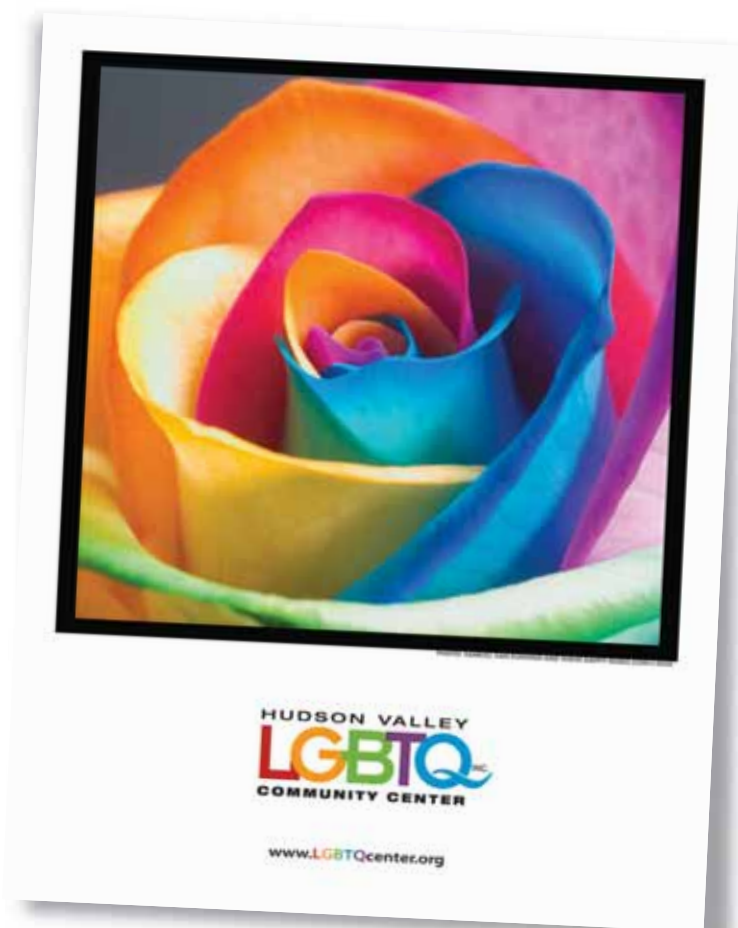
SAGE Affiliate since 2007

www.lgbtqcenter.org

Originally called CenterSAGE, SAGE of the Hudson Valley is part of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, which is headquartered in Kingston, New York, roughly 100 miles north of New York City. Outside of our area, the nearest LGBT community centers are in Albany and White Plains, 60 and 80 miles away. The region is primarily a rural area, with a diverse mix of long-term residents and weekenders.

The past year was full of successes and triumphs for our extraordinary SAGE members, who have worked endlessly to increase the visibility of our LGBT elders in the region! Examples include Jan Marotta and Linda Joseph, recognized by the Ulster County Office of Aging for their work as Resident Advocates for people living in long-term care facilities. On May 5, our own Alix Dobkin, women's music pioneer, performed for a crowd of more than 600 people at the New York State Office for the Aging Senior Fair in Albany.

In addition to our members' hard work, SAGE of the Hudson Valley was privileged to receive a SAGE Civic Engagement Grant in 2010, providing funds and training to prepare SAGE constituents to become effective policy advocates. With that training, SAGE Hudson Valley hosted an LGBTQ Town Hall Meeting in September that brought together 14 policy makers, including the County Executive and the area's State Assemblyman, the Deputy Directors of the State and County Offices for the Aging, and representatives from the local Congressman's office to hear public testimony on the pending reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. In total, 20 SAGE advocates presented moving, personal testimony about their concerns as aging LGBT adults, previous experiences of discrimination, and the ways the OAA could be amended to protect and respect LGBT older adults and couples. SAGE member Ted Hayes, now 80 and a remarkable spokesperson for LGBT older adults in Hudson Valley, implored policymakers, "I might be forced back into the closet in a nursing home.



The Rainbow Rose poster of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Center, which houses SAGE of the Hudson Valley; this poster is displayed at clinics, hospitals and the local Office for the Aging, denoting a welcoming atmosphere for LGBT elders.

"Please hear me. Please don't let that happen." The event was attended by roughly 100 constituents, and was covered by local newspapers and television, highlighting constituents' demands for inclusion in census and other data; for cultural competency training for senior-serving organizations; and for enforcement of hospital visitation rights.

📖 Read the *Hudson Valley Times* article on the hearing for more details at tinyurl.com/6zfw57t.



Lisa Krinsky, Director of the LGBT Aging Project in Boston, MA, speaks at SAGE Philadelphia's summit, "Delaware Valley LGBT Elder Initiative."

SAGE PHILADELPHIA AT WILLIAM WAY

SAGE Affiliate since 2009

www.waygay.org

One month after joining SAGENet, SAGE Philadelphia's Director of Center Services Candice Thompson attended her first SAGENet Gathering in Long Island, NY, and learned of the tremendous impact SAGE and its affiliates have had in the lives of LGBT older adults. The gathering was inspirational and affirmed the great work that SAGE Philadelphia has done over the past several years to create positive change in the lives of LGBT older adults and to empower them to advocate on their own behalf. SAGE Philadelphia is the only organization in the Greater Philadelphia area to offer recurring programs and activities specifically designed for LGBT older adults and oftentimes acts as the sole resource for aging service providers seeking education and cultural competency for staff around LGBT aging issues.

In October 2010, SAGE Philadelphia, in partnership with other community organizations, proudly initiated the "Delaware Valley LGBT Elder Initiative," a citywide conversation about the needs of LGBT older adults and how best to meet them. This daylong summit, held at the William Way LGBT Community Center, brought together 120 representatives from aging service providers, LGBT organizations, and community members to discuss developing programs and services specifically tailored to LGBT older adults; to increase the awareness of services and resources available to LGBT older adults; and to identify ways to reach out to those who may be homebound or isolated

within the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area. This Initiative was the first time aging service providers met with LGBT service providers to discuss the needs of the area's LGBT older adults.

Moving forward, SAGE Philadelphia is committed to being an integral part of community-wide initiatives around aging issues, advocating on behalf of LGBT elders, and offering innovative and inspired programming specifically designed by and for LGBT older adults. We currently offer weekly and monthly social activities including trips to the Avenue of the Arts, guest speakers who discuss a variety of topics such as health and wellness, estate planning, and sex and relationships, and community potlucks for all to enjoy. SAGE Philadelphia also offers yoga classes (Senior Stretch) and has a well-established friendly visitor program for those in the community who are homebound. Finally, SAGE Philadelphia is investigating the capacity to build LGBT senior housing adjacent to the Community Center, increasing the possibility of creating one of the most needed resources for LGBT older adults: affordable housing.

SAGE OF THE ROCKIES

SAGE Affiliate since 2009

www.glbtcolorado.org

SAGE of the Rockies, a program of the GLBT Community Center of Colorado (Denver), is a vibrant, diverse component of the Center's effort to bring the community together around aging, common interests and shared history.

In October 2010, SAGE of the Rockies hosted its first Regional Conference on LGBT Aging, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Choosing to Live Well." The conference, at which SAGE



The planning committee for SAGE of the Rockies' regional conference, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Choosing to Live Well."

Executive Director Michael Adams gave the keynote address, brought together hundreds of activists, aging providers and LGBT older adults from across the country to discuss current opportunities and challenges in LGBT aging. Guiding the conference planning—and the work of SAGE of the Rockies moving forward—were eight core issues facing LGBT older adults: housing, culturally competent care, equality, legal issues, financial issues, social relationships and spiritual matters.

Throughout the conference, attendees found that these issues were deeply interrelated, and few of them could be addressed without the involvement or support of the larger LGBT and aging services communities. To this end, SAGE of the Rockies is proud to spearhead programs, policy initiatives and partnerships



SAGE staff Michele D'Amato and Tom Weber take a break from SAGEWorks presentations during their trip to SAGE of the Rockies.

with organizations and agencies that make a difference for LGBT older adults in Denver. For example, SAGE of the Rockies is partnering with Parkview Care Center to evaluate its marketing materials, admissions process, intake forms and staff trainings to ensure that they are welcoming and address the needs of LGBT elders. SAGE of the Rockies is also a partner in a two-year grant to study the feasibility of developing a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood, which has a relatively high number of older LGBT residents.

We have also started a caregiver support group for those providing care to a partner, parent or friend and a weekly bereavement group for those coping with the loss of loved ones. To reduce isolation and promote a sense of community, we host social groups to help individuals form new friendships and strengthen old ones.

Finally, as AARP's 2010 Community Partner Award recipient, SAGE of the Rockies will soon be one of two community centers in Denver to house the "Benefits QuickLINK Program," an online service that helps low-income elders and adults with disabilities access entitlement services and benefits they may be eligible for, including lesser known federal programs like Medicare Rx Extra Help or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program. These are just a few of the many exciting ways that SAGE of the Rockies is helping to build a strong community of LGBT older adults in Denver.

SAGENet

NORTHEAST

SAGE Metro DC
thedccenter.org

SAGE Long Island
sageli.org

SAGE of the Hudson Valley
lgbtqcenter.org

SAGE Philadelphia
waygay.org

Rainbow SAGE of the Genesee Valley
rainbowseniorswny.org

SAGE/Queens A Program of Queens Community House
queenscommunityhouse.org

SAGE Rainbow Bridge Connection
rbcnlmcc.org

SAGE Upstate
sageupstate.org

SOUTH

SAGE CenLa
sagecenla.org

SAGE South Florida
sagewebsite.org

MIDWEST

SAGE at the Center on Halsted
centeronhalsted.org

SAGE Metro St. Louis
sagemetrostl.org


SAGE Milwaukee
sagemilwaukee.org

WEST

SAGE Palm Springs
goldenrainbowsenior-center.org

SAGE of the Rockies
glbtcolorado.org

SAGE Utah
utahpridecenter.org

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

SAGE Caregiver Program Receives Support from New York City Department for the Aging

In 2010, the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) renewed its groundbreaking support for SAGE's Partners in Caring Program. DFTA has supported Partners in Caring since 2004, when it became the first Area Agency on Aging in the country to fund a program focused on meeting the unique needs of LGBT caregivers and care recipients.

The Partners in Caring Program has provided outreach, information and referrals, and caregiver respite and supplemental services to over 3,000 clients since its inception. It is a nationally recognized program, receiving a 2009 National Family Caregivers Award. Partners in Caring offers:

- Caregiver services, such as individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, support groups, and trainings
- Friendly Visitor and Lend-a-Hand programs that provide a network of support for homebound LGBT older adults and vital respite services for caregivers
- Information and training on LGBT aging issues for health care and aging services providers, ensuring that they are equipped to provide culturally competent care and services to LGBT elders and caregivers

SAGE also recently launched the SAGECAP (SAGE Caring and Preparing) program, designed to provide caregivers with peer-to-peer support groups, educational seminars and planning services. Unlike other programs, SAGECAP helps caregivers consider their own aging futures and develop a caregiving plan so that they will not find themselves in crisis should their health decline. Together with Partners in Caring, SAGECAP ensures that LGBT caregivers and care recipients receive the support and resources they need. Learn more about SAGECAP at sageusa.org/sagecap.

In addition to supporting SAGE's work, applicants for DFTA funding to provide direct services to older adults are advised to take LGBT issues into account when developing proposals. DFTA also offers free trainings to all recipients of agency funding, and works closely with SAGE to ensure that its cultural competency trainings always include LGBT components.

“SAGE has been a valued partner in the Department’s portfolio of Caregiver programs, not only because of its pioneering role in serving the older LGBT caregiver, but also for its education of its New York colleagues associated with the National Family Caregiving Support Program about the unique needs and concerns of the LGBT caregiver. It’s a collaboration that we hope will be long-standing and productive.”

—ROBIN FENLEY, PH.D., DIRECTOR
ALZHEIMER’S & CAREGIVER RESOURCE CENTER

Did You Know?

Approximately 80% of long-term care in the United States is provided by family members. However, LGBT older adults are often estranged from their biological families and therefore rely on friends and community members for support. Research shows that compared to their heterosexual peers, LGBT elders are:

- Half as likely to have close relatives to call for help
- Half as likely to have life partners or significant others
- Three times more likely to be childless
- Twice as likely to live alone



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National offices: New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Harlem