

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

sageSM

Matters

SPRING 2013

SAGE STORY: BRINGING OUR STORIES TO LIFE

POLICY WINS,
PROJECTS & PARTIES:
NATIONWIDE
HIGHLIGHTS
FROM SAGE'S
WINTER SEASON

HURRICANE SANDY:
HOW LGBT OLDER
NEW YORKERS
ARE COPING



sageMatters

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the most popular posts on SAGE's new blog (blog.sageusa.org) describes the help that SAGE case manager Damien Wade gave to a 72-year-old gay man on Staten Island who lost his partner during Hurricane Sandy. James McCormick and David Maxwell found each other late in life; they had been together for five years. Following a debilitating stroke, James was living in a nursing home, where David would visit him regularly. David tragically drowned in the couple's home during the storm.



Damien was there to help James through his grief, funeral planning and a mountain of paperwork he needed to fill out to qualify for FEMA assistance. Damien also introduced James to SAGE programming at the Staten Island LGBT Community Center so that he can remain connected to a supportive community of LGBT elders.

You can read James' full story at the SAGE blog, and in this issue, you'll read more about Damien, his colleagues on SAGE's Social Services team, and the help they gave to LGBT older New Yorkers in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. These stories are just a few examples of the support SAGE provides to LGBT elders during times of crisis—care that is crucial to our constituents' well-being. At SAGE, we know from firsthand experience that many LGBT elders have thinner support networks than their heterosexual peers, and are often wary of turning to aging service providers for fear of discrimination. For many LGBT older people, turning to SAGE can be a lifesaver, whether it's during a crisis like Sandy or a quieter moment of need.

Recognizing the power behind the stories of LGBT elders like James, we're excited to be launching a brand new initiative called SAGE Story. SAGE Story aims to drive a compelling new dialogue, shaped by the insights of LGBT older people, that will illustrate the urgency of establishing fairness and equitable treatment for LGBT elders.

We kicked off SAGE Story by asking people to answer this question: What would help you live a joyful and healthy life as you age? The stories we have collected so far have been inspiring and eye-opening. You can see them all at sageusa.org/sagestory. Healthy aging should be a goal for all of us so it's a great question for each of us to consider. You can read how I answered it at our website (sageusa.org/sagestory).

I hope you'll also consider telling SAGE your story—we need to hear from as many people as possible. Starting on the next page, you can find more information on SAGE Story, including how you can participate. I'm grateful for the support that friends like you have given SAGE, and I can't wait to read your stories!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "A".

Michael Adams, *Executive Director*

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On the cover: *George Stewart and
Geonardo Genao, SAGE constituents.*
Photo: Manu Gupta

Introducing SAGE Story

Bringing Our Stories to Life

In January 2013, more than 50 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) advocates sat riveted by the story of Eleanor Smith, an Atlanta-based disability advocate, as she drew parallels between ageism and ableism. Eleanor, an out lesbian, spoke eloquently about her longtime work as a disability rights advocate and how as she aged, she became more aware of how the treatment of older people and people with disabilities was similar—a viewpoint that never occurred to her when she was younger. She said, “Ageism and ableism are even more closely intertwined than most oppressions. For instance, both older people and disabled people are often devalued because our bodies or minds deviate from the norm by being—or perceived as being—weaker and less functional.” This, she urged, needed to be the basis of cooperation and solidarity among advocates of all ages working across the disability, LGBT and aging fields—a message all the more powerful because it arose out of her own life experiences.

To read Eleanor's full story, see page 6, or go to sageusa.org/sagestory to listen to a podcast featuring all six panelists from the LGBT Elder Institute storytelling panel.



Eleanor was one of six speakers during a storytelling panel at SAGE's LGBT Elder Institute during Creating Change, an annual conference that is the country's largest gathering of LGBT activists. The speakers, all from diverse backgrounds and fields, told the audience how their personal lives intersected with their advocacy work and made it more effective, and how their work has changed and deepened with age. Together, their stories launched SAGE Story, a nationwide digital storytelling program for LGBT older adults.

PERSONAL STORIES, PUBLIC TRANSFORMATIONS

SAGE Story is a new national initiative that aims to strengthen the storytelling skills—and draw on the unique life

experiences of—LGBT elders to diversify the public narratives on aging, long-term care and LGBT rights. LGBT older people have survived and thrived despite a lifetime of discrimination. Many have helped pave the way for the social progress we now enjoy. And many still experience discrimination and stigma in their communities and in service and care settings.

*"The universe
is made of stories,
not of atoms."*

— MURIEL RUKEYSER

SAGE Story wants to collect these stories. They are valuable insights that reflect the human experiences behind complex issues, illustrating the urgent need to ensure that the policies and systems that are intended to support our nation's elders also take into account the needs of LGBT elders. With the rise of social media, smart phones, and video and photo apps, it's easier than ever to record and share stories online that have the potential to reach—and influence—large numbers of viewers.

There are too few media outlets (both mainstream and community-based) that produce news stories about LGBT aging, and even fewer include positive representations of LGBT elders, or interview LGBT elders as spokespeople. Through SAGE Story, LGBT elders will learn the skills to record and post their own stories online—ensuring that their voices are part of the stories being told by and about LGBT and older people. For those LGBT elders who are already Internet-savvy, SAGE Story will provide a platform to showcase their voices.

SAGE will feature LGBT older people's stories online at sageusa.org/sagestory. The stories will take many forms—from op-eds and written testimonies aimed at policymakers, to videos and podcasts featured on the social networking platforms of SAGE and our partner organizations. SAGE also aims to change how the press reports on our issues, so we will pitch key stories to multiple news outlets to inject an LGBT elder voice into reporting. We want to see better stories being told by everyone.

BE PART OF THE STORY

SAGE wants to hear from you! To reach the widest audience possible, we've created an online story booth that allows LGBT elders and their loved ones to easily submit their stories online.

*"Fundamentally, I started
writing to save my life.
Yes, my own life first."*

— CHERRIE L. MORAGA



Visit sageusa.org/sagestory to read, watch and listen to stories from LGBT older people from around the country, and then submit your own!

SAGE Story also offers skill-building workshops in New York City that cover the essentials of effective storytelling. And because we know that storytelling can take many forms, we will host workshops across various creative formats—from essay writing to photography, from spoken word to illustration, and much more. And, because a personal story can help humanize a complex policy debate, we will conduct workshops on various policy areas; we want to bring the experiences and the perspectives of LGBT elders to the popular debates on aging. In the coming year, we'll work with our SAGE affiliates to offer more workshops around the country, and will post storytelling tips and tutorials online.

SAGE Story is led by Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) and is made possible through the generous support of the AARP Foundation and Ford Foundation.



Social Isolation and LGBT Older People: The Power of Storytelling

SAGE, with the support of the AARP Foundation, is proud to launch a SAGE Story initiative to reduce social isolation among LGBT older people. Social isolation affects many LGBT older people around the country in unique and disproportionate ways. LGBT elders are more likely to live alone and with thinner support networks. Additionally, the research shows that LGBT elders face higher disability rates, struggle with economic insecurity and higher poverty rates, and many elders deal with mental health concerns that come from having survived a lifetime of discrimination. Location-related barriers, coupled with stigma and discrimination, can make it difficult for LGBT older people in many parts of the country to find the LGBT-friendly community supports they need to age successfully and avoid social isolation.

The emerging community-based art and health research has found that storytelling programs can reduce isolation and promote positive health and well-being in old age for older adults. Arts-based therapy can improve perceptions of one's health, coping and professional skills, health literacy, and cognitive and psychological well-being.

They can also promote social connections, supportive networks and community engagement. Storytelling programs, in particular, can improve self-esteem and life satisfaction, and create community, especially among populations that are more marginalized.

In addition to adding the voices of LGBT older people to the public policy debates on aging, SAGE Story will help to build connections among LGBT older people. For LGBT elders who might not have had a chance to tell their stories before, sharing their experiences—and finding others who understand them—can be a wonderful and freeing experience. One participant in a SAGE Story workshop, when asked if the experience had helped him build a sense of community, said yes, because it was a place where “I didn’t fear to tell my story.”

Are you interested in supporting programs that reduce social isolation and create safe spaces for LGBT elders?

SAGE needs your help to continue offering programs like SAGE Story that promote community and connection for LGBT older adults. Please consider making a gift to SAGE today at sageusa.org/donate.

Discrimination

The prejudicial treatment or consideration of a person, racial group, minority, etc. based on category rather than individual characteristics, including or restricting members of a group on the basis of race, sex, or age.

The Personal is Political:

ELEANOR'S STORY

ELEANOR SMITH is the founder of Concrete Change, a disability rights organization in Decatur, GA. This is an excerpt of the speech she gave at SAGE's LGBT Elder Institute, held in Atlanta, on January 24. Visit sageusa.org/sagestory to listen to her full presentation.

At my one of my first disability rights actions in Washington DC about 30 years ago, as I was marching along in my wheelchair with a few hundred others, a fellow marcher pulled up beside me in his power wheelchair and said, "Are you one of those old time dykes?" I laughed and answered affirmatively. He could probably tell by the flannel shirt. Later I got to know Eric better, and I learned from him that he was a female to male trans person. What a lot of guts he was showing back then in the 1980s to be a severely mobility-impaired person who also changed his gender. Back then Eric and I were young people with disabilities. Now we're old people with disabilities. Today I'm going to talk about the intersection of aging and disability and the wisdom of older gays and people with disabilities working more closely together.

I have noticed how old people and their organizations and younger disabled people and their organizations often work

quite separately from each other, and are unaware of each others' work. This is the case even though many of the same issues affect both groups.

We have been taught over the years to realize that all oppressions operate in similar ways. Ageism and ableism are even more closely intertwined than most oppressions. For instance, both older people and disabled people are often devalued because our bodies or minds deviate from the norm by being—or perceived as being—weaker and less functional. And the physical attributes of both old people and people with disabilities of all ages are considered by many to be ugly, or grotesque. So we all need to be liberated to see old or disabled bodies as beautiful in their own way.

A second similarity is that both old people and disabled people, as a group, cannot be exploited by the more extreme forms of capitalism to make a high profit through unfair labor practices

such as speeded up work, grueling physical work or inhumanely long hours. (I acknowledge that many disabled people and old people do work at paying jobs, and many more would if given an opportunity. Nevertheless, many lack the capacity to work in the manner required to produce a profit. For some, just maintaining themselves physically can take nearly all the time and energy they have.) In fact, far from generating a profit, a great many people who are disabled or old or both cost the system money. They are therefore at risk of being cast aside. So we all need to be liberated to believe that people are worthy of love and support apart from their economic value.

Ableism and ageism are forces that keep old people and disabled people from working together. Because of strong negative social messages such as those discussed above, it is not surprising that old people and young disabled people are not immune from prejudice against each other. Younger disabled people will hold ageist views inculcated by the culture unless they work to notice and challenge their ageism. Likewise, old people will hold ableist views inculcated by the culture unless they work to see and dislodge their ableism.

Old people and younger disabled people and our allies will profit greatly from forming alliances, working together more on the

issues we share: We will double our strength. I can think of at least six major issues we share:

- The need for abundant and accessible public transportation.
- Support for the option to live in the community rather than being forced into institutions for lack of publicly supported assistance at home.
- Sufficient economic support to live a decent life even if we are not able to work at paid jobs.
- All new houses built with a basic, affordable level of disability access so that people of any age who develop disabilities are not cut off from the huge part of social life and civic participation that takes place in the homes of friends and neighbors, and so that we can remain in our own home if disability occurs.
- Access to information if one is hearing impaired or visually impaired, for example, interpreters for hearing impaired people and Web access for people who are blind.
- And access to life itself as opposed to being encouraged to die or be killed before our time.



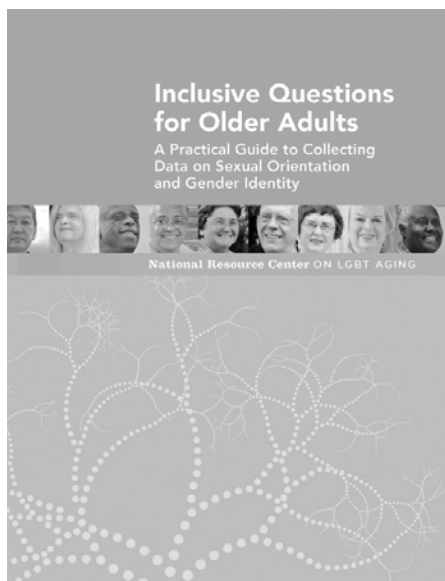
Eleanor Smith recommends three organizations useful for older people and younger disabled people interested in working together on mutual issues:

ADAPT (www.adapt.org), whose mission is to create policies that rebalance the institutional bias that allocates a high percent of public funds to nursing homes and only a small percent to assist people to remain in their own home if they prefer to do so.

CONCRETE CHANGE (concretechange.org), whose mission is to change current home construction practices that create steps at all entrances and narrow interior doors, so that virtually all new homes will offer at least one step-free entrance and adequately wide interior doors.

NOT DEAD YET (www.notdeadyet.org), whose mission is to protect disabled and older people from assisted suicide, lethal medical neglect, involuntary withdrawal of life-sustaining medical care, encouragement to die and 'compassionate' murder.

NEW DATA COLLECTION GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE



Aging services and healthcare providers rely on client data to inform program and service delivery as well as to guide optimal individual service and treatment. However, from the federal to local levels, the identities of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults are rarely included in population-level research studies, service intake forms or client notes. This lack of data collection across the spectrum of aging policy and programs means that providers often lack the information they need to better understand and serve LGBT elders—and if they want this information, they must collect it themselves.

But while many aging services and healthcare providers express interest

in asking questions about sexual orientation and gender identity, they often say they are not sure how to ask these questions on forms and in person. To help providers collect the information they need to better serve LGBT older adults, SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging has released a new publication: *Inclusive Questions for Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Collecting Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*.

This guide was created to help service providers ask questions about sexual orientation and gender identity in safe and respectful ways. Relying on research and real-world knowledge and experience, the guide outlines:

- Why collecting data on LGBT older adults is important for service delivery;
- How to incorporate sexual orientation and gender identity questions into client forms; and
- Helpful suggestions for discussing sexual orientation and gender identity with older clients.

This guide is meant to serve as a reference point for administrators, managers and direct service staff to utilize in both daily practice and organizational planning to better engage and serve their LGBT older adult clients. **It is currently available free of charge—download the guide online at lgbtagingcenter.org, or request a free print copy today.**

“It’s very important that providers know I’m a lesbian. It’s important that questions about sexual orientation, and sexual behavior when relevant to medical providers, are asked so they know what additional questions to ask. It is imperative that it become a conversation. They should be asking heterosexual older adults these questions too.”

— SANDY W., AGE 79



Hurricane Sandy and LGBT Older New Yorkers: SAGE Extends a Lifeline

Three days after historic Hurricane Sandy, SAGE case manager Larry Giles got to work by hitchhiking across the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan. Like the majority of New Yorkers, Larry's commute was complicated due to the flooding of many subway tunnels and underground stations.

Navigating the Big Apple after Sandy proved to be difficult. Larry described a scene that was normally unfamiliar to most New Yorkers: streets were flooded, trees uprooted, and many parts of the city were left in the dark.

Despite the difficulties of traveling, Larry, along with fellow SAGE staff, worked diligently to ensure that LGBT older New Yorkers were receiving the care they urgently needed after the unprecedented destruction caused by Sandy. Larry spent the days following the storm going into the hardest hit neighborhoods, walking

up numerous dark stairwells and pitch black hallways to check on homebound SAGE constituents.

Many of the older adults he visited were without heat, power and water and in need of fresh food. He spent the majority of his day buying dozens of sandwiches and blankets. In Chelsea, an area of Manhattan that remained without power for nearly a week, Larry visited a 70-year-old gay man who simply needed batteries for his flashlight and radio in order to navigate his apartment at night and stay up-to-date on the latest efforts to restore power.

"He was grateful for the batteries. As we talked by flickering candlelight, he shared that his partner of 44 years just passed away 6 months prior and he was now living alone," said Larry.

This is a familiar story to staff at SAGE, who know from firsthand experience that

LGBT older people are at increased risk for social isolation. Available research shows that LGBT older people are twice as likely to live alone than their straight counterparts. They are also twice as likely to be single and three to four times less likely to have children, and many are estranged from their families of origin. This means that LGBT older adults often have an increased reliance on the kinds of social services provided by SAGE in times of crisis. They also rely on each other, creating "families of choice" whose members provide support, care and community.

In the aftermath of the storm, SAGE feared that constituents—especially in neighborhoods without power—had gone too many days without the necessary support or care they needed. For those LGBT elders who could not be reached by phone, case managers and social workers, like Larry, conducted



home visits—often being the first human contact since the hurricane made landfall in New York.

These home visits were critical, but SAGE also saw many examples of the care LGBT elders and their friends extended each other in the days that followed the storm. Take Carmen Del Rio, an older lesbian from the Lower East Side who had regained power, heat and hot water before many other people in lower Manhattan. In the spirit of community, she happily offered her spare room temporarily to any female SAGE constituent who was displaced because of the hurricane.

Then there was Natalie, a friendly visitor (a carefully screened and fully trained SAGE volunteer who visits homebound constituents) who, over the years, has formed a strong relationship with the older woman she regularly visits.

After Sandy, Natalie could not reach her friend despite countless attempts. The older woman lives in the West Village, a New York City neighborhood that lost power for several days. Natalie turned to SAGE's Facebook page for help. Almost immediately, her post received numerous responses from SAGE followers offering to help. Fortunately, one of them was able to reach Natalie's friend and found that she was doing just fine.

In addition to connecting people to each other, SAGE's Facebook page and website served as a primary source of information for constituents. As the storm approached

the city, SAGE gave tips on storm preparation, and after the storm, kept constituents up to date on SAGE's New York offices and services. Joe, a SAGE constituent, wrote in an email a few days after the storm: "I wanted to say that as someone who is impaired and who was stuck in an apartment for the bulk of Hurricane Sandy with only an iPhone and a solar charger, thank you SAGE. I signed up for your Facebook and Twitter updates and was pleasantly surprised to find someone communicating with us before, during and after the storm. It was a treat to see updates on what was going on and nice to know that someone out there cares."

.....
"I signed up for your Facebook and Twitter updates and was pleasantly surprised to find someone communicating with us before, during and after the storm."

— JOE, SAGE CONSTITUENT
.....

Other LGBT older people who were hungry, cold or just wanted a place with running electricity turned to The SAGE Center, the country's first full-time center for LGBT older people age 60+ in New York City. Just a few days after the storm, the center opened its doors, despite being understaffed, to provide a place for constituents to charge electronic devices, check in with one another and enjoy a warm meal, which for many was their first in days. Even those who couldn't make it to The SAGE Center's Manhattan site

found much needed support. In Staten Island, the hardest hit borough of New York City, an older gay couple, ages 78 and 80, had fled their home, obeying evacuation orders given by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

When they returned the day after Sandy, their neighborhood was unrecognizable and their home was completely destroyed. They lived in a part of Staten Island that was five feet above sea level and hit with a thirteen-foot storm surge. Furthermore, the house was looted so "they basically lost everything," said Rebecca Heisler, Program Coordinator at The SAGE Center, who oversees SAGE programming at the Staten Island LGBT Community Center. "They are devastated."

Noticeably absent from the community center's SAGE programs for weeks after losing their home, the couple returned the week before Thanksgiving to the delight of other participants. Rebecca noted that the sense of community and belonging they experience at the Staten Island LGBT Community Center will be key to helping them rebuild their lives and return to a sense of normalcy after the life-changing tragedy of Sandy. She reports that when she expressed how happy she was to see them, one of the gentlemen responded, "Now, I feel like I'm home."

SAGE is often the only place that LGBT older people can turn to in times of crisis. Help ensure that we will always be able to respond to their needs by joining our Investors Circle. Visit [sageusa.org/give/circle.cfm](https://www.sageusa.org/give/circle.cfm) to learn more.

SAGE'S NEW CASE MANAGERS

Meet three of the newest members of the Social Services staff who are taking support for SAGE constituents to the next level.

WILLIAM (BILL) MENDEZ

His role: I provide social work/case management services to the participants who attend The SAGE Center, and facilitate a support group for men over 50 living with HIV. Many of the LGBT older adults who come to SAGE are isolated and have no idea what benefits they may be entitled to. I help them to navigate the various medical and social service systems so they can obtain those benefits. I also advocate on their behalf when necessary so they can have a better quality of life and feel that someone cares and is there for them.

On what inspires him: In the short time that I have been at SAGE, I have been inspired by the resilience of so many of the participants who come here. I am particularly amazed by the men in my

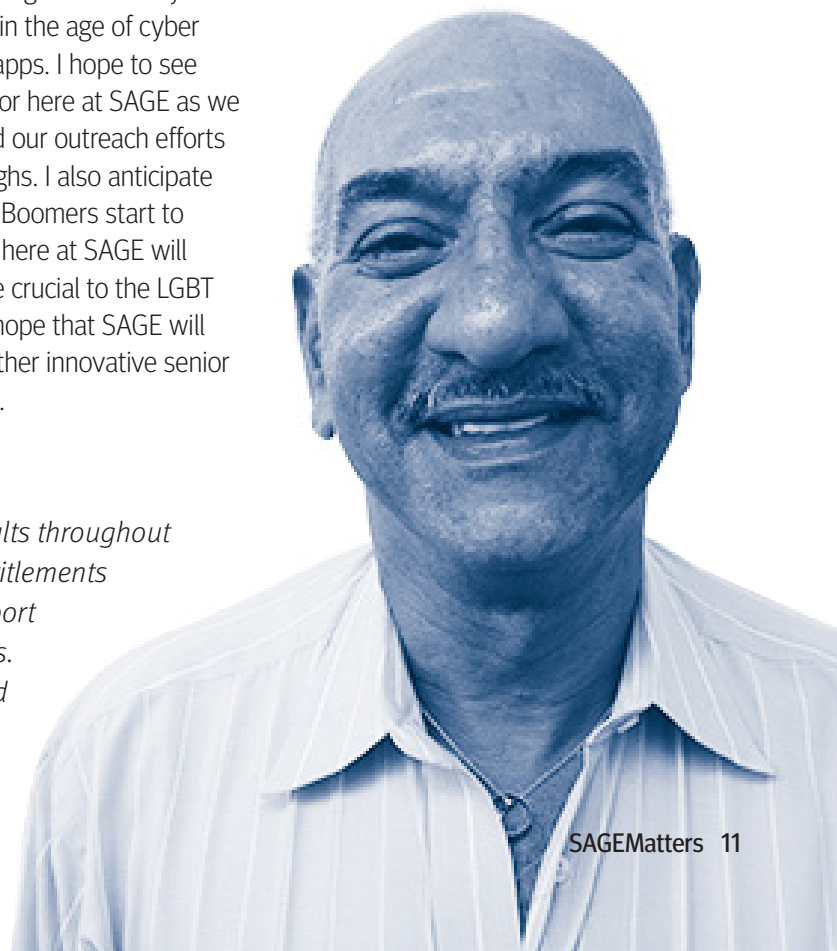
group who, in addition to having HIV, have to deal with other medical issues as they age. The strength and courage they show by attending the group every week and their desire to continue to live is just awesome.

What he hopes to accomplish: I want to start two new groups in the coming year, one in Spanish for men who have HIV and one on dating and intimacy for the older gay man in the age of cyber dating and phone apps. I hope to see more people of color here at SAGE as we continue to expand our outreach efforts to the other boroughs. I also anticipate that as more Baby Boomers start to retire, the services here at SAGE will become even more crucial to the LGBT community. I also hope that SAGE will be the model for other innovative senior centers to emulate.

“I am particularly amazed by the men in my group who, in addition to having HIV, have to deal with other medical issues as they age.”

— WILLIAM (BILL) MENDEZ, AGE 79

SAGE offers a wide array of social services to LGBT older adults throughout New York City, including case management, benefits and entitlements assistance, friendly visiting for homebound elders, and support groups on a variety of topics for women, men, and caregivers. In addition, SAGENet affiliates provide supportive services and programs in communities across the country. See pp. 26-27 for a full list of available services and affiliates.



LARRY GILES

His role: I am a case manager, a role with numerous aspects. First, I help clients and their friends and family solve problems such as applying for Medicaid, getting rent increase exemptions, avoiding eviction, finding a nursing home or elder care companions. Second, I run three support groups for caregivers of those with issues including dementia or physical disability and/or frailty. Finally, I provide counseling and therapy to individuals on a short-term basis (generally 12 weeks or less.) Plus, I do a lot of paperwork!

On what inspires him: I returned to school later in life and graduated with an MSW in 2010. I have always been interested in working with older people and have been very influenced by the challenges my parents faced as they

aged. As I researched work opportunities, the name SAGE kept popping up as an organization doing cutting-edge work with LGBT elders. I dreamed of working here and was in a pleasant state of shock when the offer finally came through. I enjoy working with LGBT elders for many reasons: these are creative, resilient individuals who have suffered persecution in their lives and shown great courage in the face of societal hostility and maltreatment. I have never met a livelier, more irreverent and stimulating group of clients and colleagues. SAGE is an amazing place to work—I wish I had come here 20 years ago. My colleagues are bright, motivated and compassionate. Those we serve come first.

What he hopes to accomplish: I have two goals: One, continue to develop as a social worker so I can be the most effective case manager, support group leader and counselor possible.

Two, broaden awareness of the services SAGE offers to all in the LGBT community.

DAMIEN WADE

His role: I am SAGE's Outreach Case Manager/Social Worker. My role entails providing support to older adults through counseling, securing benefits and entitlements and increasing socialization through running groups in partnership with various organizations throughout New York City.

On what inspires him: Being able to make a difference within a marginalized population of which I am a member is extremely rewarding and inspirational. The foundation of social work is to assist those individuals in need. When I am helping people who utilize SAGE, I feel fulfilled and as if I have made a great contribution to society.

What he hopes to accomplish: I hope to continue to provide assistance to LGBT older adults and provide outreach to those older adults who do not have regular access to our organization.



*Left: Larry Giles,
Right: Damien Wade*

SAGE Welcomes Chicago Board Members

This winter, SAGE was pleased to welcome two new Board Members from the Chicago area. To read more about their professional and volunteer work, visit the Board page at sageusa.org. Here, they share some insights on why they wanted to get more involved with SAGE.

KELLEY L. BUCHANAN

Why she joined

SAGE's Board: I had worked with another Board member on a separate LGBT Board. He reached out to introduce me to SAGE and to connect me to Michael Adams, SAGE Executive Director. During my lunch with Michael and discussion with other SAGE Board members, the SAGE vision came alive for me. I appreciated the passion, enthusiasm and focus of all of the folks I spoke with about the opportunity for Board service.

The importance of SAGE's mission:

We cannot ignore or deny the tectonic plate shifts that will occur as the Baby Boomer generation continues to age. LGBT individuals have many struggles with parity that we see played out every day in legal, judicial, social, and other forums. The plight of the aging LGBT individual goes largely unmentioned and often unaddressed. It is critical to expand the solutions available as well as to broaden the conversation to ensure that our LGBT elders are able to take advantage of community and related service offerings.



What she hopes to accomplish while on the Board:

My goal is to bring my background and expertise, as well as corporate and personal connections, to bear toward the SAGE vision. What SAGE is doing is work that matters! When we get it right, lives are improved. That is a future to be excited about.

VICTORIA L. RAYMONT

Why she joined

SAGE's Board:

I've known of SAGE for years and have witnessed firsthand, particularly over the past five years through the Center on Halsted in Chicago, the life-changing impact SAGE makes. The amazing stories of SAGE's programming and services in the lives of Chicago's elders are a tremendous source of pride. From simple fellowship to



What she hopes to accomplish while on the Board:

I'd like to help move the strategic agenda forward. There are new partnership opportunities to capitalize on, such as other national LGBT organizations and mainstream institutions to align and integrate with. Addressing the issues related to LGBT aging requires a collaborative approach and will ultimately raise the bar for all.

advocacy in health and housing, SAGE creates community and helps restore dignity for older LGBT adults. The significant issues facing aging Americans are particularly acute for LGBT older adults. Growing the local social service aspect and building the muscular, national impact is necessary and exciting. SAGE's work has never been more relevant.

The importance of SAGE's mission:

The progress the LGBT community is making, relative to state-based marriage equality and selective spousal benefits, is just the beginning—unified, national legislation changes everything. Bringing visibility and greater understanding of ALL aging Americans is required to fully fulfill the dream of human equality. Bringing an LGBT voice, purpose and integration in all levels of advocacy and services for older adults is essential.

Throughout the fall and early winter, SAGE led a number of initiatives and programs in New York City and nationwide to improve the lives of LGBT older adults. Here are some highlights in words and photos. To see more photos of our work, visit [flickr.com/sageusa](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sageusa).

LGBT ELDER AMERICANS ACT INTRODUCED.

In September, SAGE applauded as Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced the LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2012, a bill that would increase federal supports to millions of LGBT older people through the Older Americans Act (OAA), the country's largest vehicle for funding and delivering services to older people in the US. The OAA is currently up for reauthorization and includes no mention of LGBT older adults. Among the bill's proposals for

the OAA is an amendment that would specify LGBT older adults as a population in "greatest social need," as well as an amendment that would permanently establish the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, which provides LGBT cultural competence training to aging providers around the country. Other amendments include a proposal to increase funding for research and programs aimed at LGBT elders; a proposal to require long-term care ombudsmen to collect data relating to discrimination against LGBT older adults; and a proposal to enhance reporting requirements from area and state agencies on aging on their services to LGBT older adults. Later in the fall, Senator Bennet, SAGE and One Colorado co-hosted a nationwide conference call, attended by more than 100 participants, to discuss the act. **Visit sageusa.org to learn more about this bill, and SAGE's other national advocacy initiatives.**

OUT AND PROUD: IT'S IN OUR HANDS. On September 21, SAGE's Director of Community Advocacy & Capacity Building Serena Worthington joined a panel at the AARP 2012 Life@50+ National Event & Expo in New Orleans entitled "Out and Proud:

It's in Our Hands." The AARP conference is a huge national event—this year there were approximately 30,000 attendees—and SAGE was thrilled to be represented on this national platform. Other panelists included the delightful Kate Clinton, LGBT advocate and comedian, John Hennessey, Assistant State Director for Advocacy for AARP Maine and Natalie Chin, an attorney with Lambda Legal. The dynamic panelists led a fun and frank discussion about how to better prepare ourselves and our communities to live out and proud as we age. The panel was enthusiastically attended by nearly 100 LGBT AARP constituents. Serena's presentation included information on SAGE's national network, which includes the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging (lgbtagingcenter.org), the National LGBT Aging Roundtable, and SAGENet. The session ended with a reception and a private comedy performance by Kate Clinton. Needless to say, she brought down the house.

LGBT CAREER FAIR. In October, Michele D'Amato, Program Manager of SAGEWorks, conducted a workshop at the annual LGBT Career Fair & Economic Empowerment Week, hosted by New York City's LGBT Community Center. The well-attended workshop, "An LGBT Mature Worker's Initiative," addressed the challenges facing older workers; the prevalence of poverty among LGBT older adults; and the mission, goals and success stories of SAGEWorks, a comprehensive employment-readiness training program for LGBT people age 40 and over. During the past few years, the Career Fair has become an economic lifeline for job seekers and the underemployed of the LGBT community. The Career Fair is an especially great resource for mature job seekers and mid-career changers seeking employment in a company sensitive to diversity. **To learn more about SAGEWorks visit sageusa.org/programs/sageworks**



SERVICES & ADVOCACY
FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL
& TRANSGENDER ELDERS

CAREERS MEDIA CENTER READING HELP FONT SIZE

SEARCH

03.18.2013

GET INVOLVED

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PROMOTING POLICY CHANGES FOR ELDERS OF COLOR AND LGBT ELDERS

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NEWS

CALENDAR

BLOG

- 3.16.13 | SAGE
SAGE Welcomes Three New Members to its Board of Directors
- 3.14.13 | SAGE
SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging Unveils New Data Collection Guide on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- 3.12.13 | USA Today
Gay rights pioneers revel in progress of gay marriage
- 3.1.13 | SAGE
SAGE Files a Friend-of-the-Court Brief in Support of Edie Windsor's Supreme Court DOMA Challenge
- 1.5.13 | New York Times

THE SAGE CENTER



Providing Critical Services to LGBT Elders
SAGE ensures that older people in NYC and nationwide have supports. ►

ADVOCACY



Improving Public Policies
SAGE removes the barriers that prevent successful, healthy aging. ►

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON LGBT AGING



Training Providers Nationwide
SAGE educates organizations so they are equipped to meet our needs. ►

OLIVIA TRAVEL CRUISE: A RARE TREAT FOR SAGE SUPPORTERS.

Olivia Travel is the premier lesbian travel company and provides amazing cruise and resort vacations for lesbians worldwide. In keeping with its longtime goal of supporting LGBT organizations that celebrate and empower women, Olivia donated a cruise for our 2012 SAGE Awards & Gala Silent Auction. The cruise to the Southern Caribbean commemorated their 40th anniversary, and featured the biggest entertainment line-up in the history of Olivia: Kate Clinton, Karen Williams, Michele Balan, Mimi Gonzalez and more! SAGE is grateful for Olivia's gift, and so was the auction winner, who had been saving for years to go on an Olivia cruise—and who was finally able to make her dream of going with her partner on an LGBT-friendly cruise for their 21st anniversary a reality, thanks to the SAGE Awards auction and Olivia's gift. Thank you, Olivia Travel!

SAGE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE! In October, SAGE proudly announced the launch of our newly redesigned website: sageusa.org! SAGE's site has long been the leading online destination for older adults, aging providers, policy makers and others interested in LGBT aging issues. And now, the site offers even more. Among the many new and improved features on the site are an Issues section, an expanded multimedia library, a Get Involved page and sections that highlight SAGE's national work—from advocacy on Capitol Hill to the cultural competence training offered through our National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. In addition, the site features the all-new SAGE Blog, offering timely updates, tips and more from SAGE and our partners. **Visit sageusa.org/today.**

SAGE FRIENDLY VISITOR PICNIC. This year for the first time, SAGE held the annual Friendly Visitor Picnic at The SAGE Center! It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in October and the great room was sun-filled and looking its best. For many of the Friendly Visitors and Friends at Home it was their first visit to the center and they were thrilled with the handsome new facilities and excited to learn more about the programing; many promised to be back. Approximately 50 guests in total enjoyed a delicious lunch



Friendly Visitor Karin Schyboll and Friend at Home Betty Brown

followed by a performance from Concerts in Motion. Each Friendly Visitor and Friend at Home was awarded a special Certificate of Appreciation to remember the event and, near the end of the picnic, several of the Friends at Home got the chance to take the microphone themselves. They each wanted to express a deep gratitude to SAGE and their visitors for helping to end their isolation and welcome them back into the warmth of the LGBT community. For many, these heartfelt words were the highlight of the picnic.

EYAL FELDMAN'S KAMANAWANA MARATHON SWIM.

He's done it again! For the fifth year in a row, SAGE's tireless supporter Eyal Feldman has made a huge fundraising splash! In November Eyal conducted a lone marathon swim across the open Hawaiian ocean from Maui to Lanai. His efforts raised close to \$9,000 in donations, all to benefit SAGE. Feldman's fans were once again charmed by his spirit and bravery and contributed generously through the SAGE website—including a much appreciated matching gift from an anonymous SAGE Investors Circle donor.

Eyal explained the motivation behind his swim: "In a society that is so youth obsessed, it is important to bring attention to the needs of elders. Some of the ways I combat this issue are through regular volunteer work and through marathon swimming for charity." The Kamanawana Marathon swim was an astounding 9 miles (14.5 km) and took approximately 5 hours to complete. Good friends and family, including Eyal's parents and partner, sailed alongside for physical and emotional support—and to ensure a successful and safe swim. Everyone at SAGE is hugely grateful for Eyal's amazing dedication and athletic endurance! Congrats and thanks to Eyal!

SAGE HONORED BY THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR LGBT HEALTH.

In November, SAGE received the National Coalition for LGBT Health's 2012 award for "Outstanding LGBT Advocacy or Service Organization" during the Coalition's annual meeting. This award is presented each year to recognize organizations that have made extensive contributions to the health and well-being of LGBT communities across the United States. The award acknowledges SAGE's commitment to innovative services and successful advocacy to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. The theme for this year's Coalition meeting was "Moving toward Health Equity - Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities". In presenting the award, Hutson W. Inniss, Executive Director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health, remarked, "SAGE stands out as a champion of transforming lives and our larger community. We are pleased to be able to highlight the contributions SAGE has made in the effort to include and discuss the issues important to LGBT elders within the LGBT and larger progressive movement."



Eyal Feldman with Michael Adams

SAGE CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH. This fall, SAGE hosted more than a month of activities and celebrations in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Doreen Bermudez, Training Coordinator for SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, kicked off the festivities with a culinary demonstration of her delicious empanadas. From there, SAGE Harlem hosted a reception for Latino men on October 9, followed by a screening of the award winning Peruvian film *Contracorrient/Undertow* on October 16. The celebration culminated with The SAGE Center hosting "Un Toque de Ritmo Latino," a party for LGBT older Latinos and allies. Participants danced the night away to popular Latino beats of bachata, merengue, salsa and cumbia. We look forward to Hispanic Heritage Month in 2013! **For the latest SAGE programs and services, check out our calendar at sageusa.org.**



Michele D'Amato, Program Manager of SAGEWorks, Zoraida Ramos, Asst Program Manager, SAGEWorks, and Tom Weber, Director of Community Services, SAGE

SAGE HOLDS FIRST SAGEWORKS SUMMIT. On November 15, SAGE held its inaugural SAGEWorks Summit in Chicago, IL, immediately following the annual SAGENet gathering (see page 24 for more on SAGENet). SAGEWorks is a national work readiness program for LGBT mature workers (ages 40 and older) who need or want to return to the work place. SAGEWorks offers vital skills training and support to help LGBT older adults remain competitive in today's marketplace. Paul LaPorte, economist with the Bureau of Labor & Statistics, was the keynote speaker at the daylong summit, and provided attendees with a national view of the current job market. Attendees included staff from affiliates who currently offer SAGEWorks in their communities, enabling them to exchange ideas and advice on the best ways to support

participants in the program. Affiliates interested in starting a SAGEWorks program in their own communities also attended, which afforded them the opportunity to seek insight and advice from fellow affiliates. SAGEWorks is generously supported by Walmart Foundation and is currently offered in New York City, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia and Palm Springs, California.



Bill Larmer, SAGEWorks participant and Michele D'Amato, Program Manager of SAGEWorks testify before the New York City Council

SAGEWORKS REPS TESTIFY BEFORE NYC COUNCIL.

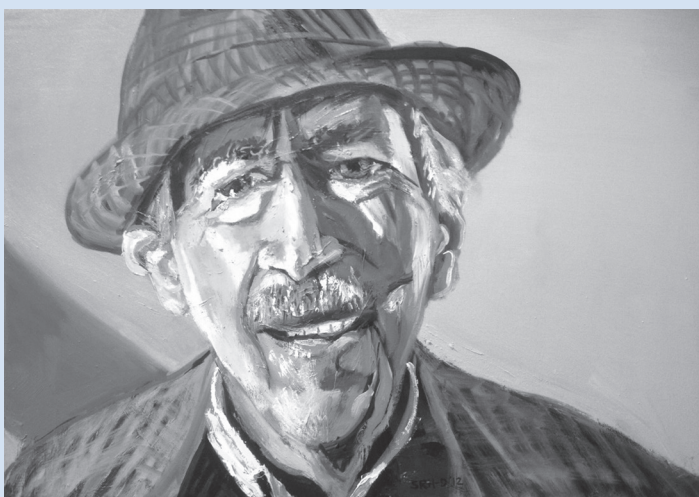
Following the SAGEWorks Summit, SAGE was invited to testify before the New York City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor during a hearing regarding Resolution No. 1352, which calls on employers in New York City to hire more workers over 55 years of age. SAGE representatives included Michele D'Amato, SAGEworks Program Manager, and Bill Larmer, a SAGEworks participant. In her testimony, Michele explained, "LGBT older adults are part of a cohort of older job-seekers who may be overlooked by employers and for whom job training and employment opportunities are absolutely critical. And LGBT older adults face particular financial and social challenges that can compound their need for employment." And in his sincere and personal remarks, Bill Larmer spoke of the employment challenges he faced after 40+ years in the fashion industry: he had to reinvent himself after age 50, change focus and take courses to remain competitive in his industry. Bill talked about the safe environment at SAGEWorks, where he could get support in his employment search. "Employment offers people purpose and an ability not only to earn money, but to feel challenged by work and to contribute to society."



"James" 2012 by Seth Ruggles Hiler



"Eunice" 2012 by Seth Ruggles Hiler



"Bill" 2012 by Seth Ruggles Hiler



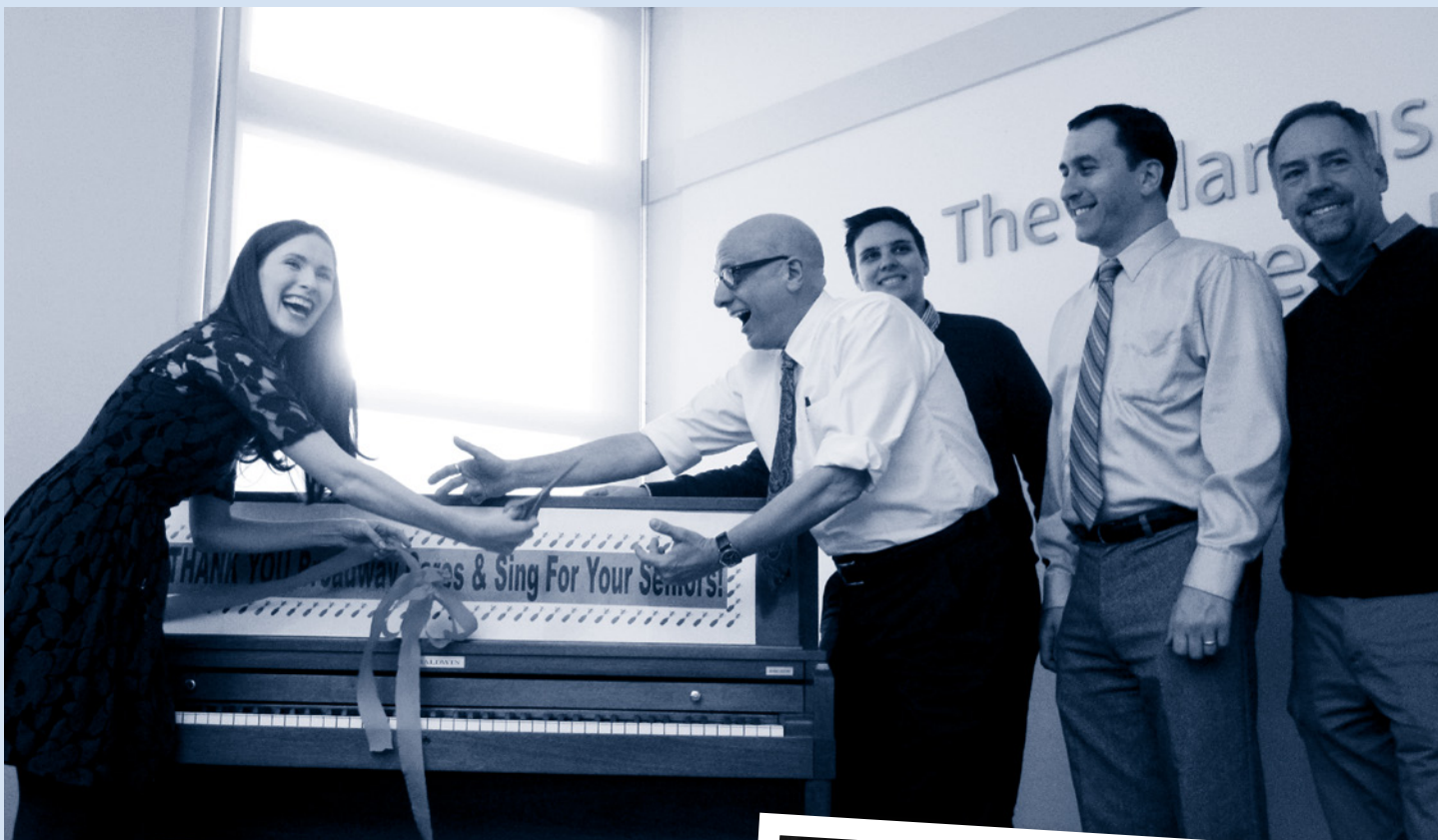
"Barbara" 2012 by Seth Ruggles Hiler

FACES OF SAGE. On November 30, The SAGE Center unveiled a beautiful and moving exhibit of oil portraits called the Faces of SAGE. The eighteen large-scale oil portraits are by award-winning New Jersey-based artist Seth Ruggles Hiler. With these striking portraits, Hiler has chosen to honor the older generation of LGBT communities who by their bravery and determination have paved the way for today's generation. Hiler first met with each of his subjects at The SAGE Center. The participants shared their life stories, including the challenges and rewards of growing up as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the pre-Stonewall era, and each posed for photographs. The stories and photos were later translated by Hiler into oil paintings. The finished portraits took six months to complete at Hiler's studio and are currently on display throughout The SAGE Center. The paintings are on sale to the public, with a portion of proceeds benefiting SAGE

and its mission to improve the lives of LGBT older adults.

For purchase information, please call 212-741-2247.

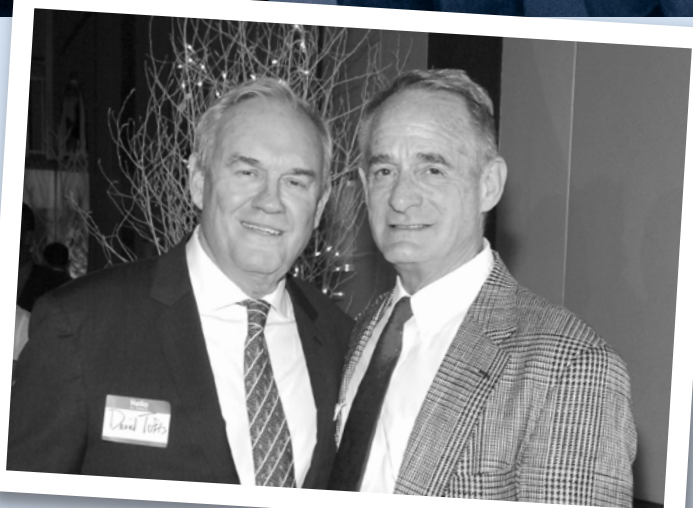
THE SAGE CENTER RECEIVES A NEW PIANO. The SAGE Center is committed to bringing a wide array of services and programming to the LGBT older adult communities of New York City, and a fantastic addition to that program is the Center's new piano! The beautiful, upright Baldwin was purchased by The SAGE Center with funds generously donated from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Sing for your Seniors. Close to 50 SAGE constituents were on hand on November 8 for the piano's debut during a performance by Sing for Your Seniors. Tom Viola, executive director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids and Sing for your Seniors Executive Director Jackie Vanderbeck DiSalvo cut the ribbon on the piano before the performance. Sing for Your Seniors is a talented company of young performing arts



ABOVE: Jackie Vanderbeck DiSalvo, Exec Director of Sing for your Seniors and Tom Viola, Exec Director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS cut the ribbon on The Center's new piano; RIGHT: Hosts David Tufts and Robby Brown at the 27th Annual Toys Party

professionals whose mission is to bring music and stories to older adult centers throughout the city. They are now performing at The SAGE Center on the second Thursday of each month and the reviews have been all raves—so “Come to the Cabaret!”

THANKSGIVING AT THE SAGE CENTER. Everyone at SAGE was grateful for an abundance of gifts in 2012. And to celebrate, more than 100 constituents attended the first ever sit-down Thanksgiving meal at The SAGE Center. Beautiful weather on November 22 made the travelling easy and filled the center's Great Room with sunshine. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner was served family style at long tables of 20, giving the event a wonderful community feel. On hand to volunteer were employees from Credit Suisse and SAGE Board Co-Chair Roz Richter. Many of the participants brought homemade desserts and SAGE's own Stephen Rutsky entertained on the center's new piano. This is surely the start of a new SAGE tradition for Thanksgiving Day.



TOYS PARTY 2012. Santa's elves were busy this year! A mountain of toys was collected at the 27th annual Toys Party held at Chelsea Piers on December 2, with proceeds going to benefit SAGE. At this wildly popular event, hosted by Robby Browne, David Tufts and Chris Kann, a glamorous crowd of 2,300 well-dressed revelers heard remarks by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, danced to the tunes of DJ Johnny Dynell, sipped festive cocktails and lined up to have their photo taken with Santa. SAGE is truly grateful for this annual holiday event and the outpouring of generosity from our supporters.



Edie Windsor poses with a fan at the 2012 NYC Pride Parade.

EDIE WINDSOR'S DOMA CHALLENGE TAKEN UP BY THE SUPREME COURT. In December, the US Supreme Court announced that, in the coming term, it would hear the challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) brought by Edith "Edie" Windsor: longtime SAGE supporter, former SAGE Board Member, and SAGE Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. The case proceeds to the Supreme Court from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Manhattan where, in October 2012, Judge Dennis Jacobs ruled that he found no reason that DOMA, a 1996 statute defining marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman, could be used to deny benefits to married same-sex couples. SAGE, joined by National Senior Citizens Law Center and American Society on Aging, was among the more than fifteen parties that filed briefs in support of Windsor's case. "SAGE has been proud to stand alongside Edie Windsor, a longtime volunteer leader at SAGE, in her ongoing fight for equality," said Michael Adams, Executive Director of SAGE. "Edie has fought many hard-won battles to ensure that her case—which has to potential to protect the rights of all LGBT couples—would be heard by Supreme Court. With [this] announcement, she has broken down one more barrier along the road to full equality for LGBT elders." *United States v. Windsor* will be heard on March 27, 2013, with a decision announced by the end of June 2013. **Visit sageusa.org to read SAGE's friend-of-the-court brief in support of Edie's Supreme Court DOMA challenge.**

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS. The SAGE holiday season officially kicked off December 14, when SAGE Harlem hosted the

Blue and White Holiday Party at the beautiful and historic Union Theological Seminary. More than 100 LGBT older adults celebrated with a joyful night of music, fellowship and refreshments. On December 15, the holiday swing continued as The SAGE Center welcomed participants to their annual Holiday Social. A delicious meal, libations and dancing were all on the program. And on December 23, The SAGE Center hosted the Women's Holiday Party with lunch, music and a traditional Gift Grab Bag Game with presents for all.

SAGE WOMEN'S DANCE. On January 20, SAGE held its popular Women's Winter Dance at Club LQ. Nearly 400 women of all ages came to raise money and dance at the "Best Women's Dance in NYC." DJ Stacy was at the turntables spinning a great selection of tunes—from oldies to today's top dance hits. All proceeds from the dance, held three times a year, benefit SAGE. **For upcoming Women's Dances, visit the calendar at sageusa.org.**



Guests at the LGBT Elders 50+ and Allies Dance.

CREATING CHANGE 2013. The 25th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change was a rousing success. More than 3,000 participants from around the world attended the conference in Atlanta, GA from January 23-27 to advance LGBT equality in their communities. SAGE was there to ensure the perspective of LGBT aging was included and to work with the many participants, advocates and leaders on coming up with creative and new ideas to address the issues faced by LGBT older people. SAGE kicked off our conference activities with the fourth annual LGBT Elder Day-Long Institute,



Thank you to the volunteers from Avon (pictured with SAGE Director of Special Events & Corporate Relations Ector Simpson, third from left) for helping out at the SAGE Harlem holiday party!

attended by more than 60 activists interested in LGBT aging issues. SAGE hosts this Institute each year, presenting a packed agenda filled with dynamic workshops and presenters. The theme this year was Aging Issues Activism and the LGBT Movement, with a focus on how to direct activism in a post-election climate. The highlight of the day was panel of Atlanta-area activists who introduced the SAGE Story program by telling their own stories. Throughout the rest of the conference, SAGE staff led workshops on the Older Americans Act, state-level advocacy, and transgender older adults. Finally, SAGE cohosted the second annual LGBT Elders 50+ and Allies Dance, where LGBT older adult activists and their supporters partied until the wee hours.

SAGE PRESENTS LEADERSHIP AWARD TO SEARAC.

In January, SAGE was thrilled to present the 2013 SAGE Advocacy Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues to the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC). SAGE, in partnership with The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, presents this award each year at Creating Change to honor

an organization or individual committed to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. SEARAC is a national organization that advances the interests of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese Americans by empowering communities through advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building to create a socially just and equitable society. In recent years, with the growing numbers of people age 65+ in the U.S., SEARAC has focused on ensuring that community members and organizations are aware of how programs such as Medicare and Social Security impact elders, and informing policy makers about the Southeast Asian American elder population and its particular challenges and disparities. In addition, through the Diverse Elders Coalition, SEARAC has been a vital partner with SAGE and other key national aging organizations on work to strengthen policies and programs to enhance the health and well-being of diverse elders (including elders of color and LGBT elders); educate and connect older people and their loved ones to key policy debates on aging; and increase public support for issues that affect diverse communities. Because they are a true partner and dedicated advocate for all older people, SAGE is proud to honor SEARAC.

THE 2012 SAGE AWARDS AND GALA

On October 22, we celebrated our annual SAGE Awards and Gala, and this year's event was another glittering success. Hosted by **Raphael Miranda**, NBC4 New York meteorologist, the 2012 SAGE Gala honored two remarkable leaders who have helped SAGE realize the dream of building and sustaining a home for LGBT older adults, and a company that is encouraging and supporting the dialogue around the notion of getting older and living better. **Lilliam Barrios-Paoli**, the Commissioner of the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) received the Joyce Warshow Lifetime Achievement Award. **Judith E. Turkel**, Esq., an active leader in the LGBT community and an attorney in private practice received the Paula L. Ettelbrick Community Service Award, and **Pfizer** was the recipient of the 2012 SAGE Corporate Leadership Award for their groundbreaking "Get Old" campaign. Cocktails, dinner and the awards presentation were held in the magnificent Gotham Hall. Thank you to all of our friends and colleagues who attended and supported the event!





1. *Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Commissioner for the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA)*

2. *Sally Susman, Executive Vice President Policy, External Affairs and Communications for Pfizer Inc accepts the 2012 SAGE Corporate Leadership Award*

3. *Judith E. Turkel, Esq. accepts her 2012 SAGE Award*

4. *Former SAGE Board Member Edith 'Edie' Windsor with Michael Adams, Executive Director of SAGE, at the 2012 SAGE Awards*

5. *SAGE Board Member Dawn Fischer, SAGE Board Member Jerry Chasen and his partner Mark Kirby, and SAGE Board Member Lindsey Horvath*

6. *Raphael Miranda of NBC4 at the 2012 SAGE Awards*

7. *Gala co-chair Ana L. Oliveira, President & CEO of The New York Women's Foundation.*

8. *Patricia Tradd, Michael Adams' mother, urged guests to support SAGE.*

9. *Sally Susman and New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn*

CENTER ON HALSTED



Building Connections, Inspiring Action: The Annual SAGENet Gathering

On November 12-14, SAGE held its SAGENet Annual meeting, hosting 23 affiliates—and several prospective affiliates—from all across the country at Center on Halsted in Chicago, Illinois. This gathering is a three-day training and networking event that provides current and future leaders from SAGENet the opportunity to exchange ideas about LGBT aging programs and policies, and discuss how federal policy affects the work they do to support LGBT elders in their local communities.

This year, a welcome letter from Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel greeted affiliates as they settled in for workshops on transgender aging, fundraising, training

and more. Highlights from the meeting included a panel of leaders from Chicago's top LGBT and aging organizations, who spoke about the progress that their organizations and communities have made towards being more responsive to LGBT elders and elders of color; an overview of the Older Americans Act and how this federal legislation impacts local affiliates; and a session where participants shared lessons learned—including the worst mistake they ever made and loved!

Participants left the gathering buzzing with ideas and camaraderie. When asked what he thought of his first SAGENet gathering, Les Geller, Vice Chair of the

LGBT Center of Raleigh (the site of a potential new affiliate), echoed the feelings of many attendees: "It was so instructive to meet both the existing and the potential groups and to see how much they are accomplishing. What an inspiration these folks are in their dedication to the cause that we are all working toward. To see the possibilities has been a true inspiration."

Thank you to Pfizer, the 2012 SAGE Corporate Award recipient, for their support of the SAGENet annual gathering. **Learn more about how Pfizer's Get Old campaign is changing the nationwide conversation on aging at getold.com.**



1. SAGEnet Affiliates at the 2012 SAGEnet Annual Meeting, Center on Halsted, Chicago

2. Lauren Fontanarosa (SAGE Metro Portland), Charles Lynn Frost (SAGE Utah)

3. Kelly Clark (SAGE of the Genesee Valley)

4. Cindy Bray (SAGE Central Virginia), Ed Miller (SAGE Philadelphia)

5. Shari Wilkins (SAGE of the Rockies), Katy Imbrone (SAGE Olympia), Lauren Fontanarosa (SAGE Metro Portland), Susan Snyder (SAGE Seattle), Caroline Werner (Outreach LGBT Community Center, Madison, WI)

6. Shari Wilkins, SAGE of the Rockies

SAGE SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

SAGE POSITIVE

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

THE SAGE CENTER

HOT DINNER

M-F 5:00-6:30 PM

\$2 suggested donation
for 60 yrs and older;
\$4 for others

SOCIAL SERVICE CASE ASSISTANCE

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

HEALTH, WELLNESS & FITNESS PROGRAMS

Beth Israel Nurse Services
Wellness Groups
Health & Wellness Presentations
Male Cancer Survivor Group
McBurney YMCA Voucher Program
Senior Splash at Tony Dapolito Pool
SAGE Walking Club
Yoga
Zumba
SAGErcize
Health Fair
Wii Bowling & Boxing
Meditation
Tai Chi & Qi Gong
Billiards
Ping Pong

ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

Booklovers Discussion
Theatre Desk
Morning at the Opera
Walks/Outings to Cultural Institutions
Knitting Group
Creative Writing Workshops
Art Classes
Musical Theater Writing Workshop
SAGE Singers

Singing Out!
SAGE Center Library
Musical Performances & Concerts

CAREGIVERS

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

SAGECAP – CARING AND PREPARING INITIATIVE

DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

SOCIAL

Bridge
Mah Jong
Brunch
Bus Trips

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

INFORMATION PROGRAMS

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

LIFELONG LEARNING

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

SAGENet Members

SAGEWORKS


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

HARLEM

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

SOCIAL SERVICES

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

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

NORTHEAST REGION

SAGE of the Genesee Valley
gayalliance.org

SAGE Hudson County
hudsonpride.org

SAGE Hudson Valley
lgbtqcenter.org

SAGE Long Island
sageli.org

SAGE Philadelphia
waygay.org

SAGE Rhode Island
sageriinfo@gmail.com

SAGE Upstate
sageupstate.org

SAGE Western Pennsylvania
persadcenter.org

MIDWEST REGION

SAGE Center on Halsted
centeronhalsted.org

SAGE Metro St. Louis
sagemetrostl.org

SAGE Milwaukee
sagemilwaukee.org

SOUTH REGION

SAGE Atlanta
rushcenteratl.org

SAGE Central Virginia
gayrichmond.com

SAGE Metro DC
sagemetrodc1@gmail.com

SAGE South Florida
sagewebsite.org

SAGE Tulsa
okeq.org

WEST REGION

SAGE of the Desert
thecenterps.org

SAGE Las Cruces
newmexicoglbtccenters.org

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

SAGE Olympia
sageolympia.org

SAGE of the Rockies
glbtcolorado.org

SAGE Utah
utahpridecenter.org

 In communities across the country, SAGENet—SAGE's network of local affiliates around the country—is building a movement to reduce isolation, improve financial security and enhance the quality of life for LGBT older adults. To learn more about SAGENet, including how to become a SAGE affiliate, email us at sworthington@sageusa.org.



Services & Advocacy
for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual
& Transgender Elders

305 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10001

sageusa.org

facebook.com/sageusa

twitter.com/sageusa

youtube.com/sageusa

NATIONAL OFFICES

NEW YORK

CHICAGO

WASHINGTON DC

NEW YORK OFFICES

THE SAGE CENTER

305 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10001
646-576-8669

SAGE HARLEM

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

WALK-IN HOURS

Fridays, 2 pm – 8 pm

SAGE SOCIAL SERVICES

305 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10001
212-741-2247
BY APPOINTMENT
Mondays-Fridays, 10 am – 7 pm

