

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

sageSM

Matters

SPRING 2017

**LGBT ELDERS:
WE REFUSE TO
BE INVISIBLE**

**TRAILBLAZING
LESSONS**

*Wise words
for inspiring
resistance*



A PLACE AT OUR TABLE

*On May 18, thousands of LGBT people and
our allies will break bread across generations*



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The Trump administration needs to hear from you!

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HeyMrJasonPhotography

“You have to look out for those who came before you. On May 18, we’ll get to know each other.”

— WHOOPI GOLDBERG

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Nicholas J. Borsodi III

EVENTS

► **SAGE & Friends: Los Angeles**

SAGE & Friends Los Angeles took to the Hollywood Hills on March 4 to honor Bruce Vilanch and Jewel Thais-Williams for their tireless dedication to advancing LGBT rights in Southern California and across the country. Vilanch is a six-time Emmy Award winner and one of the first openly gay comedians in Hollywood. Thais-Williams is the founder of the longest-running Black disco, Catch One Disco, Rue's House, and The Village Health Foundation. **Pictured: Honorees Bruce Vilanch and Jewel Thais-Williams at the SAGE & Friends Los Angeles reception.**

For more SAGE events, see pages 02 and 04.

SAGEMatters is the 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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Confronting Today's Threats with Wisdom, Love, and Action!

The world has changed dramatically since the last issue of **SAGEMatters**. This year began with the ascendance of President Donald J. Trump, an even less LGBT-friendly Congress, an assortment of hard-right cabinet appointees (especially in federal agencies controlling policies that matter most to LGBT elders), and a drumbeat of threatening proclamations from the White House.

During his campaign, Trump sometimes suggested that he would respect the progress toward equality for LGBT people. But it didn't take long to discover that those were just empty promises. Barely inaugurated, the Trump administration quietly removed all mention of LGBT rights from the White House website. Next, the administration and Republican leaders in Congress unveiled their so-called American Health Care Act, which would have robbed millions of low and moderate income older Americans of their health insurance while completely ignoring HIV and other critical LGBT health needs. Since then, the attacks on our communities have continued to escalate.

On March 12, those attacks began directly targeting LGBT elders when the Trump administration moved to quietly erase older members of our community from the annual survey that determines how \$2 billion in federally funded elder services get allocated. This outrageous



SAGE CEO Michael Adams.

move, if allowed to stand, would reverse big advances we have made in recent years to ensure that LGBT elders in need get their fair share of taxpayer-funded services.

SAGE will not allow LGBT elders to be erased by the Trump administration or anybody else! Fortunately, they can't erase an entire population out of a key federal program without a Public Comment period to give the American people the opportunity to express their opinion. We have until May 12 to tell the administration that it CANNOT exclude LGBT elders. *Before you read any further, please turn to page 9, tear it out, and write and mail your letter telling the Trump administration that you stand with LGBT elders and will not allow them to be erased by the federal government.*

continued on page 8



SAGE Nation

Making an Impact Across the U.S.

Marching in Solidarity

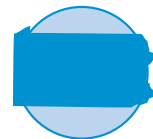
Members from SAGE affiliates and SAGE Centers across the country poured into Washington, D.C., the day after the presidential inauguration to raise their voices at the Women's March. Outraged LGBT people and their allies representing SAGE Hudson Valley (New York State), SAGE Center on Halsted (Chicago), and SAGE New York traveled hundreds of miles to join the approximately half a million people assembled at this peaceful protest.



SAGE Hudson Valley members stand proud at the Women's March in Washington, D.C.

Catalyzing Change in Philly

Older adults in the City of Brotherly Love have a reason to celebrate this April as the Pennsylvania CARE (Caregiver, Advise, Record, Enable) Act (House Bill 1329) becomes law.



The CARE Act will support Pennsylvania's 1.6 million family caregivers serving older adults who choose to age at home. This important legislation features three key provisions: that a caregiver be designated upon a senior's hospital admission; that the facility notify the caregiver of the discharge plan; and that the facility provide an explanation and live instruction of all medical tasks.

To build momentum for the Pennsylvania CARE Act, SAGE Philadelphia launched a letter-writing campaign to state legislators in support of the CARE Act.

SAGE Honors LGBT Champions

The 21st Annual SAGE Awards and Gala moved in October to the glamorous Cipriani Wall Street. Among the night's honorees were Don Capoccia and his company, BFC Partners; Kevin Cathcart, the former executive director of Lambda Legal; Dr. Yanira Cruz, the president of the National Hispanic Council on Aging; and Jennifer Hatch of Christopher Street Financial and the Co-Chair of SAGE's National Leadership Council.

Special recognition was given to SAGE CEO Michael Adams for his 10th year leading the organization. "I am thrilled to have celebrated my 10-year tenure at SAGE with the largest SAGE Awards and Gala yet," said Adams at the event, which raised close to \$1 million.



Tommie Pueges, honoree Don Capoccia, Sandra Lee, and SAGE CEO Michael Adams at the 21st Annual SAGE Awards and Gala.

Dan Klein Photography

SAGEWorks in the Windy City

SAGE's groundbreaking employment program, SAGEWorks, graduated its first class at Chicago's SAGE Center on Halsted. The Boot Camp is a two-week-long program that prepares LGBT people age 40 and older to return to the workforce. A recent AARP survey found that 64 percent of the older workers who responded have witnessed or experienced age discrimination in the workplace.

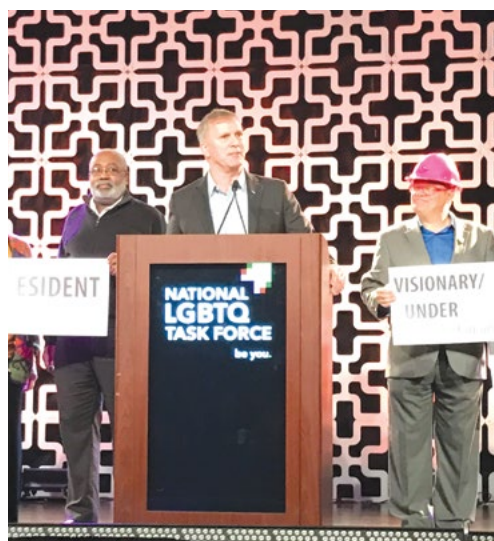


The first graduating class of Chicago's SAGEWorks Boot Camp.

To fine-tune their skills for a competitive work environment, Chicago's Boot Campers interacted with guest lecturers, took part in mock interviews, and learned key résumé and networking strategies to succeed in

today's job market. For Boot Camper Scott Sims, his participation has already paid off. "I have just started my new job as an advanced buyer with the Chicago Park District," Scott reports. "It took some time to land a job, but I truly believe this one was worth it!"

Honoring the John C. Anderson Apartments



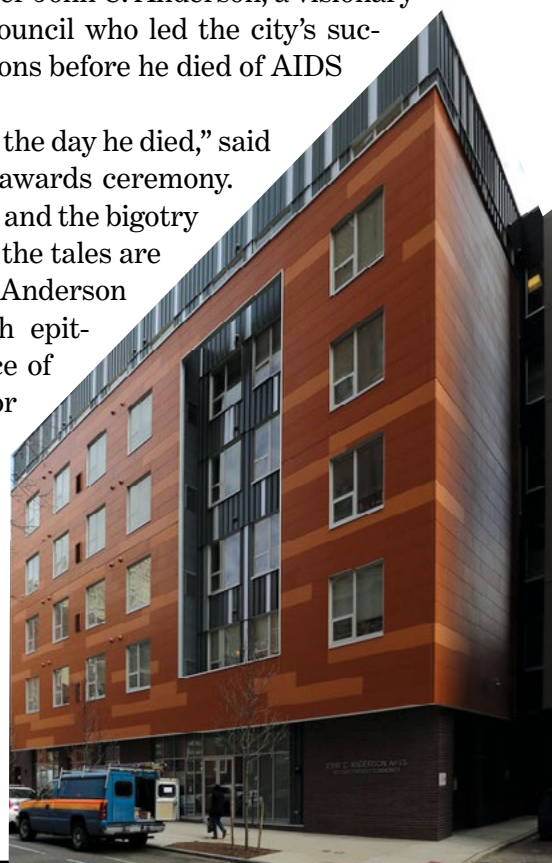
SAGE's Michael Adams presents the Award at Creating Change.

On January 22, Philadelphia's John C. Anderson Apartments received this year's SAGE Advocacy Award for Excellence in Aging at the Creating Change conference. Built in 2014, this 45-unit, affordable LGBT housing development was named after John C. Anderson, a visionary member of the Philadelphia City Council who led the city's successful fight for LGBT legal protections before he died of AIDS in 1983 at the age of 41.

"John C. Anderson was fierce until the day he died," said SAGE CEO Michael Adams at the awards ceremony. "Our elders who survived the plague and the bigotry and the violence and are here to tell the tales are just as fierce. And so are the John C. Anderson Apartments and community, which epitomize what it means to build a place of honor, of celebration, of support for our pioneers who got us to where we are today."

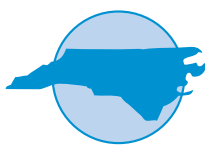
“John C. Anderson was fierce until the day he died. Our elders who survived the plague and the bigotry and the violence and are here to tell the tales are just as fierce.”

— MICHAEL ADAMS, SAGE CEO



SAGE Affiliates Celebrate Racial Diversity

SAGE Wilmington represented the largest LGBT presence to date at Wilmington's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade. Led by SAGE Wilmington, organizations such as Cape Fear Equality, PFLAG Wilmington, MCC St. Jude's Church, and Wilmington Against HB2 rallied at this historic march. To honor Dr. King, SAGE Wilmington hosted a series of screenings and panel discussions of the documentaries *Deepsouth* and *From Selma to Stonewall*.



The festivities at SAGE Wilmington's Martin Luther King Jr. Day march.



Dr. Rachel Hardeman

How have America's racist roots sustained health inequities? Dr. Rachel Hardeman explained at a SAGE of the Rockies retreat focused on racial equity and implicit bias. "It's about the structures that are in place and the ideologies that have allocated privilege based on race for many, many years," she told the group. "And the fact that if we don't understand and recognize it, then we're playing a role in perpetuating it."



SAGE's Susan Herr with Debbie Brennan and SAGE Board Member Lisa Davis at SHE in New York City.

Women Who Network

On March 16, SAGE hosted its first-ever SHE reception celebrating women of all ages. Event goers mingled over Ketel One cocktails during this fabulous new networking party and took turns on the dance floor and in the photo booth. We can't wait until next year!

SAGE & Friends: Miami

For their outstanding work serving those affected with HIV and AIDS, Shed Boren and Jose Valdes-Fauli were awarded the SAGE Pioneer Award on February 11 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida.



Dr. Robert Cava, Jose Valdes-Fauli, Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 8 Daniella Levine Cava, and Shed Boren.

SAGE Maine Goes to Washington



SAGE Maine Executive Director Doug Kimmel and his husband, Ron Schwizer, were invited to represent SAGE at the White House's annual holiday party in December. "It was wonderful to enter the beautifully decorated rooms often seen only in news reports," Kimmel recalls. "With my husband and SAGE colleagues, after our long wait in the cold—waiting, in fact, for decades—I was thrilled to feel at home in the warmth of equality and acceptance by the Obama White House."



SAGE Maine's Doug Kimmel.



Syed Naseeruddin

GLMA's Hector Vargas with SAGE PROMO's Steph Perkins, Eugene Potchen-Webb, and GLMA's Dr. Desi Bailey.

No Vets Left Behind in Rochester

SAGE Rochester is supporting its local LGBT veterans. With SAGEVets, a model built at SAGE, staff in Rochester, New York, are conducting outreach and caregiver support to rural elder LGBT veterans in Genesee County.



At Richards House Veterans Rehabilitation Center, caseworker Wayne Gandy holds a holiday stocking delivered by SAGE Rochester.

SAGE Affiliates Honored for Breaking Ground



Two SAGE affiliates were honored last year for outstanding contributions to their local communities.

SAGE of PROMO Fund, St. Louis, was awarded the 2016 Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Achievement Award for its exceptional work in LGBT health equality and civil rights. SAGE



Atlanta was a finalist in *Atlanta* magazine's 2016 Groundbreakers Award, which focused its annual honors on the theme of Aging Well.

A Transformative Screening With Miss Major

Miss Major Griffin-Gracy herself presided over a Q&A with SAGE Albuquerque after the screening of *MAJOR!*, a documentary on the life of the legendary black transgender activist. The event was hosted by the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, the UNM LGBTQ Resource Center, and AARP New Mexico. *MAJOR!* provides a first-person account of the fight for transgender rights from the 1960s to today. Pictured at right is Major Griffin-Gracy in the film that documents her challenges and triumphs.



Pull Up a Chair to SAGE Table

SAGE, in partnership with AARP, sets national initiative to bridge generations.

On May 18, thousands of LGBT people and their allies across the nation will break bread. We'll make new friends, forge relationships and witness what caring for each other looks like when age no longer separates us.

"I am so excited to host a SAGE Table," says Rae Angelo Tuteria, co-star of *Suited*, an HBO documentary about Rae's partnership in *Bindle & Keep*, a made-to-measure clothier popular in the LGBT community. "If I can connect the different generations I have within my own community and just sit back and watch the magic happen, then that's everything. That's the most joyful thing I can think of."

Rae experienced firsthand the richness of a friendship that breaks down age barriers, thanks to a connection made a few years ago through SAGE with Lee Sweet, a man decades older. The two lived on the same train line only a few stops apart, but "under no other circumstances would we ever have become friends," Rae says. They bonded over a shared interest in collecting. "We were just born 60 years apart."

Produced by SAGE and AARP, SAGE Table will allow participants across the country to partake in conversations that many have never had before, just as Rae did with Lee.

"I wouldn't be able to tolerate my life if I didn't have friends who aren't the same age as me," Rae says. "This is how we have balanced lives and balanced perspectives."

Whether as host, attendee, or volunteer, everybody is welcome at SAGE Table.

"SAGE Table validates the common interests or threads we have as members of the LGBT community



Greg Endries

Samantha Nye, Renee Imperato, and Pat Lin at a SAGE Table event.

—as diversely defined," says Terri Clark, ActionAIDS Coordinator of Prevention Services and SAGE Table host. "Breaking bread allows us to appreciate that diversity found from truly different voices."

While SAGE Table empowers all of us to bring together a diverse group, the one thing that everybody has in common is that we are all aging.

"Everybody forgets when they're younger that getting old is just around the corner," says Whoopi Goldberg, actress and activist who will be setting her own SAGE Table. "So you have to make sure you're looking out for those who have come before you and appreciate what was done. On May 18, we'll get to know each other."

Hundreds of hosts ranging from those in their 20s to those in their 80s have already signed up to host a SAGE Table. The participants represent every facet of the LGBT community. SAGE makes it easy to host a SAGE Table with sagetable.org, which explains how to set a successful table, manage the event, create and track invitations, plan meals, guide the discussion, and keep the momentum going. ●



Sign up now to host or to find a SAGE Table near you at sagetable.org.

“ WE’RE HOSTING BECAUSE
WE’RE COMMITTED ACTIVISTS FOR
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES.

APPROACHING OUR 60TH BIRTHDAYS,
WE’VE EARNED OUR PLACES AS PART OF A

**DYNAMIC, AGING,
VIBRANT**
COMMUNITY.



JAZZY & JULES

“ I’M AN
‘ELDER’ BUT I’M
YOUNG AT HEART.
YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE TO LEARN
ABOUT WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE
‘BACK THEN’

WE HAVE A

**COMMON
HUMANITY,**

AND AGE
SHOULDN’T BE
A BARRIER.

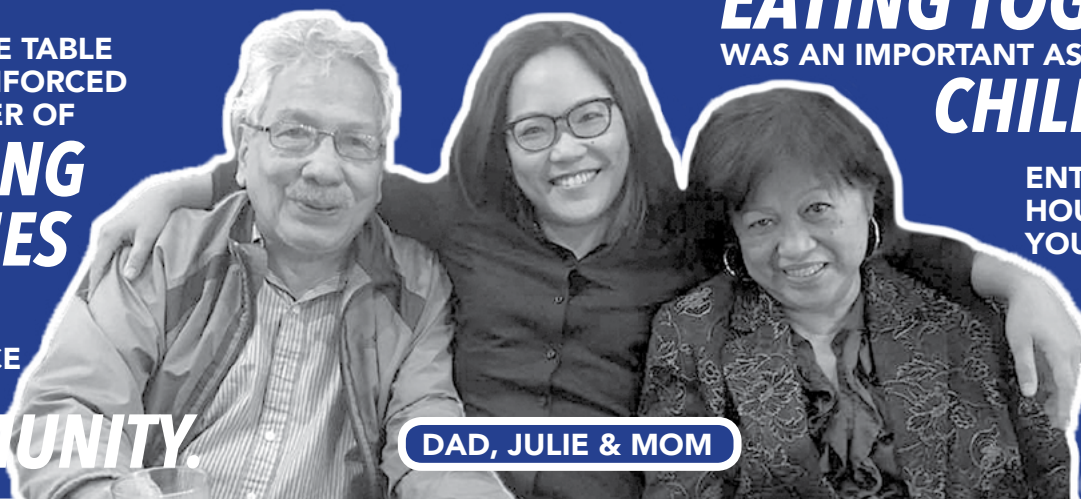


GLENN

“ SAGE TABLE
REINFORCED
THE POWER OF
**SHARING
STORIES**

AND THE
IMPORTANCE
OF

COMMUNITY.



DAD, JULIE & MOM

“ I FELT SOMEWHAT HOPELESS
AFTER THE ELECTION, BUT
THE LGBTQ ELDERS I MET AT
SAGE TABLE WERE MORE

OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT CHANGING THE CULTURE.

THERE IS SO MUCH FOR ME
TO LEARN ABOUT

**LIFE, ACTIVISM
& BEING QUEER.**



AUSTIN


sage**table**

MAY 18.
**PULL UP
A CHAIR.**

Join the conversation

#sagetable

“ WHAT STANDS OUT FOR ME
IS A SENSE OF

NOURISHMENT

FROM FOOD, FRIENDS &
MY OWN SENSE OF BEING & SELF.

SAGE TABLE IS

PHENOMENAL.
A REALLY **DIVERSE,**
RICH CONVERSATION.



TERRI & HERON

EATING TOGETHER
WAS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF MY
CHILDHOOD.

ENTER A FILIPINO
HOUSEHOLD AND
YOU’LL GET ASKED,

**“DID
YOU
EAT?”**

Letter from the CEO

continued from page 1

Or you can make your voice heard by going to sageusa.com/DontEraseLGBT. Don't wait. The clock is ticking!

In the face of so much bad news coming out of our nation's capital, I have been deeply moved by the determined opposition and resistance that has emerged so powerfully—calling our country to live up to its most cherished values of decency, inclusion, and justice. I'm especially inspired by our LGBT elders—over and over again I see them on the front lines of opposition to the disgraceful actions and plans of our new federal leadership. As they have for decades, our elders are continuing to lead the way.

In this latest issue of *SAGEMatters*, we do our best to capture that spirit and energy, since that's what's going to propel us to a much brighter time. Inside, you'll find a brilliant conversation with legendary activists Mandy Carter, Peter Staley, and Elizabeth Coffey-Williams. You'll be energized by the sage lessons they've learned from decades of activism—and how that wisdom can help us lean into the work ahead with both strength and love.

In the face of so much bad news coming out of our nation's capital, I have been deeply moved by the determined opposition and resistance that has emerged so powerfully—calling our country to live up to its most cherished values of decency, inclusion, and justice.

Speaking of the work ahead, it's been so heartening over these last weeks and months to watch people young and old joining forces to build a better future. That powerful recognition—that we are an intergenerational LGBT community—rippled through SAGE's condemnation of the Trump administration's attack on the rights of transgender students. And it's baked into the DNA of SAGE Table, our amazing new campaign that launches on May 18. Learn about the campaign in this issue and sign up at sagetable.org.

This latest issue of *SAGEMatters* is a reminder that many of us live at the intersections of multiple

We Refuse to Be Invisible

Last month, you raised your voice with SAGE to stop the so-called American Health Care Act dead in its tracks. Now tell the Trump administration that elder LGBT Americans must be counted.

Use the tear-out letter printed on the following page to send your message loud and clear. Fill in your information and your comments about why this issue is important to you. Then fold, tape, stamp, and mail. Or send an email to Heather.Menne@aclhhs.gov.

We have until May 12 to tell the administration that it CANNOT exclude LGBT elders.

communities, as LGBT people who are elder women, elders of color, elder immigrants, elder refugees, elder Muslims. That's why SAGE has spoken out so strongly to condemn the wave of anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim attacks by the Trump administration. As you'll read, it's also why SAGE is working with the Center on Black Equity to make this year's Black Prides (and all Pride celebrations) welcoming for our elders.

You'll also learn about the exciting progress we're making with SAGE's National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative and how it can help you or somebody you know. You'll see yet another example of how SAGE's burgeoning partnership with AARP can benefit you. Check out a mini version of the Prepare to Care Guide insert, and look out for the complete guide soon. And, most important, you'll learn how you can get involved in these vital efforts!

So, if you need an extra boost of energy during these difficult days, get charged up by this latest issue of *SAGEMatters*. The time to join our LGBT elders in stepping up and stepping out is now!



MICHAEL ADAMS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Trump Administration: LGBT Elders Count!

April 2017

Heather Menne
Administration for Community Living
US Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201



Dear Ms Menne,

I'm contacting you because I strongly oppose the Administration for Community Living's proposal to remove LGBT elders from the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants.

This survey provides critical information on whether federally funded aging programs like meals for home-bound elders, family caregiver support, adult daycare, and senior centers reach all older adults, including LGBT elders. Refusing to collect information about how LGBT elders are being served is irresponsible and contrary to the federal government's responsibility under the Older Americans Act to serve all elders.

This proposed action would erase LGBT elders. It is saying they do not count. To strip LGBT elders, and only them, out of this survey is wrong. I cannot and will not accept this.

Please reconsider and reverse your decision to remove LGBT elders from this critically important survey. LGBT elders must be counted.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL/PHONE

P.S. This is especially important to me because:

PLEASE SHARE YOUR OWN COMMENTS HERE



PLACE TAPE HERE

PLACE TAPE HERE

We Refuse to Be Invisible.

FOLD HERE

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Heather Menne
Administration for Community Living
US Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

FOLD HERE

PLACE TAPE HERE

PLACE TAPE HERE





PREPARE TO CARE

A Planning Guide for Caregivers in the LGBT Community

FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS,

AARP has offered information and support to members and their families. One widely used resource that has helped millions of Americans and older adults is AARP's "Prepare to Care" guide. This guide includes comprehensive information to help caregivers consider their roles in caring for a loved one.

AARP has taken major steps to acknowledge and accommodate the broad diversity of culture, language and experience that exist in this country. As a result, SAGE has partnered with AARP to produce and widely distribute an LGBT-affirming version of the "Prepare to Care" guide, which will be available soon. The valuable information contained in this guide was informed by focus groups with LGBT caregivers in Atlanta, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, as well as with a committee of LGBT caregiving experts who are listed on the last page of the guide.

"We realize that LGBT family caregivers face unique challenges, particularly because they see their friends and community as family," says Robert Stephen, Vice President of Caregiving and Health, at AARP. "That is why we focused so much time and research on the unique needs of these caregivers across the country. Working with SAGE is a natural, and with the organization's recognition, energy and experience, together we will make this work a success."

Whether you identify yourself as a caregiver or are the one who may be seeking care, this guide is designed to support you as you embark on this important journey.

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

AARP[®]
Real Possibilities



5 STEPS FOR CAREGIVERS

A Planning Guide for Caregivers in the LGBT Community

YOU ARE A CAREGIVER if you provide direct care to someone who needs your help. If you run errands for a loved one on your lunch hour, give up a promotion that would mean longer hours or spend significant time tending to a loved one's doctor appointments and prescriptions, you would be identified as a caregiver.

No matter where you are in your caregiving journey, having a solid framework to guide both you and your loved one will make the process easier.

THE FOLLOWING FIVE STEPS CAN INFORM YOUR JOURNEY.

1

START A CONVERSATION...

Engage your loved one in a conversation about their care. Be open, express your support and concern and most importantly, listen. Avoid uncertainty by talking with your loved one and devising a plan before a crisis occurs. While this conversation might get complicated by issues related to race, class and gender identity, it's important to listen intently and with an open mind so that you can clearly articulate any fears and anxiety to an extended caregiving team.

2

MAKE A PLAN...

Set goals and stay organized. Remain mindful that laws affecting the rights of the LGBT community differ from state to state. Connect with LGBT-positive organizations that can offer recommendations on LGBT-friendly providers. Respect your loved one's personal history and be attuned to non-familial relationships that aren't recognized legally or socially. This lack of recognition can sometimes hinder a caregiver's ability to access services on a loved one's behalf. Consult a legal professional to plan for these obstacles ahead of time.

3

FORM A TEAM...

Assemble a team of people who know and can support your loved one. Get permission from your loved one about each member's involvement and maintain a constant stream of communication among them. Identify each team member's personal strengths and connections and focus on ways in which each one can most effectively contribute to your loved one's overall well-being.

4

FIND SUPPORT...

Tap into community services and resources that support elders and their caregivers. Remain mindful of your loved one's experiences and feelings when exploring supportive services. Some LGBT community members distrust social services because of historic patterns of LGBT discrimination. When possible, seek support that is specifically LGBT-welcoming and culturally competent.

5

CARE FOR YOURSELF...

You Can't Do It All – Reach out to care managers who can help supervise care, especially if you don't live nearby. Technology such as remote monitoring devices and mobile apps with medical records can help you stay organized and provide peace of mind.

Find Out How Current Workplace Benefits Can Help – See if your company has policies or programs to support caregivers, which may include flextime or telecommuting.

Make Time for You – Exercise, healthy nutrition, regular sleep and leisure activities will make you a better caregiver.

Recognize Your Emotions – Know that you are not alone. Talk to someone about your feelings around caregiving.

Join Caregiver Support Groups – Share similar experiences with others to gain strategies, resources and support that will lighten your load. If you're short on time, call SAGE's National LGBT Elder Hotline for support at 1-888-234-SAGE.





WE KNOW CAREGIVING CAN BE A CHALLENGE.

For more resources and detailed checklists to help you on your caregiving journey, visit sageusa.org/preparetocare. Want a free copy of the complete 32-page Guide for LGBT Caregivers? E-mail AARP at caregiving@aarp.org.

This guide was prepared in partnership with AARP. Special thanks to Alex Kent and Kevin Wood for their writing and to the following volunteers who provided feedback:

Jacqueline Boyd

The Care Plan

Joe Fisher

Renewal Care Partners

Doug Kimmel

SAGE Maine

Max Micozzi

SAGE Metro Portland

Jeff Mills

SAGE Wilmington

Angie Perone

SAGE Metro Detroit

Hannah Radcliffe-Hoy

SAGE Upstate

Julie Schmidt

Identity Inc. Alaska

Doing Good and Having Fun Across Generations

Global Volunteers partners with SAGE to offer intergenerational volunteer vacations.

When Linda Roberts retired as a finance executive five years ago, she found the courage to finally live openly as a transgender woman.

"I live who I am; I know who I am," says Linda, 68, who lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland. "I couldn't fully transition when I was working, but now I certainly feel that I'm an authentic person."

For Linda, an important aspect of her living fully was discovering an LGBT-friendly space where she could help others. She found that through Global Volunteers, an organization that sends participants to in-need communities across the globe to provide hands-on help with important development projects. These projects range from education and infrastructure building and repair to nutrition and healthcare systems. On her volunteer trips, Linda participated in garden development and maintenance and teaching English.

Global Volunteers and SAGE are partnering together to reach out to LGBT older people who wish to bridge generations within the LGBT community. Participants pay their own expenses, but the costs are



Linda Roberts (center) with her hosts in Cuba.

tax deductible, a bonus that appeals to many older people like Linda.

Linda's first experience volunteering was at the Blackfeet Care Center on Montana's Blackfeet Indian Reservation in 2015. She was just beginning her transition journey and had some trepidation about this trip. "I was concerned at first, but when I told them about my situation, they told me not to worry," she says. "I was housed with and treated like

all the other women who were volunteering with me."

Last year, Linda volunteered for a second time with Global Volunteers, this time in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, where during her free time there, she crossed generational lines to befriend a young transgender man with whom she stays in touch. Her third trip was in March to Costa Rica, where her host asked her to give a 90-minute presentation on her gender identity journey to a class of about thirty 12th graders, the school principal, a social worker, and her fellow volunteers.

"Because of my volunteering, I have more compassion for people. Most of us in the United States just don't know how fortunate we are," she says. "I have met people who have very little but live their lives happy with what they have. You see the joy, you see the gratitude, and you get insight into how the rest of the world lives."

Upcoming Global Volunteers LGBT trips in 2017 include Hanoi, Vietnam, in October and Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, in November. In 2018, an LGBT trip is planned to Havana, Cuba, from May 5 to May 19, to coincide with International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. An opportunity to visit Vietnam in 2018 is in the planning stages.

If you're interested in participating in upcoming SAGE/Global Volunteer opportunities, visit sageusa.org/globalvolunteers or call 651-407-6125. Be aware that spaces fill quickly.



Linda Roberts with her volunteer team in Cuba.

On the Home Front

SAGE joins forces with Citi Community Development to expand access to affordable, LGBT-friendly housing.

Carol Bedient is filled with dread when she thinks about where she's going to live as she gets older.

"One of my greatest concerns is where I'll go if I need assisted living that is LGBT friendly," says Bedient, who is almost 70 and living with post-polio syndrome. She recently moved from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Denver to be closer to her daughter. "I cannot imagine myself in most places I see."

Faced with an intensified need for housing among the older LGBT population, timing couldn't be more opportune for SAGE to announce its collaboration with Citi Community Development to fortify and scale the SAGE National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative.

Kicked off in 2015 with support from the Calamus Foundation, the Initiative was launched for LGBT older people like Carol. This initiative is a comprehensive national effort to expand access to affordable and welcoming housing for LGBT elders. To help facilitate this expansion, SAGE has named Kelly W. Kent as Director of its National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative.

"The LGBT population age 60 and above is expected to grow from 3 million in 2013 to 7 million by 2030. Yet nationwide there are approximately 500 units of affordable housing focused on the needs of the LGBT elderly."



— BOB ANNIBALE, GLOBAL DIRECTOR,
CITI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND INCLUSIVE FINANCE

There's no place like "Welcome Home."

We've reached more than

1 million people

through "Welcome Home," SAGE's LGBT consumer housing education website.

SAGEUSA.ORG/LGBTHOUSING



"With Citi Community Development's generous support, SAGE will strengthen our stand helping LGBT older people find affordable and LGBT-friendly housing," says Michael Adams, Chief Executive Officer of SAGE. "Kelly's experience as an affordable housing executive and LGBT advocate will help SAGE ensure that LGBT elders are treated with justice and dignity as they seek the kind of housing they deserve."

"The LGBT population age 60 and above is expected to grow from 3 million in 2013 to 7 million by 2030. Yet nationwide there are approximately 500 units of affordable housing focused on the needs of the LGBT elderly," said Bob Annibale, Global Director of Citi Community Development and Inclusive Finance. "Citi's support of the LGBT Elder Housing Initiative will enable SAGE to scale their efforts to expand access to safe and affordable housing for LGBT seniors and to engage with the wider affordable housing community to help ensure that vulnerable groups and minorities are, from a cultural and social perspective, included in all affordable senior housing developments in the United States."

A report by the Equal Rights Center, with support from SAGE, found that 48 percent of older same-sex couples applying for senior housing were subjected



“In order to increase housing capacity, we must mobilize the support of community, government, and business leaders.”

— KELLY KENT, DIRECTOR, SAGE LGBT ELDER HOUSING INITIATIVE

to discrimination. The effects of this discrimination are further aggravated by the fact that LGBT older people have lower incomes and less retirement savings than older Americans in general. Additionally, members of the older LGBT community typically face more serious health problems at an earlier age than older Americans in general.

Jenson Steel is aging in place in Portland, Maine, and is an AIDS survivor. “I’m approaching 70,” he says. “When the inevitable breakdown of my system happens, I hope to stay in my current home. If I’m too badly disabled, I need to know what kind of safety net is in place.”

The goals of the SAGE National LGBT Elder Housing initiative will be achieved by a five-pronged approach:

1. Building LGBT-affirming elder housing in select cities
2. Training senior housing providers in fair and welcoming treatment of LGBT older people
3. Changing public policy to end housing discrimination against LGBT older people and to expand federal support for LGBT-friendly elder housing
4. Equipping LGBT older people with the resources they need to find LGBT-friendly housing in all its forms and to advocate for their rights
5. Expanding services that support LGBT older people who face housing challenges.

Having spent nearly two decades in leadership roles in the affordable housing sector, Kelly Kent understands how to get this work done. “We can’t merely build our way out of this crisis,” Kelly says. “In order to increase housing capacity, we must mobilize the support of community, government, and business leaders. Public and private partnerships will be key in making sure that LGBT elders have welcoming and affordable housing.” •



SAGE is building affordable, LGBT-welcoming housing.

227

UNITS BEING BUILT IN NYC

SAGE’s new LGBT-welcoming senior housing developments are the first in New York State, and the Brooklyn development will be the largest in the nation!

5

Housing Tips

to Guide You or Your Loved One

ASSESS FINANCIALS. What money is available for housing? Is there home equity to tap? Will Medicaid funds kick in? Are Section 8 resources available?

EVALUATE CURRENT LIVING

SITUATION. If planning to age in place, assure that the living space is safe for an older adult. Are doorways wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or a walker? Are bathrooms properly equipped? Are rooms all on one level? For help with affordable home repairs and renovations, connect with Rebuilding Together at rebuildingtogether.org.

REACH OUT FOR RESOURCES.

Contact local LGBT agencies to learn what services might be available and for recommendations of providers. They can also suggest areas that are welcoming to older people in the LGBT community. You can also call the SAGE National LGBT Elder Hotline at 1-888-234-SAGE for assistance.

SURVEY THE SOCIAL SCENE.

Are emotional and social systems available, either nearby or on-site in an older adult living community?

CREATE YOUR OWN WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT.

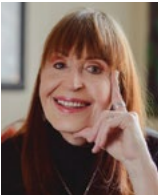
If LGBT-specific resources are not available, reach out to your local Area Agency on Aging for support. Local agencies can suggest safe neighborhoods in which to live that are either near vital services or have good transportation to reach them.

Living Lessons in Activism

Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE, recently talked with three LGBT trailblazers who see momentum in the current political environment. It made for an uplifting and powerful conversation.



MANDY CARTER
describes herself as an “out, Southern, black, lesbian social justice advocate” and is a recipient of the Spirit of Justice Award from GLAD.



Kristy Lumsdon

ELIZABETH COFFEY-WILLIAMS
is a transgender advocate, artist, and actor known for her roles in classic John Waters movies.



Sean Black for A&U

PETER STALEY
is a longtime AIDS activist who was instrumental in ACT UP and was a founding member of the Treatment Action Group. He was featured in documentary “How to Survive a Plague.”



MICHAEL ADAMS
is Chief Executive Officer of SAGE and has led the organization for 10 years.

Q Michael Adams: Each of you has been a pioneer in social justice movements through the lenses of LGBT rights, racial justice, AIDS activism, transgender rights, and much more. When you think about the movement building you’ve been a part of, what lessons surface as most relevant to you at this particular moment in time?

Mandy Carter: When I put all of this into the context of the recent election, I have to point out that North Carolina was the only state in the South that did not go all Trump. HB2, which has been called “the bathroom bill” but is much deeper than that, has devastated the state. But [former Republican Governor] Pat McCrory’s support of HB2 cost him the election. The Moral Monday Movement, an incredible coalition of organizations, made the difference in turning out of the vote that defeated McCrory. Now we have a Democratic governor and a Democratic attorney general. Maybe the bigger picture is sometimes we lose forward. What seems on the surface like a loss might, in the long run, be a win.

Today, there are 79 million of us post-World War II baby boomers and 80 million millennials aged 18 to 25. Now is the time for all of us to come together. Furthermore, by 2050, the majority of people in this country will be of color. We’re in a major movement moment. On a scale of one to 10 in optimism, I’m a 10.

Peter Staley: Like Mandy, I am really heartened to hear how much we are on the same page. ACT UP and AIDS activism were a response to a backlash that was occurring in the country in the early years of the AIDS crisis. What happened this past November shocked us all, but what I’ve seen is the first example in my lifetime of a true, strong, and growing progressive movement in this country across all issues.

Social media is an important tool for organizing now, but what made ACT UP so powerful in 1988 and 1989 was a couple of hundred people coming together in a room for strategizing and for feeling a sense of community as we do this work over the long haul. That component of organizing is still as essential as ever.

Social media is an amazing tool for getting the word out, but I’ve never found an app, a website, or an online tool that has the energy

of face-to-face strategizing and brainstorming on how you're going to create a demonstration against a specific target.

Elizabeth Coffey-Williams: I see a growing galvanization of intersectionality that is replacing the depression people were feeling just weeks and months ago. In my area [Philadelphia], people are coming together who in the past may have been in different camps. I'm seeing people take each other by the hand. I'm seeing people give each other what they need when they need it. I certainly respect the value of social media, but there is very little that can compete with that human connection—being in a room, smelling the issue, feeling each other. Now that the initial shock is over, people are moving to action. It's also important to remember that this is not our first rodeo.

PS: What's so exciting about today's movement is that it's those who don't have skin in the game showing up for each other. When thousands of New Yorkers showed up at JFK Airport within hours of Trump's horrifying immigration order, and then tens of thousands showed up at airports across the country only a few hours later, only a handful of those demonstrators had skin in the game. These were largely non-Muslim people using their bodies to defend Muslim immigrants. That was a beautiful, defining moment for the resistance and will continue to define us.

Q **MA:** I'm struck by the optimism and incredibly powerful sense of resilience in every one of you. Where do you find that resilience?

ECW: Considering the fact that when I completed my transition—which I had begun in the '60s—in 1972, many of the words we use to describe it now didn't even exist then. My resilience comes from the fact that my

steel was tempered in raw shit. I've climbed up through a lot. We've all had our challenges, but those challenges have strengthened us. Yes, I'm resilient, and I feel like I have an enormous obligation to lovingly and hopefully act and interact with the people who are coming after me.



Elizabeth Williams in 1974.

MC: We lived with Jesse Helms for 30 years. So when we put it in a herstorical and a historical perspective—the Holocaust, the Trail of Tears—let's thank the people who came before us who demonstrated the incomprehensible human capacity to endure. It's not as if we haven't dealt before with things like what are happening now, because we have. One thing that has really saved me is this quote: "Don't mourn; organize. If there's a need, fill it." I find inspiration in my elders, but I'm also struck by today's defiance that says, "No, we're not going to have this, and we're going to do something about it, darn it!"

PS: Although the history of AIDS activism is worth drawing lessons from, we weren't as resilient as Hollywood might portray us. As activists, we're all human. This type of work can be very painful and very exhausting, and one of the ways to get through it is to cut yourself a break and take care of each other. You can't be a perfect, high-powered activist running on full charge 24/7. Life goes on while you're doing this often depressing work. Enjoy life and take care of yourself. Embrace some dark humor about what you're doing. God knows AIDS activists facing death on a constant basis were famous for their dark humor. That's the only way mentally we could get through that early period of AIDS. Now we have amazing, creative humor coming out of the resistance. We are not going to be able to get through the Trump era unless we crack a lot of jokes about the horribleness that is going on. But what really kept us in the game in the early days of AIDS activism is that we had our backs against the wall. The death rate kept going up, and frequently it was our own lives on the line.

continued on page 20



Mandy Carter speaking at the July 1983 War Resisters League.

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Q MA: If you had to create an elevator pitch to impart your best wisdom for this new generation of activists, what would it be?

MC: Remember when Edie Windsor won that incredible U.S. Supreme Court decision that killed the Defense of Marriage Act? It was the same court that all but gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We cannot get into the idea that “I’ve got mine and I’m good, and I’m sorry that you never got yours.” If there ever was a time for solidarity, it’s now. A lot of us walk in multiple identities: I’m black; I’m a lesbian; I’m a Southerner. Remember the first conversations about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act? We heard people say to let the transgender part go and we’d come back and get them later. We have to look at the past and come up with new models in which no one gets left behind and no one gets left out.

PS: Learn your history. Get inspired by it, but please don’t come up to us old farts and ask us what to do. Every movement is different, every time is different, and you’re going to figure it out. Use our history as inspiration, both good and bad, but go out there and make your own movement. Trust yourself to make it happen.

ECW: Come to a comfortable understanding of where your skill sets lie. Find your lane. Work in it. I also want to tell young people to look at my successes and look at my mistakes, but don’t do what I did. Do it your way. I’m already good at being me. I want them to be good at being themselves and bring something new and fresh and hot to the table.

Q MA: If you had a do-over, what did you get right and what would you do differently?

PS: ACT UP started splitting apart around year four or five. We were able to save the activism, but the movement suffered. Movements need a mechanism for resolving internal tensions. So if I had a do-over,

“Social media is an amazing tool for getting the word out, but I’ve never found an app, a website, or an online tool that has the energy of face-to-face strategizing and brainstorming on how you’re going to create a demonstration against a specific target.”

— PETER STALEY



Peter Staley, far left, at an ACT UP demonstration at the Fujisawa Pharmaceuticals company in 1990.

I’d have a way to force the camps that were developing to work through things and to bring them face-to-face for a facilitated discussion.

MC: As a young, black lesbian activist, jobs in the movement that reflected me didn’t exist. Until we formed the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and the National Black Justice Coalition, there was nowhere for a queer-identified woman of color to get a job, so I had to join a predominantly white organization. If we’re looking into the future, I would ask if there could be a more equitable financial way to work for the movement that represents you. Don’t make it either; make it both.

We also have to create ways for organizations to exist without the people who founded them. So many times the personality of the person who started a movement hangs so heavily over the organization that when they leave, we have to start over from the beginning.

ECW: Early on in 1970-1971, it was rather unheard of to be an extraordinarily defiant trans woman who stood up and refused to sit down. I’m really glad I did that, because in some LGBT sectors, the letter “T” is still a very small “T.” But one thing I might do differently is maybe integrate my efforts of being a fiber artist, being involved in the NAMES project and the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and facilitating various gender groups. But the one thing I will never regret is not letting myself be sat down or pushed down.

Q MA: This has been an incredible conversation. Is there one last burning thing you’d like to add?

MC: Each and every one of us has a moral compass. How do we tap into that and use the gifts we have? We have to realize our potential. The sky’s the limit; go for it! •

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Stepping Out Together

Earl Fowlkes shares how Black Pride is making older participants more visible in their communities.

EARL FOWLKES KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT PRIDE CELEBRATIONS. As the president and CEO of the Center for Black Equity and longtime Black Pride organizer, Earl has personally participated in more than 200 Pride gatherings. He was also the Grand Marshall of New York City Pride in 2013. “It was probably one of the biggest thrills of my life, riding down Fifth Avenue in that parade,” he says.

The Center for Black Equity is one of three national organizations that SAGE is partnering with to make LGBT Pride celebrations more age-friendly. Fowlkes sat down with Susan Herr, SAGE’s Chief Engagement Officer, to shed light on the genesis of Black Pride celebrations and explore how they can better appeal to the older LGBT community.

“We’re building an age-friendly Pride, one that is also family-friendly.”

— EARL FOWLKES

Q Susan Herr: What can you tell our readers about the network of Black Prides overseen by the Center for Black Equity?

Earl Fowlkes: Black Pride was formed 27 years ago, primarily to bring HIV and AIDS prevention to an underserved community in which there was much denial of its existence. Many people were told that only white gay men got AIDS, but we knew that wasn’t true. The original Black Prides were really prevention tools, and some of it was a reaction to community Prides that weren’t perceived to be inclusive or sensitive to issues of communities of color. So in response, people of color developed their own brand of Pride. Since that first Pride, I think we now have 42 domestic Prides and six to 10 international versions. Last year, 265,000 people attended Black Prides across the nation. The largest was in Atlanta, which had 50,000 people in Piedmont Park. I’m proud to say that I’ve been involved with Prides for the past 20 years.

Q SH: What is Black Pride doing specifically to appeal to the older LGBT community?

EF: We’re building an age-friendly Pride, one that is also family-friendly. That means that if you’re going to have tents and seats for people who are older, you’re also going to have a play area for the people’s kids. We also hand out water, and in the past we have provided food. We understand that whether you’re old or young, you get hungry. You want to sit down. You don’t want to be out in the sun when it’s 95 degrees outside. At Black Pride in D.C., we’re also creating programming specific to older LGBT people that is spearheaded by Dr. Imani Woody of Mary’s House, an older adult community. We expect 200 to 300 people to attend this year. It’s really just a friendly environment for everybody from 9 to 90.



Earl Fowlkes as Grand Marshall of New York City Pride in 2013.

Q SH: How are you bridging the gap between older and younger participants?

EF: It used to be that when we looked at everyone who ran Pride, they were my age. But now we have younger people getting involved. Millennials are really intelligent, but I have to constantly remind them that they did not invent being gay. That said, they can put their own spin on being so.

Q SH: How do you market to older LGBT people?

EF: You can't assume that everyone has access to the Internet, that everyone has a phone that can connect them to the rest of the world, that everyone has a computer. They don't—whether they are young or old. We communicate in every way possible—through

The Center for Black Equity is one of three national organizations that SAGE is partnering with to make LGBT Pride celebrations more age-friendly.

the Internet and social media, but also print ads, fliers, and mailers. And we connect with gatekeepers and leaders in different communities.

Q SH: What kinds of logistical considerations do you make when organizing Pride?

EF: It's about making sure we're close to public transportation hubs—trains, subways, buses. We also strive to make sure it's affordable, because going to a Pride celebration can get very expensive.

Q SH: Is there a strong business argument to be made for making Pride celebrations more age-friendly?

EF: Pride is about business. It's a nonprofit, but it's a business. If older people know you are going to create programming specific to them, they'll come. They'll be loyal. Reaching out to older people is the correct thing to do, but it's also smart marketing. When we have elder events, I can already identify half of the people who will come because they are supportive. They are appreciative. As we get older, it's important to remain social and be seen. It's about changing the perception of aging in the community and helping those aging within the community to stay in the conversation. •



Black Pride in Atlanta drew the largest crowds of 2016, with 50,000 people in Piedmont Park. In total last year, 265,000 people attended Black Prides in the U.S.

Three Cheers for Jerre!

Original SAGE member Jerre Kalbas is ready for the party.

It's hard for Jerre Kalbas to imagine that she turned 99 this year.

"Nine-nine—wow, how did that happen?" asks the long-time SAGE member. "I may be 99, but I don't look a day over 75!" To see Jerre, you would agree that she appears much younger, especially after she tells you she hasn't stopped celebrating her milestone birthday: As of press time, she had already been feted three separate times.

Born in the South Bronx to Russian immigrants and raised in Harlem, Jerre's pure determination allowed her to break down barriers and to thrive, despite women's defined roles in society at the time.

At the age of 16, Jerre was a factory worker who assembled artificial flowers, some of which were used in Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration. In the 1930s, during a proposed movement to establish a Jewish homeland in Alaska, she trained interested parties in upstate New York. During World War II, she was an electrician on Liberty Boats and tankers in California. She returned to New York, where she labored in machine shops in New York. Over the years, she has designed and made tricks for professional magicians and worked for a time at the United Nations. Jerre is a creative soul who loves working with her hands, whether operating lathes, running drill presses, and milling as she did many years ago in New York, or



With SAGE CEO Michael Adams at NYC Pride 2015.

today, crafting silver jewelry—when her carpal tunnel isn't acting up.

Despite a few aches and pains, and having survived breast cancer in 1969, Jerre prides herself on remaining fiercely independent. "Back then, breast cancer was something that women thought was spread from one to another. Nobody talked about it" she says. "It wasn't until [former first lady] Pat Nixon came out about her cancer that people started believe

that breast cancer was a serious thing."

During a recent phone conversation, Jerre was more concerned about getting her laundry finished and her bed changed before a visitor was scheduled to drop by than she was an impending snowstorm. Not one to sit at home idly, Jerre is known to walk from her East Village home to events at the SAGE Center on Manhattan's West Side. When weather doesn't cooperate, she'll take two buses to get there. "Oh, I do love SAGE," she says.

At the age of 60—almost four decades ago—she became a founding member of SAGE. Then, in 1985, Jerre was instrumental in organizing SAGE's first Women's Dance. "It was really exciting," Jerre says, "People were lined up to get inside, and it felt great! It was something completely different. We had an idea that it would take off, and it did!"

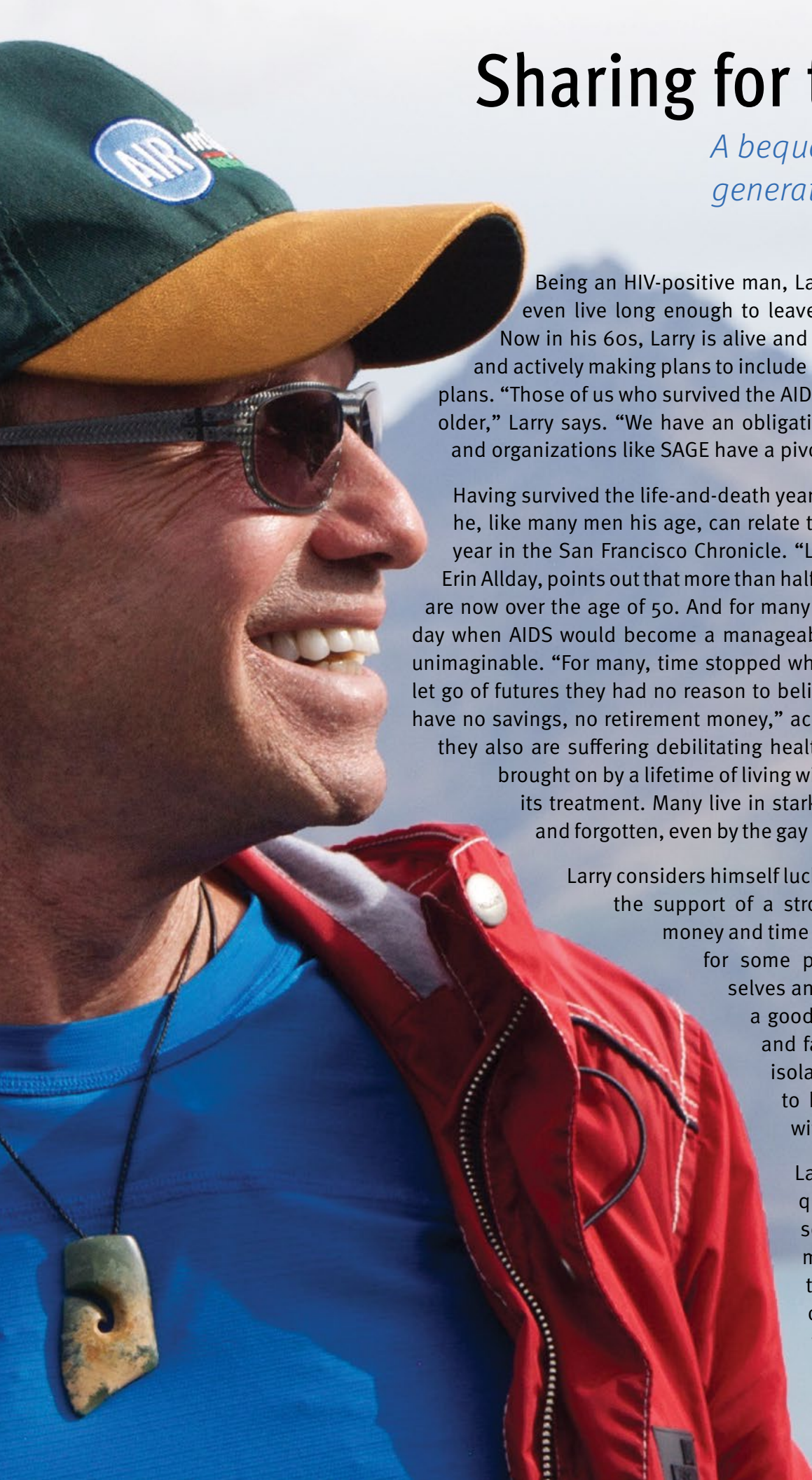
When she's able, Jerre still attends the dance. "There is always a great crowd. The only real thing that has changed since the early days is the music, and the dancing isn't the same. They do lots of crazy dancing now."

But don't dare suggest publishing a photograph of Jerre dressed as a bridesmaid in a pink satin dress taken some 20 years ago at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah. "I hate that picture," says Jerre of possibly the only existing evidence of her ever donning a dress. "If you print that," she says with a sly laugh, "I will come over there and hunt you down."

And we have no doubt that she would. ●



A youthful Jerre, pictured at right.



Sharing for the Future

A bequest to SAGE connects generations of LGBT people.

by Jerry Chasen

Being an HIV-positive man, Larry Hyer wasn't sure he would even live long enough to leave behind a meaningful estate. Now in his 60s, Larry is alive and well in Miami Beach, Florida—and actively making plans to include a bequest to SAGE in his estate plans. “Those of us who survived the AIDS crisis and are still around are older,” Larry says. “We have an obligation to support our community, and organizations like SAGE have a pivotal role to play.”

Having survived the life-and-death years of the plague, Larry says that he, like many men his age, can relate to an article that appeared last year in the San Francisco Chronicle. “Last Man Standing,” written by Erin Allday, points out that more than half of those living with HIV or AIDS are now over the age of 50. And for many of those survivors, seeing the day when AIDS would become a manageable, chronic condition seemed unimaginable. “For many, time stopped when they were diagnosed. They let go of futures they had no reason to believe would ever arrive. So they have no savings, no retirement money,” according to the article. “[Today] they also are suffering debilitating health problems, chronic illnesses brought on by a lifetime of living with AIDS and the toxic effects of its treatment. Many live in stark isolation, feeling abandoned and forgotten, even by the gay community they helped build.”

Larry considers himself lucky, both to be alive and to have the support of a strong LGBT community. “I have money and time to give,” he says. “But it's hard for some people to reach inside themselves and put themselves out, even on a good day. Those without resources and family naturally feel alone, and isolation follows. I count on SAGE to help counter that progression with engagement.”

Larry doesn't consider his bequest “giving” in the traditional sense. For him, it's sharing: “If I make sure more people share, there will be a greater feeling of integral connection, and their emotional and spiritual well-being adds to mine. I'm giving to myself—this isn't a sacrifice.” •



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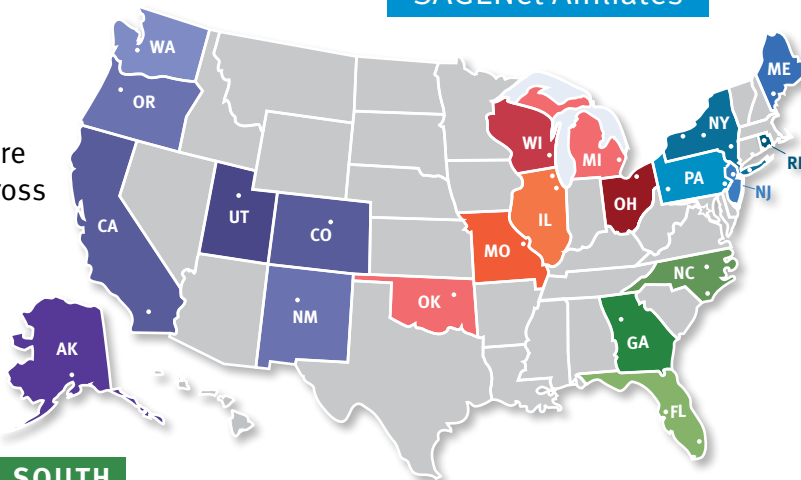
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