

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

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Matters

SUMMER 2010

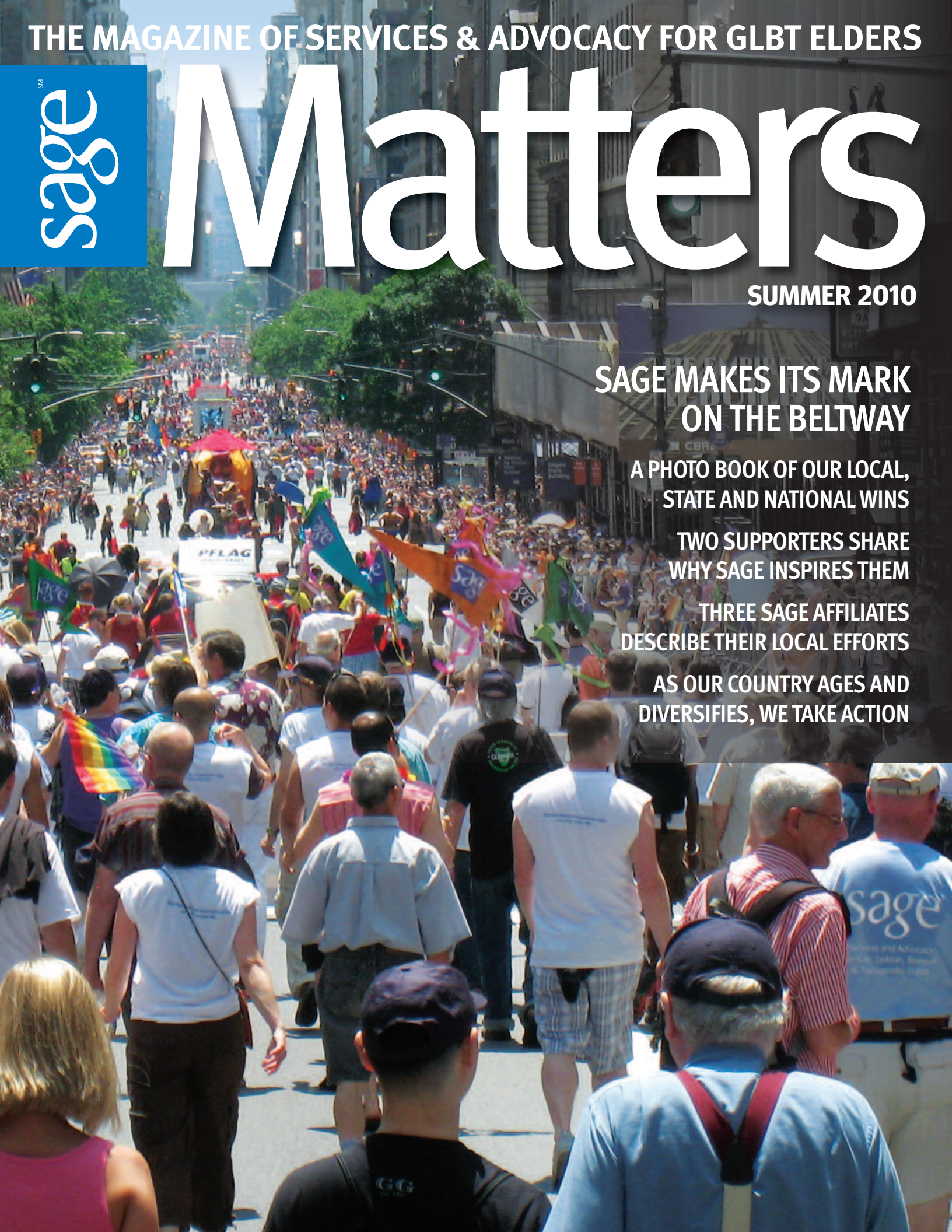
SAGE MAKES ITS MARK ON THE BELTWAY

A PHOTO BOOK OF OUR LOCAL,
STATE AND NATIONAL WINS

TWO SUPPORTERS SHARE
WHY SAGE INSPIRES THEM

THREE SAGE AFFILIATES
DESCRIBE THEIR LOCAL EFFORTS

AS OUR COUNTRY AGES AND
DIVERSIFIES, WE TAKE ACTION



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

sageusa.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the year enters its second half, SAGE has already led numerous exciting breakthroughs.

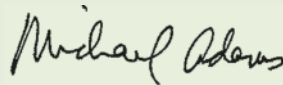
In early April, only months after receiving a historic federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish the country's first National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, SAGE opened an office in Washington, DC and has quickly been recognized as the premier voice on LGBT aging policy at the federal level.

This spring, we released a comprehensive policy report on LGBT aging in both Chicago and Washington, DC, garnering significant media attention along the way. And with a new advocacy team in place, we've been strengthening our relationships with aging organizations and key government officials. Nowhere are these partnerships more evident than in our emerging Diverse Elders Communities Initiative, which we discuss in this issue. As our nation becomes more diverse, and increasingly older, our country's service providers must in turn become more responsive. That's a message that SAGE brought to a half-day session on LGBT aging issues that we recently hosted at the annual conference of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4A). We showcase all these developments in this issue of *SAGEMatters*.

Also featured in this issue are our many recent achievements in our hometown New York City. In the last few months, we maintained a strong advocacy presence on important city and state policy issues, honored a musical legend, held Pride events across the various boroughs of New York City, formed a partnership with a local NYC runners organization, and began working with local LGBT older adults on employment concerns through our new program, SAGEWorks. We also sponsored a film festival that bestowed its Audience Award for best documentary feature on *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*, which profiles SAGE leader Edie Windsor and her late partner, Thea Spyer.


And we've planted the seeds for exciting developments that will round out the year, including the official launch of our National Resource Center on LGBT Aging in the fall; and a historic, national conference led by and for LGBT older adults in November.

We say goodbye to summer with these accomplishments in mind. And we thank you for your support and your commitment to improving the lives of LGBT older adults.



Michael Adams
Executive Director



 Read Michael Adams' essay, "Getting to Neutral," in the *Gay & Lesbian Review*. Visit sageusa.org

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As our country ages and diversifies, we take action

If you have inquiries, feedback or comments, please email us at cdacosta@sageusa.org.

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

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Cover: NEW YORK PRIDE MARCH. Every year, hundreds of SAGE constituents and allies celebrate SAGE's historic work on LGBT aging and the pride we have in our diverse aging communities.

Federal, Front and Center

Only months after opening an office in Washington, DC, SAGE has become the go-to organization on federal responses to LGBT aging. [Here's how.](#)

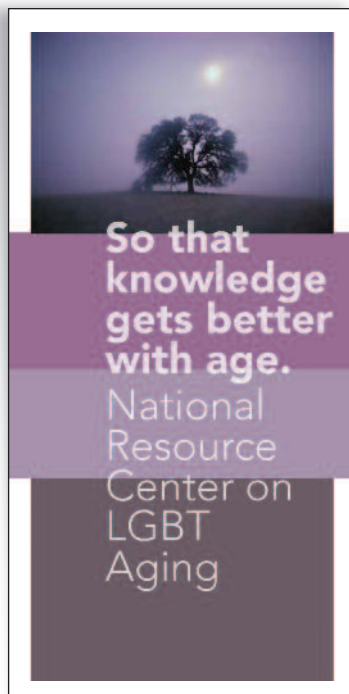
IN MARCH, SAGE RELEASED ITS REPORT (co-authored with the Movement Advancement Project), *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*, at the American Society on Aging's national conference in Chicago. The groundbreaking report—in partnership with The American Society on Aging, the Center for American Progress and the National Senior Citizens Law Center—is the first major written collaboration between LGBT advocacy organizations and national aging organizations to comprehensively examine the issues facing LGBT older adults.

SAGE APPLAUDED PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HISTORIC APRIL 15 MEMORANDUM directing the Department of Health and Human Services to require that hospitals accepting Medicare and Medicaid dollars—nearly every hospital in America—recognize a patient's "designated partner" in terms of visitation and health consultation rights. While SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams commended the memorandum, which dramatically affects the rights of LGBT older adults and their families: "It is heartening to see a growing awareness of the inequities and disparities that many LGBT elders face in our society."

THE GAY & LESBIAN REVIEW, a bimonthly journal on LGBT history, culture and politics, published an essay authored by SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams in its March-April issue. Adams's essay—"Getting to Neutral" on Aging Policy"—explored how federal policy can better address the unique needs of LGBT older adults, noting the historic developments in LGBT aging over the last few decades. Adams also pointed out several key areas where federal policies can support LGBT elders, including Social Security and Medicaid, and argued for an increase in federally-sponsored data collection (and systematic research) on LGBT older adults.

SAGE SPOKE AT AN APRIL 22 CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON LGBT ISSUES led by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force—a precursor to SAGE's gathering of the National LGBT Aging Roundtable. Nearly 60 people

Continued on the next page



A FEDERAL FIRST. SAGE and our 10 national partners have been steadily developing the country's first, federally-funded National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, set for launch in October 2010.

attended the briefing, including the legislative directors of Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and



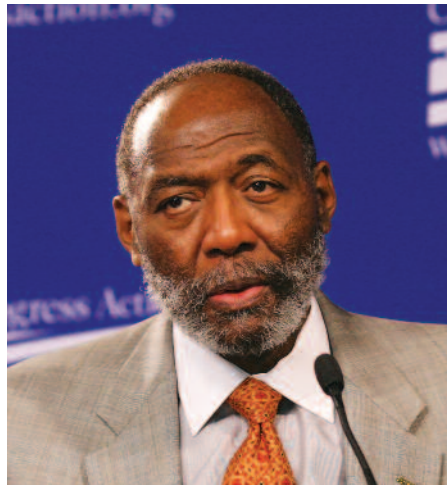
Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

representatives from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC), among many others.

SAGE HAS BEGUN WORKING CLOSELY WITH REP. TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI) to inform the drafting of a comprehensive, federal legislative proposal that would address various policy issues affecting LGBT older people nationwide. If enacted, the legislation would cover a range of policy concerns, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid inequities for LGBT older adults, mental health, housing and cultural competence, among many others. As a result, SAGE has become the go-to organization for Baldwin’s staff to inform each aspect of this proposal and to synthesize the feedback offered by organizations similarly invested in the legislation.

SAGE HELD ITS ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE NATIONAL LGBT AGING ROUNDTABLE, in partnership with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in Washington, DC.

The convening brought together approximately 40 leaders working with LGBT older adults from around the country to discuss the state of LGBT aging in their



Percil Stanford, Chief Diversity Officer, AARP

communities and at the federal level. Additionally, the group formed a wide range of action groups for the year ahead.

SAGE JOINED THE NEW BEGINNING INITIATIVE, a collaboration of expert



Winnie Stachelberg, Senior VP for External Affairs, Center for American Progress

organizations coordinated by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. As part of the Initiative, SAGE has focused on concrete federal administration and regulatory changes that will support LGBT older

adults and increase federal support for our communities.

IN MAY, SAGE ATTENDED A MEETING HOSTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AGING KATHY GREENLEE, Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Kohn, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children and Families David Hansell on the Administration’s efforts to support LGBT communities. During the meeting, attended by roughly 60 leaders representing about 50 national LGBT organizations, Secretary Greenlee referenced SAGE’s ground-breaking work on the National Resource Center for LGBT Aging.

SAGE CO-SPONSORED A JUNE 8 NATIONAL “TELE-TOWN HALL MEETING” WITH PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to discuss the Affordable Care Act. The meeting examined the Administration’s efforts to combat senior scams and fraud in advance of the first mailing of the \$250 “donut hole” rebate



Ineke Mushovic, Executive Director, Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

checks. SAGE also coordinated the participation of two LGBT older adults representing SAGE Metro DC.



SAGE WRITES HISTORY. At an April 22 event hosted by the Center for American Progress (CAP) in Washington, DC, more than 50 leaders attended our DC release of *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*, in conjunction with the Movement Advancement Project, CAP, AARP and Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). From left: Percil Stanford, AARP; Ineke Mushovic, MAP; and Michael Adams, SAGE.

SAGE STRENGTHENED ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MOVEMENT ADVANCEMENT PROJECT AND THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

to produce a series of issue briefs focused on specific policies affecting LGBT older adults. The issue briefs will serve as complements to our full report, *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults*, and explain key aspects of LGBT aging public policy. The briefs will be available in September.

SAGE SOLIDIFIED ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY HIV AND AGING PARTNERS,

including the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and GRIOT Circle, to continue coordinating a federal policy agenda that takes into account the needs of older adults living with HIV/AIDS. Our organizations have been meeting to map out another year of work, which will include briefings for key HIV/AIDS policymakers on ways to increase funding and support for programs working with this population.

SAGE CONTINUES TO CO-LEAD A DIVERSE ELDERS COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

comprised of seven national organizations working with elders of color and LGBT elders to establish a long-term collaboration that would build a shared vision for improving the lives of our diverse older adult communities. This coalition has already submitted some early recommendations for the 2011 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and will devise more strategies to advocate for the needs of diverse older adults at the federal level. (Read more on the back cover.)

SAGE JOINED A NEW WORKING GROUP ON AGING ISSUES LED BY SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D-NY)

which will inform the Senator's federal stances and activities on aging concerns. The working group, which includes leading aging organizations from across New York City, has agreed to meet regularly and provide input on aging policy matters.

SAGE JOINED THE "STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY" CAMPAIGN,

led by a coalition of national organizations that have come together to bolster the Social Security system and challenge attempts to cut the program's benefits. In addition to supporting a unified effort that would preserve a critical safety net for older Americans, SAGE is raising awareness on how Social Security rules deny spousal benefits, survivor benefits and death benefits to LGBT older adults.

Interested in learning more about policy solutions for LGBT older adults? Download two SAGE reports: *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults* (co-authored with MAP) and *Outing Age* (co-authored with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force) Visit sageusa.org.

Photos: © Hector Emanuel, Center for American Progress, April 2010.

SAGE's Policy Advocacy Team

As SAGE strengthens its city, state and federal policy presence on LGBT aging, a new crop of staff hires are leading the way—[and we're national.](#)



ROBERT ESPINOZA
Senior Director
Policy & Communications

Headquarters: New York City, NY

His role: To guide the development of SAGE's advocacy, public policy and communications activities across the country.

On what inspires him about SAGE:

"I think we're at a critical juncture in our country—an increasingly larger population of more diverse older adults, including elders who are aging as 'out' LGBT people and as people with HIV/AIDS; several promising opportunities to move a proactive policy agenda, and the urgency that comes with surviving an economic downturn. SAGE is aptly poised to respond to these trends and create real change."

Prior to SAGE: Served as the Director of Research and Communications at Funders for LGBTQ Issues, where he led historic studies on LGBTQ grantmaking and organizations around the world. Robert has also held leadership positions in policy and communications at Family Justice, SEIU, Justice for Janitors and the Gill Foundation.



JOHN JOHNSON
Director of Federal
Government Relations

Headquarters: Washington, DC

His role: To represent SAGE, and the perspectives of LGBT older adults nationwide, to the federal government, Congress and our national coalition partners.

On what inspires him about SAGE:

"The opportunity to make a difference. For 30 years, SAGE has enhanced the lives of LGBT older adults, and every day on Capitol Hill, I know that hard work can affect how policymakers address the conditions facing LGBT elders. SAGE has the expertise, credibility and opportunity to make history."

Prior to SAGE: Represented the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations as a domestic policy analyst, where John worked on a variety of issues including hate crimes legislation, health care reform and social safety net programs. He has also worked for the U.S. Small Business Administration and Senators Max Cleland and Sam Nunn of Georgia.



SERENA WORTHINGTON
Director of Community
Advocacy and Capacity Building

Headquarters: Chicago, IL

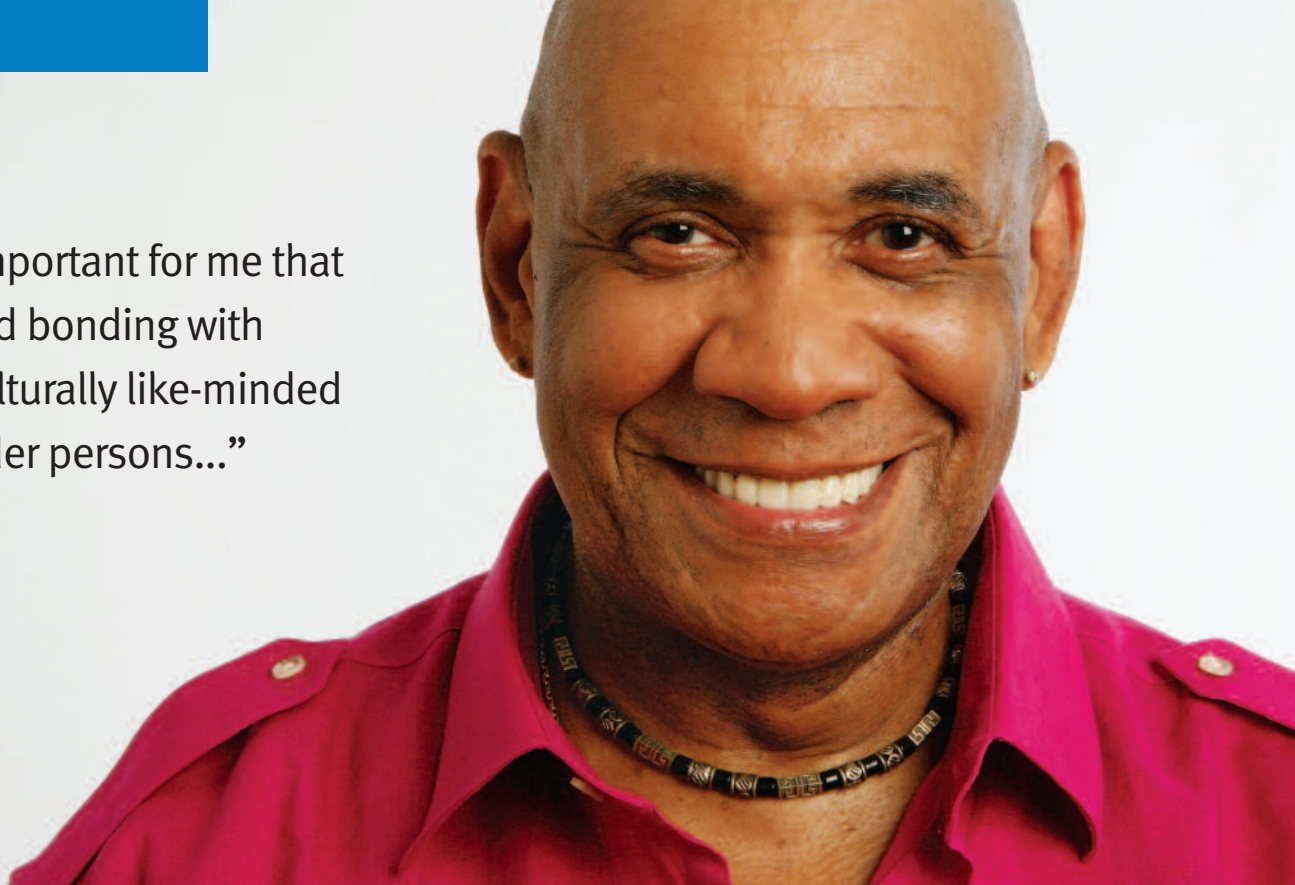
Her role: To oversee SAGE's policy advocacy efforts at the national, state and local levels, and to enhance the capacity of partner organizations across the country working with LGBT older people.

On what inspires her about SAGE:

"As a former director of a SAGE Affiliate, I have been privileged to participate in the regional and national policy work that SAGE spearheads and have seen firsthand the incredible gains that SAGE and its affiliates have made. I am thrilled and honored to join SAGE."

Prior to SAGE: Served as the Senior Director of Public Programs at the Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBT community center, where she led a variety of programs for thousands of LGBT people throughout Chicago. Serena was the founding director of SAGE Center on Halsted, where she grew the program from four programs a month to more than 40, and from 20 participants to 700. In 2010, she launched the nation's first LGBT homesharing program.

“It was important for me that I initiated bonding with other culturally like-minded LGBT older persons...”



A personal look at SAGE

In this issue we feature two SAGE leaders—Levern Jackson and Arthur Webb—to understand what drives their commitment to our mission.

LEVERN JACKSON SAGE Constituent Leader

Levern is helping plan a national conference that will bring together LGBT older adults from around the country in November. **He tells us why.**

As he neared retirement from the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation in March 2009, Levern Jackson sought out a welcoming place where he could discuss aging and retirement issues, particularly about LGBT older adults. At the time, Levern was intrigued by SAGE’s new Harlem site where meetings, social groups and social activities were well-attended by other

black gay males.

Although skeptical at first, Levern began attending mixer meetings and “Fabulous Fridays” at SAGE Harlem. Once he became familiar with the people involved at SAGE Harlem, his reservations dissipated and he gradually became a regular at the site.

“It was important for me that I initiated bonding with other culturally like-minded LGBT older persons,” said Jackson. “In this way, I felt like I could experience a level of comfort for a sustained period of time—not only for me as an individual, but also as an involved participant in an ethnic minority LGBT social setting.”

In May of this year, Levern stepped out in a big way for SAGE, lending his face to the SAGECAP advertising campaign to help raise awareness about SAGE’s unique program for LGBT caregivers. Launched in June

2010, the seven-week ad campaign hit NYC subway stations, bus terminals, print and web media and reached an estimated 33 million people.

Currently, Levern serves on a constituent-led planning committee for SAGE’s upcoming conference in November, “The Future of Aging is in Our Hands: A National Conference and Expo for LGBT Older Adults.” Levern will bring his experience as a mental health professional to help create and facilitate a workshop on LGBT intergenerational dating and to address anxieties and questions that can arise in these relationships.

“I hope the conference serves as a forum for all ethnic groups of the LGBT community to subscribe to, and internalize, a feeling of ‘self-empowerment’ for

Continued on the next page

successful aging and a high quality of life,” said Jackson.

Levern Jackson, NP is an Adjunct Professor at Monroe College in the Bronx, where he teaches Allied Health Science courses at Monroe College in the Bronx, New York. He also serves on the board of directors for the Bronx/Westchester AHEC (Area Health Education Center).



ARTHUR WEBB

SAGE Board Member

Arthur joined SAGE’s Board of Directors in January 2010. As the new chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, he discusses SAGE’s bright future.

What attracted you to join SAGE’s Board of Directors? I have known about SAGE for a long time but became more interested in 1993 when I started working for Village Care New York (VCNY). A number of people involved with VCNY were also involved with SAGE. Also, our organizations did some programming together. When I was asked to be a part of SAGE’s board, I accepted in part because I love the direction SAGE is headed.

I belong to one other board because I prefer to be selective about my time and efforts to an organization. I felt I could contribute to SAGE and help move it into the future.

Since joining our Board, you’ve become the chair of SAGE’s Strategic Planning Committee. How would you describe the role of this Committee? The Committee reviews progress towards achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan, evaluates program performance and operations, and tries to constantly scan the current political/economic climate in order to best anticipate the ways in which SAGE is affected. We do not want SAGE to deal with any surprises and we want to make sure that our strategy is in line with our resources.

What are your thoughts on where SAGE is at this point in time? What are its strengths? I feel that SAGE has a great management team and an excellent Board piloting its direction. SAGE has to maintain a delicate balancing act and the Board is here to provide support. The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging is a life-changing experience for SAGE, but we have to counterbalance that national piece with the legacy and roots of SAGE and its community in New York City. In particular, the Strategic Planning Committee recognizes that SAGE needs to maintain the equilibrium among its advocacy, public education and services—and look for creative ways to bring in different resources and funding to preserve that equilibrium.

What do you see in SAGE’s future? SAGE will play a tremendous role, and achieve great success as we become a leading voice in LGBT issues across the nation and in New York City. We have to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed and that the government remains responsive.

Arthur Webb was most recently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers, and the President and CEO of Village Care New York. He is currently a consultant for health and human services nonprofit organizations.

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

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LARRY PERSON

Member-at-Large

PATRICIA WILEY

Member-at-Large

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

KENNETH COX

Senior Director, Development

ROBERT ESPINOZA

Senior Director, Policy & Communications

EVE ESPINUEVA

Individual Giving & Database Manager

JUDY EVANS

Director of Marketing & Media Relations

PAULA ETTLEBRICK

Interim Director, National Resource Center for LGBT Aging

KEN FRANKLIN

Program Assistant, SAGEWorks

C. NATHAN HARRIS

Major Gifts Officer

JOHN JOHNSON

Director of Federal Government Relations

RAY QUINONES

IT Manager

SERENA WORTHINGTON

Director of Community Advocacy and Capacity Building

If pictures are worth a thousands words, as the adage goes, then the photos that follow speak volumes about SAGE's roots in New York City and our pathbreaking work across the country. In the pages ahead, we showcase some moments over the last few months that illustrate the necessary resources that SAGE provides, as well as the critical perspectives we continue to lead about the future of LGBT aging. It's a photo book about our lives and our successes. It's a collective story we write every day, and the memories we collect along the way. **It's SAGE.**



STAYING HEALTHY. Moyra Rondon, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, at SAGE's Annual Health Fair.



From left: SAGE Constituent David Cannon and Rainbow Heights Club Staff Member Julienne Brown at SAGE's Annual Health Fair.



SHARING BEST PRACTICES. Mark Brennan from the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA) discusses HIV and aging with SAGE constituents at SAGE's Annual Health Fair.

HEALTH FAIR. SAGE celebrated National LGBT Health Awareness Week and New York State's LGBT Health Awareness Month with its 3rd Annual Health Fair for LGBT Older Adults. SAGE coordinated roughly 40 health and community organizations from across the city to provide important health information to the more than 200 people who attended the health fair.



AN AWARD-WINNING NIGHT. From left: SAGE Board Member Melora Love, SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams, and Stephen Sondheim, recipient of SAGE's Lifetime Achievement in Theater Award.

HONORING A LEGEND. SAGE honored legendary composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim with a Lifetime Achievement in Theater Award at a reception held April 14 at the Brasserie Cognac in New York City. Nearly 100 people attended the event, which was followed by a viewing of *Sondheim on Sondheim*, a biographical musical revue of the award-winning composer-lyricist.



STATE EQUALITY. From left: SAGE Upstate leaders Carrie Elliott and Barbara Denton, and SAGE Upstate Executive Director Kim Dill.



Middle: SAGE Staff Member Tom Weber with SAGE constituents and SAGE Advocates, at a Senior Day sponsored by the New York State Office for the Aging in Albany, NY.



WORTH WATCHING. Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement, which follows the lives of SAGE leader Edie Windsor and her late partner, Thea Spyer, won Newfest's Audience Award for best documentary.

SENIOR DAY & STATE ADVOCACY. On May 5, SAGE took part in a Senior Day sponsored by the New York State Office for the Aging in Albany, NY. SAGE Advocates, and members from SAGE Upstate and SAGE of the Hudson Valley, worked with the New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network, a coalition of more than 50 LGBT-specific and LGBT-supportive nonprofit groups and organizations that provide health and social services to LGBT New Yorkers and their families. SAGE met with Senator Rubén Diaz and New York State Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, then later distributed materials on LGBT aging at the Capitol building.

LGBT AGING AND FILM. SAGE served as an official sponsor of NewFest, the annual New York LGBT film festival, which took place June 3-13. SAGE sponsored two films, including *GenSilent*, a



From left: SAGE Staff Members Michele D'Amato and Tom Weber at an open house for SAGEWorks.

documentary that examines the realities of six LGBT older adults in Boston, MA and features the LGBT Aging Project, one of SAGE's organizational partners; and *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*

SAGEWORKS. SAGE has been leading a number of projects for SAGEWorks, an innovative program designed to provide employment assistance for older adults with the help of AARP's WorkSearch. In June, we worked with Reshard Riggins, Associate Director at the Workforce Development and Economic Empowerment at GMHC to lead a seminar entitled, "Marketing Yourself: Communicating the Right Message for Potential Employers." Additionally, SAGEWorks hosted eight orientations in June and July to welcome local LGBT older adults to the program, and began Workforce Development computer classes in July. To learn more about SAGEWorks, please visit sageusa.org/sageworks



SAGE & THE NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE PARTNER ON ISSUES OF LGBT AGING. Rebecca Fox, former executive director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health, speaking to members of the National LGBT Aging Roundtable at the annual meeting.



Loree Cook-Daniels, FORGE Transgender Aging Network, National LGBT Aging Roundtable meeting, April 2010.



Greg Case, Administration on Aging, National LGBT Aging Roundtable meeting, April 2010.

ADVOCACY AND OUR ROUNDTABLE. SAGE brought together more than 40 LGBT aging leaders from across the country in Washington, DC to discuss developments in the LGBT aging field and to plan another year of advocacy work. A day earlier, SAGE and members of the Roundtable took part in a congressional

briefing on LGBT aging issues led by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Over the next year, SAGE and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will support and facilitate the Roundtable's work across various aging issues.



FRONT RUNNERS & SAGE. More than 3,500 LGBT runners participated in Front Runners' 29th annual Pride run, which donated all of the proceeds from this year's run to SAGE.



Scheduled for November 11-13 in New York City, The Future of Aging is in our Hands is the first-ever national advocacy conference led by and for LGBT elders.

PRIDE RUNNERS SPRINT FOR LGBT ELDERS. SAGE kicked off a partnership with Front Runners New York, an organization for LGBT runners and athletes in New York City—and was the sole recipient of proceeds to the 2010 Front Runner's 29th Lesbian and Gay Pride Run, held June 24. As part of the collaboration, Front Runners will also offer a variety of workshops and workouts for SAGE members, including special walks and morning runs. "Front Runners and SAGE are true communities, providing physical and social support that generates friendship, family and fitness in life," said Front Runners President Robert Lennon.

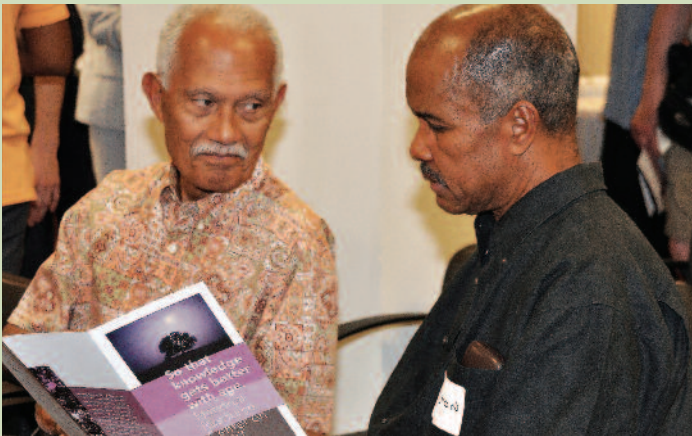
WE ARE THE EXPERTS ON OUR LIVES. Under the leadership and guidance of a constituent-led advisory committee, SAGE has been planning a historic gathering of LGBT older adults to meet one another, share ideas and take action on the issues shaping their lives. "The Future of Aging is in Our Hands: A National Conference for LGBT Older Adults" will take place November 11-13 at CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. To register, and for more information, visit sageusa.org/sageconference2010.

33 MILLION IMPRESSIONS FOR LGBT CAREGIVING. On June 14, SAGE launched a seven-week, New York City-wide advertising campaign showcasing SAGECAP (Caring & Preparing), SAGE’s innovative LGBT program that supports caregivers as they offer care to an aging loved one. SAGECAP ads, in both English and Spanish, ran as posters throughout the MTA subway system, as well as in print and online media. For more information, visit sageusa.org/sagecap.

According to media estimates, SAGE’s original ads on LGBT caregiving were seen more than 33 million times by New Yorkers over the course of seven weeks in June and July.



SO THAT KNOWLEDGE GETS BETTER WITH AGE. SAGE celebrated its National Resource Center on LGBT Aging at its New York City headquarters, helping kick off a month of Pride activities around the city. Nearly 100 constituents and leaders from across New York City attended the celebration, where SAGE discussed the development of a landmark resource center that will provide training, technical assistance and a range of online resources to aging providers, LGBT organizations and LGBT elders across the country. The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging will launch in October 2010.



SAGE constituents at the celebratory launch of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging in June.



SAGE Board Member Dawn Fischer welcomes attendees to a celebration of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.



From left: SAGE Board Member David Braff; Stacey Friedman, Sullivan & Cromwell; SAGE Board Member Dawn Fischer; SAGE Staff Member C. Nathan Harris; and SAGE Staff Member Kean Tonetti.



Susan Baida, co-founder and chief marketing officer at eCare Diary with SAGE friend.



Top: SAGE's contingency at the annual New York Pride Parade, June 2010. Bottom left: Parade member with SAGE Staff Member Sharif Dodd. Bottom right: SAGE constituents and allies.

PRIDE ALL OVER NEW YORK CITY. In June, SAGE held Pride events throughout the City, which included distributing information and resources in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Harlem, Queens and Staten Island. Some of these SAGE-sponsored events included SAGE's Gay Pride Social, the Women's Pride Party, the Harlem Pride Party, the LGBT Activist Timeline and COMING OUT: A Historical Retro-spective of NY's Trailblazing LGBTQ Organizations. For the annual New York City Pride March, held June 27, hundreds of SAGE constituents and supporters joined SAGE as we celebrated more than 30 years of path-breaking work with, and on behalf of, LGBT older adults.

AN HONORABLE DESIGNATION FROM THE NY SENATE.

The New York Senate passed a resolution on June 24 honoring SAGE with a special recognition during Pride Month. The resolution—with New York State Senator Bill Perkins as lead sponsor—cited the unique role that SAGE plays: "Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite

for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all."

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING DISCUSS LGBT ISSUES. SAGE co-led a half-day session on LGBT aging issues at the 35th Annual Conference and Tradeshow by n4A (the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging), held in St Louis, MO July 17-21. The session, attended by more than 60 AAA leaders nationwide, included a discussion on the health and economic barriers facing LGBT older adults, as well as a panel discussion led by leaders from various local Area Agencies on Aging. To open the session, n4A CEO Sandy Markwood and n4A President Lynn Kellogg welcomed the group to the conference and thanked SAGE for our leadership on these discussions and our partnership with n4A. Later in the conference, SAGE co-facilitated a listening session with Greg Case from the Administration on Aging about the launch of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.



HARLEM PRIDE. Visitors stroll through Harlem's first Pride celebration, where SAGE hosted an information booth.



SAGE Staff Member Maia Smith at Harlem Pride.

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

SUPPORT GROUP COUNSELING

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

- 75+ Senior Elders Group
- Walk-in Cyber Center
- Computer Classes
- Volunteer Orientation
- SAGE Advocates

CAREGIVERS

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

SAGE POSITIVE

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Arts and Culture
- Booklovers Discussion
- Creative Writing Class
- Discount Theatre Tickets
- Morning at the Opera
- Tuesday Discussion Group
- Conscious Creative Aging
- Life Issues Beyond Retirement
- Men's 40+ Discussion Group
- Men's 50+ Discussion Group
- SAGE Singers

SAGECAP - CARING AND PREPARING INITIATIVE

SOCIAL & WELLNESS

- Baby Boomer
- Brunch
- Bus Trips
- CBST/SAGE Cares
- Memorial Service
- Daily Drop-In
- Dating and Relationship
- SAGErcise
- Gay Pride
- History & Heritage

- Holiday Parties
- Intergenerational Programs
- Health Fair forLGBT Older Adults
- SAGE Uptown Neighbors
- Socials
- Bridge
- Walks/Outings
- Women's Dances
- Women's Programming

INFORMATION PROGRAMS

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

HARLEM

- Bilingual Benefits Counseling
- Women's Groups
- Cultural & Social Programs
- Men's Groups
- Men's HIV Support Group
- Health Indicators Project

- HEAT (Harlem Elders Aging Together) Constituent Meetings
- Women's Bilingual Discussion Group
- Nurse/Practitioner

SAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

SAGE @ The LGBT Community Center

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

WALK-IN HOURS

Monday-Friday, 2pm-5pm

SAGE Harlem Center

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

WALK-IN HOURS

Fridays, 2pm-8pm

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



Q&A with Charles Leslie

QUICK STATS

- Has identified as gay for 68 years
- LGBT activist since 1969
- Operating the Gallery at the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation since 1990
- SAGE donor since 1995

PERSONAL IMPACT

- A full and active lifetime of support for our community.

What initially inspired your philanthropy toward SAGE? We [Charles and his late partner, J. Frederic “Fritz” Lohman] historically supported LGBT organizations and LGBT artists who’d been ruthlessly marginalized in the arts community. At some point, our attorney, Erica Bell, gave us a wake-up call and asked for our investment in SAGE. You can only support a few things effectively—there’s only so much to give and one has to select priorities or the impact becomes diluted. For us, the organization and mission must encompass more than just “gay.”

Why has SAGE become one of your priorities? As the broader population in the U.S. has aged, the LGBT aging population has grown, too. Fritz and

I were always lucky to have been surrounded and supported by friends and by a family we created. Many other people, as they age, don’t have that support. Fritz used to say, “One of the most horrible things I can imagine is being stuck in an old folks’ home without anyone to talk to... about the best sex I ever had.” SAGE addresses these concerns by providing support and companionship to LGBT older adults and by helping to ensure that facilities provide culturally-competent care for LGBT older adults.

What vision do you hope to realize through your philanthropy? I hope to help the broader population realize that we’re here—and they need to accept it. More and more people are becoming open [about their sexualities and gender identities], though. I recently attended a high school reunion in Deadwood, South Dakota. Many former classmates made an effort to showcase their sometimes distant relationships with LGBT people: “You know, Charles, my second cousin’s daughter’s friend is a lesbian.” While awkward, they were genuinely trying to relate.

How does SAGE’s mission and work help realize your vision? SAGE helps


show the world this facet of the LGBT community and it improves the collective consciousness about the existence of our community.

Have you always been an activist, Charles? Do you consider your philanthropy activism? I was protesting the Vietnam War. I’ve been an activist for LGBT causes since 1969. Look, I was in London protesting Margaret Thatcher’s

Section 28 law [which banned UK authorities in 1988 from portraying homosexuality in a positive light]. Philanthropy is activism and art is activism. If you want to learn about someone’s politics, put a piece of our art in front of them. This isn’t about offending people; it’s about political, sociological and romantic activism. Aside from supporting LGBT artists, this gallery has always been a venue for LGBT NFP support.

Most of all, what do you want the readers of SAGEMatters to know?

To anybody remotely connected to SAGE, and to LGBT people of every age, remember: you’ll be older someday yourself.

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

Q&A with Ken Greenstein

QUICK STATS

- Attorney for more than 35 years
- SAGE Board Member for 10 years
- SAGE donor since 1979

How did you first become involved with SAGE? Marvin Alexander, a great friend, was president of SAGE’s Board of Directors in the late 1980’s and recruited me to join the Board. I ended up serving as a Board Member for 10 years, serving as Co-Chair in 1996 and 1997, and then President from 1998 to 1999.

What was the organization like when you joined SAGE? SAGE was a very different organization back then—we were much smaller. For a small nonprofit like SAGE in the late 1980’s, fundraising was a challenge. Everyone was dealing with the AIDS crisis and there was a great deal of ageism within the community—many people thought that they were “too young for SAGE.” But we worked hard to develop programs for a number of different age-groups in hopes of raising awareness about SAGE’s work and the invisibility of LGBT older people and their needs. We created the SAGE Awards and held other events to raise the money needed to support our programs, and each year we would receive one or two bequests—usually a surprise—that would help tide us over for the year. Those gifts really made a difference for SAGE and the people we served. Eventually, SAGE emerged as the local leader on LGBT aging, and transformed from a small nonprofit to a leading voice on the LGBT aging movement.

What do you think of SAGE today?

SAGE has grown tremendously and I am amazed by how many people we help, people who have no one else to turn to,

and the meaningful programs we offer. SAGE’s work on the national level, from our growing number of SAGENet Affiliates, to national programs and partnerships, and now, the creation of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, make me intensely proud to be a part of this organization. SAGE is very important to me. I participate in SAGE programs

generations of aging LGBT folks.

Why should I be thinking about Planned Giving? Some people don’t want to talk about dying, but it’s something each of us should think about, even if we’re younger.

Other people say, “I don’t have any money. Planned giving is only for the very rich.” But if you have a pension, a home,



and events, serve on the Planned Giving Committee, and donate to the cause. And I have included a gift to SAGE in my will.

Is Planned Giving important? Planned Giving is absolutely essential! SAGE helps so many older people in our community. Also, our community is getting older so the need for SAGE will only continue to grow. Making a planned gift to SAGE ensures that the programs and services that we have been fortunate enough to utilize and participate in will still be there for future

life insurance policy or bank account, you should be thinking about planned giving. You have worked hard to get what you have—wouldn’t you want to be certain where your estate will ultimately go? Planning is the key, and planned giving ensures that important organizations like SAGE become part of your legacy.

📧 Interested in discussing your planned giving with SAGE? Contact us at nharris@sageusa.org

SAGENet

From St. Louis to Chicago to Utah, we feature three SAGE affiliates that are changing the lives of LGBT older adults in their communities. [Read their stories.](#)

SAGE METRO ST. LOUIS

SAGE affiliate since May 2008



SAGE Metro St. Louis celebrated its second anniversary at a picnic in July.

In July, SAGE Metro St. Louis celebrated its second anniversary as a SAGENet affiliate at the LGBT Family Picnic in St. Louis. Co-hosted by OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) and Prime Timers of St. Louis, the anniversary party was celebrated with live music by the Gateway Men's Chorus Ensemble and a community picnic and potluck where a surfeit of side-dishes were shared. Additionally, SAGE Metro St. Louis presented its 2010 SAGE Visionary awards to three outstanding individuals for their accomplishments and significant impact in the local LGBT community. Rudy Nickens, Sue Pratt, and Michelle Smith were all honorees and award-recipients for their vision and involvement as older adults working to raise advocacy, community awareness and involvement among the aging LGBT community.

This second anniversary marks a milestone in the extraordinary growth and success of SAGE Metro St. Louis. This Affiliate attributes its tremendous success to a stream of steadfast support from the LGBT community as well as forming partnerships with mainstream older adult service organizations. This work has included over 50 community presentations and trainings reaching over 1,000 professionals, community members, and college students in or around the St. Louis area.

SAGE Metro St. Louis, a non-membership-based organization,

receives financial contributions through the local SAGE Ambassador program with over 100 Founding Ambassadors. Additionally, SAGE maintains monthly contact with over 300 community members through "SAGE News," the e-newsletter, and reaches an additional 1,000 community members via social networking such as Facebook and its dailyblog: sagemetrostl.blogspot.com.

SAGE UTAH

SAGE affiliate since June 2009

SAGE Utah will begin its second year at the Utah Pride Center with a program designed to support and serve Utah's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults. SAGE Utah is proud of its ever-growing community and members, who share the organization's excitement and enthusiasm as it expands its calendar of activities and events.

In June, the Utah Pride Center hosted its 2010 Utah Pride Festival and Parade. SAGE Utah celebrated in style with its first parade entry and alongside AARP, co-hosted its second annual SAGE Zone, where attendees viewed "The Faces of SAGE" photography exhibit featuring active SAGE members. Attendees were also invited to partake in free health screenings and a needs-assessment survey to help better understand the needs of its local community.



SAGE Utah celebrates Pride for LGBT elders throughout the state.

For the upcoming year, SAGE Utah’s focus is on providing more social activities for members to connect with one another. In particular, SAGE Utah is especially excited for its annual social this coming September, where attendees will be honored and entertained and celebrated for their participation and work within the local LGBT community. The event will serve food and refreshments, and prizes and awards will also be given out. SAGE Utah hopes that this vibrant event will reflect what the future holds for their programming and success as a SAGE Affiliate.

SAGE AT THE CENTER ON HALSTED

SAGE affiliate since 2006

SAGE Center on Halsted (COH) was one of the first SAGE affiliates to become a part of SAGENet and continues to offer innovative programming to its older adults. It also provides educational opportunities for those interested in LGBT aging issues. Recently, SAGE COH hosted 16 volunteer undergraduate



SAGE Center on Halsted provides numerous educational opportunities for those interested in LGBT aging issues.

students enrolled in GLBTA courses from the University of Minnesota. Anne Phibbs, Director of the GLBTA Programs Office identified SAGE COH as a program that would provide students with valuable in-service learning as a community organization advocating for sexual, gender, racial, economic and social justice. SAGE members enjoyed interacting with the students and felt valued as a visible and vital part of the LGBT community.

Some upcoming activities and programs include: a boat cruise and dinner on the Chicago River, a BBQ on the roof top deck of our center and an Early Bird Nightclub for women. They serve more than 700 older adults a year, and in addition to our on-site programs, they offer a Friendly Visitor Program and referral services. Lastly, they are very excited to announce that they are

launching the nation’s first LGBT Homesharing Program later this year.

With a recently awarded federal grant, SAGE COH is excited about a range of new initiatives, including a training program for constituent advocates, adaptive computer stations and a comparative research study on HIV and LGBT Older Adults (with AIDS Community Research Initiative of America).

SAGENet

NORTHEAST

SAGE Metro D.C.
thedccenter.org

SAGE Long Island
sageli.org

SAGE of the Hudson Valley
lgbtqcenter.org

SAGE Philadelphia
waygay.org

Rainbow SAGE of the Genesee Valley
rainbowseniorswny.org

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

SAGE Rainbow Bridge Connection
rbcnlmcc.org

SAGE Upstate
sageupstate.org

SOUTH

SAGE CenLa
sagecenla.org

SAGE South Florida
sagewebsite.org

MIDWEST

SAGE at the Center on Halsted
centeronhalsted.org

SAGE Metro St. Louis
sagemetrostl.org


SAGE Milwaukee
sagemilwaukee.org

WEST

The Golden Rainbow Center - SAGE
goldenrainbowsenior-center.org

SAGE of the Rockies
glbtcolorado.org

SAGE Utah
utahpridecenter.org

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

Diverse Elders Coalition

SAGE has begun an initiative with six national organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for diverse aging communities nationwide. **Now is the time.**

With the generous support of The Atlantic Philanthropies, SAGE is helping co-lead the Diverse Elders Coalition to identify cross-cutting concerns where we can collectively advance important advocacy goals. Together, we can reform our country's safety net programs and ensure that major legislation better addresses our diverse lives.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

A Growing Majority, Still Underserved

As a large generation of “baby boomers” nears retirement age, our country’s population will become drastically older.

According to the U.S. Census, the number of people ages 65 and older will increase from 37 million in 2006 to 71.5 million in 2030—an increase from 12 to 20 percent of the total U.S. population.¹

Similarly, as our country becomes increasingly diverse in its racial and ethnic composition and as a generation of “out” LGBT people ages, diversity and aging will become even more synonymous. The U.S. Census projects that communities of color will grow, as a percentage of the U.S. population, from about 35 percent in 2010 to 50 percent in 2050.²

Despite our increased presence, significant barriers place us at a disadvantage. For example, health care remains inaccessible to our communities—and a growing body of research reveals its effects. People of color are less likely to be insured; less likely to have choices in where they seek health care; and less likely to have received preventative treatment or care, despite higher rates in certain health problems. LGBT people, particularly LGBT people of color, experience similar disparities in health and health care—an inequality engendered by inaccessible health insurance, LGBT stigma and a widespread lack of cultural competency.³

Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)

305 Seventh Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001
212-741-2247

sageusa.org

facebook.com/sageusa

For a burgeoning population of diverse older adults, this means that millions could age into a health care system already in poorer health—vulnerable to the neglect and discrimination of aging settings that are culturally and linguistically inappropriate. The Diverse Elders Coalition has formed to imagine policy solutions that would reverse these trends.

DIVERSE ELDERS COALITION

- Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores (ANPPM)
- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)
- National Caucus & Center on Black Aged (NCBA)
- National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)
- National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)
- Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

¹ Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, *Older Americans 2008: Key Indicators of Well-Being* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2008) http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/Main_Site/Data/Data_2008.aspx.

² U.S. Census Bureau, "U.S. Interim Projections by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin," <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/usinterimproj/>

³ Center for American Progress, *How to Close the LGBT Health Disparities Gap: Disparities by Race and Ethnicity* (Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, 2009) http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/lgbt_health_disparities_race.pdf; and Center for American Progress, *Racial Health Disparities by the Numbers* (Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, 2010), http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/health_disparity_numbers.htm.

sageSM

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