

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

sage<sup>SM</sup>

# Matters

SUMMER 2013



## THE ROAD WELL-TRAVELED: SAGE CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
FOR LGBT OLDER ADULTS

**SAGE SPRINGS FORWARD:**  
HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT  
NATIONAL INITIATIVES

# sageMatters

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

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This June, LGBT people and their allies had a very special event to celebrate for Pride Month: the Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), issuing a transformative legal decision and mandating that the federal government recognize the lawful marriages of same-sex couples! We at SAGE could not be more proud of, and grateful to, 84-year-old Edie Windsor, a longtime SAGE activist and hero who took this case all the way to our nation's highest court. Edie was also one of the grand marshals of this year's New York City Pride Parade. I can't tell you how meaningful it was for SAGE to march just behind Edie; we were also honored that Mayor Michael Bloomberg chose to march with the SAGE contingent in recognition of the critical importance of our work with and on behalf of LGBT older people.

The month's exciting events really bring home the remarkable progress that has been made on LGBT issues in just a few short years. Given that this progress is the result of decades of hard work led by our elder pioneers, it's especially important that SAGE's leadership has helped ensure that addressing the needs of LGBT older adults is a meaningful part of our community's advances.

Progress on LGBT aging issues hasn't happened by accident. Five years ago, recognizing that LGBT elders' needs and concerns were nearly invisible within the aging and LGBT fields, SAGE launched a wide-reaching Strategic Plan to transform the landscape for LGBT older people across the country. We have now come to the end of this five-year Plan, and I'm proud to report that we have achieved all its ambitious goals, and more. On page 3, you can read more about the completed Plan, where we started, and where we are today. Thinking back over the past five years, I'm amazed at what a long way we've come!

As much progress as we have made, we must always remember that a great, great deal remains to be done. While LGBT elders' concerns are visible in a way they have never been before, they're not yet prioritized in the way they need to be. And that visibility hasn't yet translated into enough action—in services, and in policy change—at the levels that our elder pioneers need and deserve. While the Supreme Court struck a huge blow for equality for married same-sex couples, the benefits are limited to married couples in a few states and the District of Columbia. Older same-sex couples in states without marriage equality are still out in the cold. Even more important, most LGBT elders are single—either by choice or circumstance—and still do not have effective access to the critical social safety net meant to support our nation's elders.

We also know that the challenges are even greater for transgender elders and for LGBT elders of color. If we needed any reminder of their particular vulnerabilities, we got it when the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, a decision that will undoubtedly make it harder for people of color to exercise their right to vote. For the 1 in 5 (soon to be 1 in 3) LGBT elders who are people of color, this is a terrible blow to their ability to advocate for change. For SAGE, it is a reminder that we must ramp up our work to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our communities have the support they need.

I hope you'll join me in celebrating SAGE's accomplishments over the past five years, and stand with us as we move forward. Thank you for your support as SAGE continues its vitally important work to improve the quality of life for LGBT older people!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Adams".

Michael Adams, *Executive Director*

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Welcome to SAGE Raleigh

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Please help SAGE Go Green and let us know if you'd prefer to receive *SAGEMatters* electronically. Email us at [development@sageusa.org](mailto:development@sageusa.org)

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# The Road Well-Traveled: SAGE Celebrates Five Years of Achievements

In 2008 SAGE's Board of Directors, staff and supporters were looking to do something truly game-changing for LGBT older adults. SAGE had led the LGBT aging field for 30 years as the oldest and largest organization of its kind, was providing an array of services for LGBT elders in New York City, and had periodically dipped its toes into the waters of national advocacy work. But three decades after SAGE's founding in 1978, LGBT older adults and their needs remained profoundly marginalized within both the LGBT community and the aging network. While small bands of committed LGBT aging activists toiled away to make progress, the unfortunate

reality was that neither LGBT nor aging organizations, nor policymakers, nor service providers, nor community opinion-makers were paying much attention. Too often LGBT elders had little to show for their pioneering lives, which paved the way for the contemporary blossoming of LGBT life. The disregard for older members of the LGBT community seemed dramatically out of step with changing demographics and a rapidly aging population, not to mention the broader society's increasing focus on aging issues.

Determined to change this landscape, SAGE launched an ambitious and aggressive Strategic Plan in 2008.

The organization's leadership recognized that societal change on the scale SAGE envisioned would require a highly focused effort that married cutting-edge strategies with the resources required to get the job done. Under the 2008 Plan, SAGE committed to providing the national leadership that was missing from the LGBT aging field. This would include driving forward a national policy agenda to force the federal government to address LGBT older adult needs. The 2008 Plan also envisioned that SAGE would launch a national training program to increase the "cultural competency" of aging service providers so they could do a better job serving LGBT older adults. In addition, SAGE would lead the way in developing innovative service models, with particular attention to our hometown in New York City. And we would win a seat at the table and a prominent role in public dialogue for LGBT aging issues.

Plans of this nature often are easier to create than they are to fulfill. Yet SAGE's 2008 Plan has proven to be different—the organization consistently has used

the Plan as a roadmap for SAGE's work, and five years later the results are very impressive. SAGE itself has grown quickly, tripling our budget to more than \$6 million; expanding from a website that pulled in 4,100 visitors a month to an online presence that reaches more than 70,000 people a month; and going from almost no media coverage to garnering consistent print and online stories on LGBT aging issues. This has allowed SAGE to hit

## SAGE consistently has used the Strategic Plan as a roadmap for our work, and five years later the results are very impressive.

several major milestones along the road to change; here are our top five accomplishments over the past five years:

**1. Federal Policy Reform.** In 2008, LGBT aging issues had little traction at the federal level, so little progress was being made. In the past five years, SAGE has

opened an office in Washington DC, and through coordinating gatherings of policymakers, releasing original policy analysis and publications, and working in coalition with other national aging organizations, we have won several policy victories on Medicaid, Social Security and more. Last year, as a direct result of our advocacy work, Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced the LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2012; if passed, this bill would ensure that some of the sizeable resources of the Older Americans Act would, for the first time, be dedicated to LGBT elders' needs.

**2. SAGENet.** SAGE has a nationwide network of affiliate sites, which provide services to LGBT older people in local communities across the country, as well as advocating at the city and state levels to ensure that public policies better support the needs of LGBT elders. Five years ago, we had six affiliates. Today, SAGE has 24 affiliates in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Together, these affiliates run approximately 200 original programs, and LGBT elders access services from their local affiliates more than 25,000 times a year.





**3. National Training.** SAGE always envisioned training aging service providers and LGBT organizations on the best ways to meet the needs of LGBT older people. In 2008, such efforts were scattered and had little impact. But in the past five years, SAGE's LGBT cultural competency training agenda has advanced rapidly. In 2010 we received a grant from the federal Administration on Aging to create the country's first and only National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, which has trained more than 2,500 aging service providers across the country. In addition, the National Resource Center's site ([lgbtagingcenter.org](http://lgbtagingcenter.org)) offers hundreds of multimedia resources on LGBT aging issues—accessible anywhere, anytime—including two popular guides for service providers, one on how to make aging services inclusive of LGBT elders, and one on data collection.

**4. The SAGE Center and National Programs.** SAGE had long dreamed of opening a center that would offer specialized programs for LGBT older people—programs that could be perfected and then replicated around the country. During the early years of the Strategic Plan, we launched prominent programs such as SAGECAP, which provides essential resources for LGBT caregivers and has

launched a national telephone support group, and SAGEWorks, a workforce development program for LGBT older workers now operating in six nationwide sites. Then, in 2012, our dream of a center that would be home to such programs—and many more—came true when The SAGE Center, the nation's first publicly funded LGBT senior center, opened in New York City. Less than a year later, we had more than 1,000 registered participants attending dozens of weekly programs.

#### **5. The Leader on LGBT Aging Issues.**

In 2008, the Aging Network—comprising the leading national aging organizations—paid no attention to LGBT aging. SAGE consistently stepped up as a leader in this arena, elevating the voices of LGBT elders at the national level and arguing persuasively for the importance of devoting resources to LGBT aging. Today, SAGE is the first and only LGBT member of the influential Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, and has growing relationships with several prominent aging organizations. Through a partnership with Centerlink, SAGE has also reached out to LGBT organizations to ensure that they welcome older members of their communities. This means that LGBT older adults' needs are more likely to be met, no matter where they live.

SAGE is proud of all we have accomplished over the past five years, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, and many supporters. Now it's 2013 and we at SAGE are determined to once again change the game for LGBT older adults across the country. **This fall, we will introduce our new Plan to take our work to the next level—stay tuned as we rev up to turn our new dreams into reality!**

*To read more about our work over the past five years, visit [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org).*

Are you interested in helping SAGE sustain its current successes, and move forward with more exciting initiatives to improve the lives of LGBT older adults? Visit [sageusa.org/donate](http://sageusa.org/donate) today to make a gift.



## National Resource Center ON LGBT AGING

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## Featured Resources

## Elder Abuse

- ▶ **LGBT Domestic Violence Fact Sheet**
- ▶ **Power and Control in LGBT Relationships**
- ▶ **LGBT Community and Domestic Violence: Information and Resources**

What's New

Caregiving

HIV

Housing

Legal

Trans Aging

## BROWSE RESOURCES

BY SUBJECT

- Aging & Ageism
- Bisexuality
- Caregiving
- Coming Out Later in Life
- Community
- Cultural Competence
- Elder Abuse
- Employment / Workforce Issues
- End of Life Decisions
- En Español
- Families
- Financial Security
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- Homophobia & Transphobia
- Housing & Homelessness
- Legal Resources
- Lesbian
- Medicaid & Medicare
- Mental Health
- Racial Equity
- Retirement
- Social Security
- Spirituality

## RELATED RESOURCES

**RESEARCH BRIEF ABOUT LGBT ELDER ABUSE**

This 4-page research brief, developed by the National Center on Elder Abuse, describes information related to LGBT elder abuse.

MORE &gt;

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## MULTIMEDIA

**LGBT LONG TERM CARE: PHYLLIS**FROM SAGE'S NATIONAL  
RESOURCE CENTER ON LGBT AGING

## Focus on Elder Abuse

National  
Resource  
Center

ON LGBT AGING

Elder abuse affects all older adults regardless of sexual orientation and transgender status. However, there are ways that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elders can be specifically victimized, and many reasons why they may choose to stay silent about abuse. In response, SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging and FORGE Transgender Aging Network

(a founding partner of the National Resource Center) launched an online LGBT Elder Abuse portal. This portal brings together information from partner organizations, as well as groundbreaking new content, to address how to identify elder abuse, and what to do about it. The multimedia resources are especially geared toward helping abuse professionals assist in these cases

and for LGBT older adults and their caregivers to understand how to get help. Visit the Resources section of [lgbtagingcenter.org](http://lgbtagingcenter.org) today to read the articles, watch the videos and share what you learn by talking to us on Facebook ([facebook.com/lgbtagingcenter](https://facebook.com/lgbtagingcenter)) and Twitter (@lgbtagincntr). Every one of us can help spread the word to work against LGBT elder abuse!

# Affordable Housing for LGBT Older Adults



One of the biggest issues facing many LGBT older adults is finding safe, affordable housing in cities across the country. Due to higher levels of financial insecurity and a general lack of affordable housing, many LGBT elders find that they cannot afford homes in the communities they may have lived in for years. Others face harassment and intimidation in their homes and in long-term care settings from aging professionals, other residents, and even their own family members.

In recent years, LGBT aging advocates have begun addressing these housing insecurities through a variety of approaches, including developing LGBT-specific housing. Several new developments are underway across the country. Here's a look at the newest LGBT affordable housing initiatives.



## 55 LAGUNA, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Project leads: Openhouse, Mercy Housing California

Number of units: 110

Timeline: Construction expected to begin in late 2014

Contact: [openhouse-sf.org](http://openhouse-sf.org), 415-296-8995

In August 2012, the San Francisco Planning Commission unanimously approved the Openhouse plan to build LGBT-welcoming senior housing at 55 Laguna St. This development will provide welcoming and affordable housing in the heart of San Francisco, along with services and resources to help LGBT older adults remain safe and comfortable in the community they spent a lifetime to build. Most of the units will be one bedrooms ranging in rent from \$589 to \$1,000.



*Above: The Argyle. Below: GLEH building*

However, Openhouse's goal is to secure rent subsidies so that residents will pay only 30% of their income for rent. Individuals and couples who are 55 years and older whose household income does not exceed 50% of Area Median Income (AMI) will be eligible to live at 55 Laguna. Applicants will be selected by lottery until all the housing units are filled. Applications will be accepted once construction is completed. Visit [openhouse-sf.org](http://openhouse-sf.org) to join the Affordable Housing mailing list and to find a chart of AMI by household size.

#### **THE ARGYLE, LOS ANGELES, CA**

**Project leads:** Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing, AMCAL Multi Housing Inc.

**Number of units:** 40

**Timeline:** Opening in spring 2014

**Contact:** [gleh.org](http://gleh.org), 323-957-7200

In 2007, Gay and Lesbian Elder Housing (GLEH) opened Triangle Square, the nation's first LGBT-friendly affordable elder housing development. Now, GLEH is building The Argyle, a new residential project in Los Angeles on Western Avenue between Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards. The new four-story building, within easy walking distance to public transportation and shops, will offer one- to three-bedroom apartments that will rent from \$200-800 a month. The Argyle will also offer programs and services for LGBT older adults, such as writing and art classes, bingo, yoga and more. Applications are being accepted now.





*Rendering of John C. Anderson Apartments*

#### **JOHN C. ANDERSON APARTMENTS, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**Project leads:** Pennrose Properties, dmhFund,

**Gay News** publisher Mark Segal

**Number of units:** 56

**Timeline:** Opening in 2013

**Contact:** [dmhfund.org](http://dmhfund.org), [info@dmhfund.org](mailto:info@dmhfund.org)

Located in the heart of the Philadelphia Gayborhood, this LGBT-friendly low-income elder housing residence will feature 56 one-bedroom units, with a 6,000 square-foot enclosed courtyard, along with multi-purpose public spaces to be shared by residents and the larger community. The location will allow residents to be an integral part of the community and take advantage of services offered by other LGBT resources in the neighborhood such as the William Way Community Center and the Mazzoni Center for health services; William Way will also provide services and programs specifically for LGBT elders in the residence. Visit [dmhfund.org](http://dmhfund.org) for information on applying for a unit.

#### **MARY'S HOUSE, WASHINGTON, DC**

**Project lead:** Dr. Imani Woody Macko

**Number of units:** 9

**Timeline:** Construction not yet scheduled.

**Contact:** [info@maryshousedc.org](mailto:info@maryshousedc.org)

Mary's House will be the first facility of its kind in Washington, DC, focusing on the housing and relational needs of LGBT older adults. Located in the Fort Dupont Park section of historic Washington, DC, it will be aimed at supporting African American LGBT elders age 60 and older. The developers intend to create a family-like



environment with a shared kitchen, common dining area, shared community room, laundry facilities and a therapeutic hot tub. Mary's House will also offer a number of programs and services aimed at LGBT older adults. Visit [maryshousedc.org](http://maryshousedc.org) for more information.



*Spirit on Lake illustration (left) and building in progress (above).*



### **SPIRIT ON LAKE, TWIN CITIES, MN**

**Project leads:** GLBT Generations;  
Living Table United Church  
of Christ; Everwood Development; PRG, Inc.

**Number of units:** 46

**Timeline:** First units open in September 2013

**Contact:** [prginc.org](http://prginc.org), [facebook.com/spiritonlake](https://facebook.com/spiritonlake)

Located at the corner of Lake Street and 13th Avenue South in Minneapolis, MN, Spirit on Lake will provide safe, welcoming homes to LGBT older adults. The units will be available to those with incomes under 50% of the area median (currently \$29,400 for an individual and \$33,600 for a couple), on a first come, first served basis. Visit Spirit on Lake's Facebook page([facebook.com/spiritonlake](https://facebook.com/spiritonlake)) for more information on how to apply for a unit. To sign up for the mailing list, visit [prginc.org](http://prginc.org).

### **TOWN HALL ON HALSTED\*, CHICAGO, IL**

**Project leads:** Center on Halsted, Heartland Housing

**Number of units:** 79

**Timeline:** Construction completed in spring 2014

**Contact:** [centeronhalsted.org](http://centeronhalsted.org), 773-472-6469

Beginning in June 2013, construction will transform the former town hall and police station at the corner of North Halsted and West Addison Streets into an affordable apartment complex for people age 55+ in Chicago, IL. The complex will combine the historic police station with a new six-story apartment building to offer retail space as well as studio and one-bedroom units in the heart of the city. In addition to being located close to Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBT community center, all aspects of the apartment complex will be catered to LGBT older adults. Contact Center on Halsted for more information.

*\*Name of housing development as of May 2013.*



*Town Hall on Halsted rendering.*



# SAGE Springs Forward

In late winter and early spring, SAGE led a number of activities and events around the country to advance our mission to improve the lives of LGBT older adults. Here are the highlights. See more photos of our work at [flickr.com/sageusa](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sageusa/).

**SAGE CELEBRATES MARRIAGE EQUALITY** This June, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act—paving the way for federal recognition of the marriages of same-sex couples. This historic ruling was a tremendous victory that means that thousands of older lesbian and gay couples will be able to better protect their families because they will finally have equal access to federal benefits, programs and protections that provide safety and support for older Americans. SAGE congratulates 84-year-old Edie Windsor, SAGE volunteer leader and plaintiff in the case *United States v. Windsor*. Michael Adams, SAGE Executive Director, said, “This is a joyous moment in our country’s history, thanks in large part to Edie, who fought many hard-won battles along the way to this victory. Older lesbian and gay couples were especially hard hit by DOMA, and their health, well-being and quality of life will now be vastly improved. Congratulations to Edie, a longtime SAGE hero, on breaking down another barrier to full equality for LGBT elders!” For more on how this decision affects LGBT older adults, visit [sageusa.org/marriageequality](https://www.sageusa.org/marriageequality).

**SAGE AND FREEDOM TO MARRY HOST A MARRIAGE EQUALITY EVENT** Before the Supreme Court handed down its DOMA decision, SAGE and Freedom to Marry presented a panel on the harms that DOMA had on older same-sex couples. On June 10,



*Edie Windsor, plaintiff in the Supreme Court DOMA challenge United States v. Windsor*

more than 40 people gathered at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, to hear leaders in the aging and LGBT fields speak about the ways that DOMA denied more than 1,100 protections and responsibilities automatically afforded to other married couples, including Social Security survivor benefits, access to health care and family leave, the ability to pool resources without adverse tax treatment, parenting rights, and familial status for immigration purposes. The event was moderated by communications and political strategist Hilary

Rosen, and featured Michael Adams, SAGE; Sarah L. Byrne, Alliance for Retired Americans; Dr. Yanira Cruz, National Hispanic Council on Aging; Paul Nathanson, National Senior Citizens Law Center; Web Phillips, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; Stacy Sanders, Medicare Rights Center; Thomas Sciacca, NY estate attorney; and Dr. Imani Woody Macko, Mary's House for Older Adults.



*Bird's-eye view of 55 Laguna Street in San Francisco, one of several new housing developments aimed at LGBT elders.*

**SAGE PRESENTS A NATIONAL HOUSING CALL** On June 6, SAGE and Enterprise Community Partners Inc. presented a national conference call, "LGBT Inclusive Older Adult Housing with Services," on LGBT affordable older adult housing opportunities and challenges. Panelists from SAGE, Enterprise Community Partners and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gave callers a view of the national landscape of affordable housing for LGBT older adults. In addition, LGBT affordable senior housing developers from communities across the country addressed issues such as the housing plus service models that they have developed; how they sustain services in these models; and how others can replicate or build on the lessons they have learned. To read more about the affordable housing options for LGBT older adults now in development, see page 7. To hear the recording of the national housing call, visit [bit.ly/1alKWfs](http://bit.ly/1alKWfs).

**SAGE CELEBRATES PRIDE IN THE PINES** SAGE started Pride Month in the Pines, celebrating with our friends and supporters at two annual events that are the highlight of the summer. First up, on June 1, was the 21st anniversary of the Fire Island Pines Celebration, co-chaired by Scott Bromley and Doug Harris. Founded by visionaries Anthony LaRocca and Morty Newburg, this event honors LGBT people who make extraordinary contributions to the Fire Island Pines community. This year,



*Linda Gottlieb*

SAGE was please to recognize Steve and Chris Nicosia, owners of the Pines Liquor Shop, with the 2013 Community Service Award. A week later, SAGE celebrated Women's Pride in the Pines, a dinner and dance that was supported by Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. This year, SAGE was proud to honor Linda Gottlieb, founder of Women's Pride in the Pines. You can

read more about the dance at the SAGE Blog ([blog.sageusa.org](http://blog.sageusa.org)), in a guest post by Linda. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported these events. We'll see you next year!

### **SAGE STORY PARTNERSHIPS: FREEDOM TO MARRY AND THE MOTH**

Earlier this year, SAGE launched SAGE Story, a national digital storytelling initiative that aims to strengthen the storytelling skills—and draw on the unique life experiences of—LGBT elders. Behind the headlines and changing laws are real stories of dramatic, human experience and SAGE Story is collecting these stories to bring the voices of LGBT elders into the national conversation on aging. To reach the widest possible audience SAGE partnered with both Freedom to Marry and The Moth on storytelling projects. Freedom to Marry and SAGE gathered stories from across the country on how the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) affects LGBT older adults and their allies to ensure that their stories were part of the marriage equality debates.

*A volunteer instructor from The Moth.*



# The Calamus Foundation

## Great Room



(left to right) SAGE constituent Charles Fatone, Moth instructor and host Peter Aguero, and SAGE constituent Frans Bloem perform at "A SAGE Storytelling Hour."

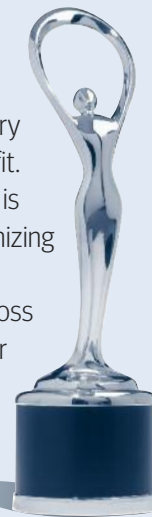


Gary and Ose, SAGE Harlem constituents, on their wedding day; they shared their marriage story with SAGE and Freedom to Marry.

The Moth is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. Facilitators from The Moth Community Education Program conducted a six-week workshop at The SAGE Center which culminated in a performance on May 8, "A SAGE Storytelling Hour." The audience was rapt as SAGE constituents Charles Fatone and Frans Bloem shared their personal journeys of discovery as gay men; Charles later told his story again at a May 20 spotlight event organized by The Moth in Manhattan. Visit [sageusa.org/sagestory](http://sageusa.org/sagestory) to see these stories.

**SAGE RECEIVES A COMMUNICATOR AWARD** In May, SAGE was proud to receive the 2013 Communicator Award from The International Academy of Visual Arts (IAVA) in recognition of our website. Newly launched in October 2012, [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org) offers visitors the latest information and resources on LGBT aging issues in a new, streamlined and user-friendly design. The site was honored with a Silver Communicator Award (also

known as an Award of Distinction) in the category of Websites - Charitable Organizations/Non-Profit. Now in its 19th year, the Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program recognizing big ideas in marketing and communications. With more than 6000 entries received from across the US and around the world, the Communicator Awards is the largest and most competitive awards program honoring creative excellence for communications professionals.



### **SAGE HOSTS A SPECIAL SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY *LESBIANA***

On May 19, SAGE hosted a special screening of the documentary film *Lesbiana—A Parallel Revolution*, which chronicles the lesbian-feminist movement of the 1970s and 1980s. Made by Canadian filmmaker Myriam Fougère, *Lesbiana* features prominent American and Canadian writers, singer-songwriters, activists and separatists who were key players in creating a revolutionary sisterhood. The screening, which was enthusiastically attended by more than 50 SAGE constituents and their friends of all ages, was followed by discussion with several of the women in the film, including Evelyn Torton Beck, PhD, women's studies pioneer; Alix Dobkin, author and feminist singer-songwriter; and Imani Rashid, community organizer.



A cameraman with *Before You Know It* films the SAGE contingent at NYC's 2011 Pride March.

**SAGE FEATURED IN NEW DOCUMENTARY** This year, the powerful documentary *Before You Know It*, directed by PJ Raval, debuted in cities across North America, including New York, Los Angeles, Denver, Toronto, Baltimore and Austin, TX during SXSW. The film tackles a subject rarely seen in cinema—the world of aging gay men. The film features the powerful story of three older adults who came of age in the period before Stonewall and now navigate the rapidly changing world where LGBT rights and issues are front and center. One of the stars is Ty Martin, SAGE Community Liaison, who tells the moving story of SAGE Harlem, a safe place where LGBT elders from a historically African-American community come together for services, fellowship and empowerment. Learn more about the film at [beforeyouknowitfilm.com](http://beforeyouknowitfilm.com).

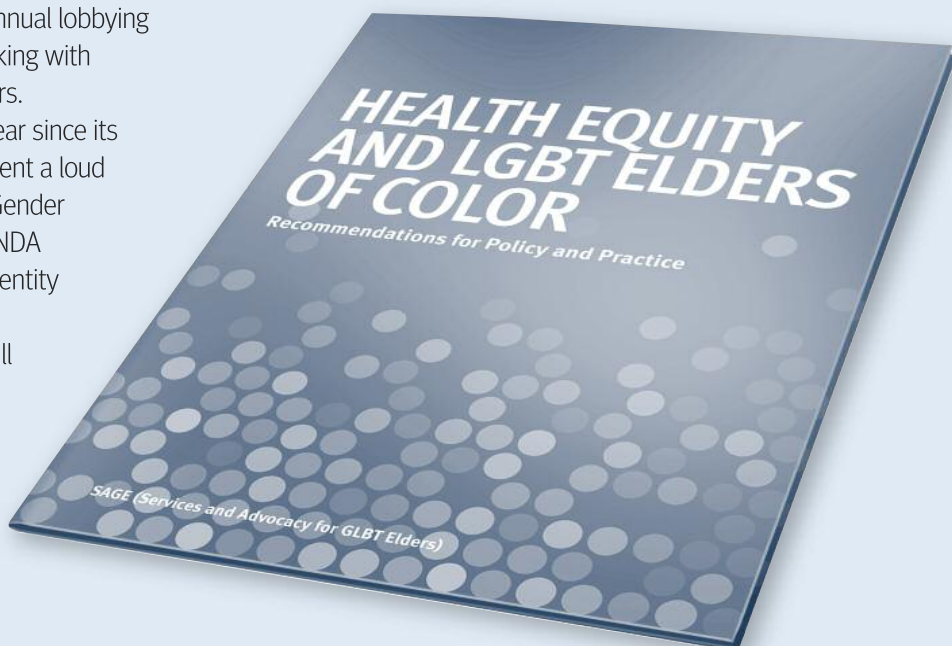
**SAGE AT E&J DAY** On April 30 SAGE staff and constituents boarded the bus to Albany for the annual Equality & Justice Day sponsored by Empire State Pride Agenda. This annual lobbying event is a time for rallies and workshops, networking with statewide advocates and meetings with legislators. SAGE advocates have attended E&J Day every year since its inception. This year, LGBT advocates of all ages sent a loud and clear message to elected officials: pass the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA). GENDA would prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression and offer uniform protections for transgender New Yorkers across the state. The bill passed the New York State Assembly and then went before the state Senate. All of us at SAGE were eager to join with other LGBT advocates and make our voices heard at E&J Day. We look forward to next year!

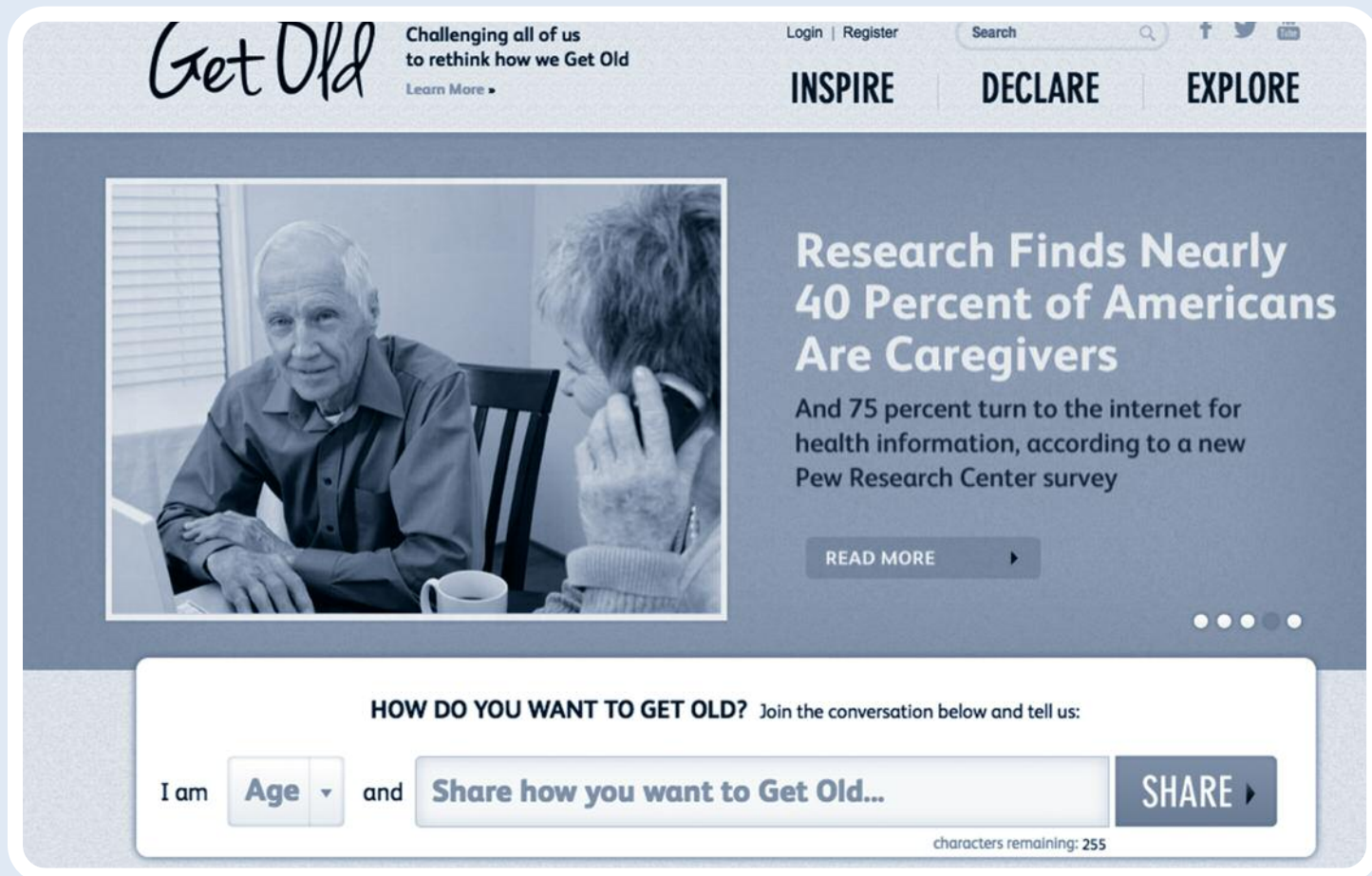
## SAGE ATTENDS THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION'S NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

In April, Serena Worthington, SAGE's Director of Community Advocacy and Capacity Building, was a presenter at the American Planning Association's (APA) National Planning Conference held in Chicago. The conference, with over 5500 participants, focuses on urban and regional planning that seeks to improve the welfare of people and their communities by creating more convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient and attractive places. The APA has a strong commitment to diversity inclusion and they encourage urban planners to work with diverse groups to create an encompassing community vision. Serena led a panel called "Addressing the Needs of LGBT Seniors," which examined current trends in addressing the needs of LGBT elders as well as innovative programs and services to help them age in place. The panel also included Tony LaColla, Senior Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners; Britta Larson, Senior Services Director, Center on Halsted; and Joy Silver, Principle/CEO/President, RainbowVision Properties, Inc.

## SAGE RELEASES NEW REPORT ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AND LGBT ELDERS OF COLOR

In April SAGE released *Health Equity and LGBT Elders of Color*, a new report that examines health disparities faced by LGBT elders of color, and offers policy solutions in 10 areas to address these challenges. The report's release coincided with National Minority Health Month, an initiative of the federal Office of Minority Health to raise awareness about health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minorities—among them a rapidly growing population of LGBT elders of color who are often underserved and largely rendered invisibly in public policy discussions.





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I am **Age** and  [SHARE](#)

characters remaining: 255

The need to implement policy solutions to the health challenges facing LGBT elders of color is growing more urgent as the U.S. becomes increasingly older and more diverse. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are more than 40 million adults aged 65 and older in the U.S., a population that will more than double over the next four decades. By 2050, Latino, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native people will comprise more than 40 percent of this elder population, and the number of LGBT elders will more than double in size to roughly 3 million, based on conservative estimates. To read this report, and view and share an infographic on the health and economic security of LGBT elders of color, visit the Resources section of [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org).

**NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY** On April 16, SAGE celebrated National Healthcare Decisions Day with an informative event at The SAGE Center. The purpose of this day is to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. SAGE presenters included Thomas Sciacca, a trusts and estates

attorney who frequently lends his time and expertise to SAGE constituents, and SAGE Legal Clinic volunteers Chris Jalian and Matthew Carmody. Participants took advantage of the volunteer legal team and learned about the forms they should have in place in times of need: power of attorney, health care proxy, living will and authorization to release medical info. This welcoming event helps take much of the anxiety out of these important decisions by allowing constituents to get answers and information in a friendly setting.

#### **SAGE AND PFIZER COHOST PANELS ON LGBT AGING ISSUES**

In 2012, Pfizer launched Get Old ([getold.com](http://getold.com)), an initiative designed to take on an important issue affecting society today—the country's growing aging population—and provide useful, actionable information that can help people take control of their health at every stage of life. SAGE is proud to partner with Pfizer on Get Old, ensuring that the unique issues facing LGBT older people are part of this vital conversation. LGBT older adults face the same challenges of aging as their heterosexual peers, but also experience unique issues that can stand in the way of

healthy aging. This spring and summer, Pfizer and SAGE cohosted three panel discussions in New York City on subjects relevant to LGBT aging: age-friendly communities and aging in place, affordable housing for LGBT older people, and HIV and aging. If you missed any of these panels, videos of the events will be available at [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org) in late summer.



*SAGE and Pfizer presented a panel on HIV and Aging at The SAGE Center on June 28, moderated by Robert Espinoza, SAGE's Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications (far left). Panelists from left to right included Katja Heinemann from Graying of AIDS; Carmine Novembre from Pfizer; and SAGE constituent Christopher Davis.*



*Photos from the Graying of AIDS project played onscreen during the SAGE-Pfizer panel on HIV and Aging.*

**THE SAGE CENTER TURNS ONE!** On March 1, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the grand opening of The SAGE Center —the nation's first full-time, innovative center for LGBT older people. Today we have more than 1000 registered participants and a full calendar of events related to arts and culture, fitness, food and nutrition, health and wellness, and lifelong education for LGBT elders. To learn more about what The SAGE Center offers, visit [sageusa.org/thesagecenter](http://sageusa.org/thesagecenter).

### **SAGE ATTENDS THE AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING CONFERENCE**

In March, our SAGE colleagues in Chicago were thrilled to welcome aging professionals from across the country to their hometown for the American Society on Aging's 2013 Aging in America Conference. The ASA hosts the nation's largest aging conference with over 3,000 professionals in the fields of aging, health care and education who gather to hear from experts, collaborate with colleagues, and share best practices and innovations. This year, SAGE staff were involved in 14 workshops on topics such as LGBT aging, HIV and aging, and sexuality. A high point of the conference was the "Diversity Summit: New Perspectives on Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Competency." SAGE's Robert Espinoza, Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications, joined nine other presenters for this three-hour event on the changing face of aging in America and how the "needs of a diverse elder population will challenge the field to modify current program models or develop new models that are inclusive of all." Another important session was "Improving the Services and Supports Offered to LGBT Older Adults" facilitated by Hilary Meyer, Director of the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, and Britta Larson, Director of Senior Services at Center on Halsted, which offered LGBT cultural competency training for aging service providers.

### **SAGE OFFERS A NATIONAL TELEPHONE SUPPORT GROUP FOR HOMEBOUND ELDERS**

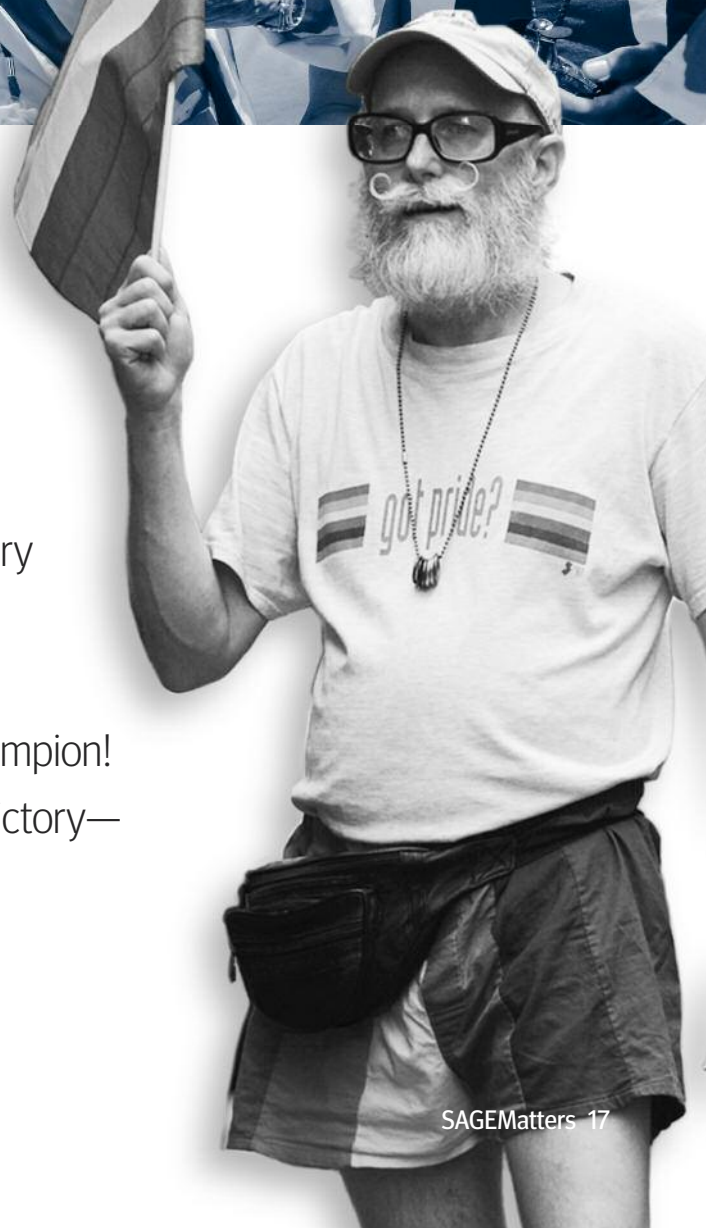
In February, SAGE launched a national telephone support group and friendship circle for homebound LGBT older people who are isolated due to various mental or physical conditions (such as agoraphobia). The group, conducted entirely by phone and facilitated by a SAGE social worker, provides a safe space for participants to connect with other LGBT people, chat about issues that affect their lives and increase their network of support while breaking their isolation. The response so far has been great and SAGE is proud to offer this new vital resource to the community. To learn more about the group, call 212-741-2247 or email [info@sageusa.org](mailto:info@sageusa.org).



*Edie Windsor, Grand Marshal of New York City's 2013 Pride Parade*

# SAGE Celebrates Pride Month

This year, SAGE and our affiliates around the country celebrated a full month of Pride, capped off by a joy-filled New York City Pride Parade led by parade grand marshal Edie Windsor, marriage equality champion! Read more about Edie's amazing Supreme Court victory—and what it means to LGBT older adults across the country—at [sageusa.org/marriageequality](http://sageusa.org/marriageequality).





1. Tom Weber, SAGE's Director of Community Programs, riled up the parade spectators
2. (left to right) SAGE couples Phyllis Siegal & Connie Kopolov, and Renee Rosenfield & Madelin Alk, rode down the parade route in pedicabs.
3. Tom Weber and Sarah Savino, Program Manager of The SAGE Center, posed for a quick photo before the parade starts.
4. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) waving to the SAGE contingent at the start of the parade.
5. SAGE Board Co-Chairs David Canter and Roz Richter marched alongside staff and constituents.



6



7



8

6. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, waving a rainbow flag as SAGE Executive Director Michael Adams (right) looks on, marched with SAGE during this year's parade!

7. Madelin Alk and Renee Rosenfield kept cool with an "Edie fan."  
8. Three SAGE couples with signs declaring their love rode down the parade route to cheers from the crowd.

# Timothy J. Atkin

## SAGE Board Member

Timothy J. Atkin joined SAGE's board at the end of 2012, bringing a unique viewpoint to our work that is shaped by his time in the business, policy and military arenas. A longtime volunteer and board member for organizations that work on health and taxation issues, Tim tells *SAGEMatters* why he decided it was time to work with an LGBT aging organization.

**Why he joined SAGE's Board:** About a year ago I first met [SAGE Executive Director] Michael Adams, who outlined the issues of aging in the LGBT community and the work that SAGE was doing. I must say I was very impressed. Around this same time I began dealing with aging needs in my own family. My mother, who had just turned 80, was living alone in Texas and I had begun the process of relocating her to northern Virginia, to be nearer myself and my siblings. I had a direct view of what it was like to deal with the challenges of healthy aging for my mother—without all of the obstacles faced by the LGBT community. This combined with the discussion I had with Michael about the complexity of aging issues in the LGBT community made me realize that SAGE was the place where I wanted to try to make a difference.

**On the importance of SAGE's mission:** Issues around LGBT aging are completely under-discussed and under-recognized—period. We hear in the media the issues surrounding LGBT youth, gay marriage and gays serving in the military, but somebody needs to bring voice to the issue of LGBT aging. And I think that that's what SAGE does. They have introduced a much needed dialogue on the issues.

**What he hopes to accomplish as a board member:** First and foremost I want to do whatever I can to help the staff be successful in executing SAGE's mission. The staff are the ones who are really making things happen on a day-to-day basis, so as a board member I'll find the best opportunities that I can leverage to help them achieve the objectives of the organization. And, in a broader context, I want to do what I can to raise awareness, recognition and support for SAGE and its mission.

because I think I can bring to SAGE a pretty broad lens: I have a business background, I have a military background and I have a political appointee background with a policy bend, so I am hoping that this combination will add some value to the staff and the board of SAGE.

**“...SAGE was the place where I wanted to try to make a difference.”**

— TIMOTHY J. ATKIN, SAGE BOARD MEMBER

**On working with an LGBT organization:**

This is the first time I have been directly and actively involved with the issues of the LGBT community, so for me there is a stronger sense of passion about my involvement and my desire to create change. And it's exciting



# SAGENet Welcomes New Affiliate SAGE Raleigh

In May 2013, SAGE Raleigh officially joined the SAGENet affiliate network. Housed at the LGBT Center of Raleigh in North Carolina, this affiliate was started by Les Geller, one the Center's board members, in 2010 as a program to serve the needs of LGBT individuals aged 50 and over. *SAGEMatters* spoke with Les to gain more insight on SAGE Raleigh's work.

**WHY HE STARTED SAGE RALEIGH:** I am not a social worker or an activist by nature, but I knew that I wanted older people to have a voice in our LGBT center and in our community. Initially, the program was known as Gay and Gray, and the official mission was (and still is): "To strengthen individual and community development through social and educational activities; to facilitate the incubation of supportive services and groups; and to identify needs and advocate for resources benefiting the diverse population of lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual people, their friends and supporters within and beyond central North Carolina."

At the start, I had no idea what I was getting into—I didn't realize what a huge endeavor I had started. But when I realized how much work needed to be done, I knew I needed a back-up, someone to help me get where I needed to go. That's when I learned about SAGE, and I thought I had nothing to lose and everything to gain by becoming an affiliate.

**HIS PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE:** I am most proud of our Thursday morning drop-in hours. The LGBT Community Center of Raleigh is only open from 12:00-8:00 pm, and so I went to the rest of the board and said I wanted to take three hours on Thursday mornings to create a time just for LGBT older people who might feel intimidated by going to a center with younger people. This is our own time, where we have conversation, yoga or whatever else we like. We also have a popular offshoot of the drop-in hours, the Monthly Lunch Group. This is the last Thursday of every month. After drop-in hours, a group of us will go to a local restaurant for lunch.

These activities are important for meeting our goal of ending social isolation among LGBT elders in our community. I'm very much impressed with how many people in our group have



*A SAGE Raleigh mixer.*

become friends outside of the Center. I'm seeing people who met at the Center going off and starting their own social groups, then coming back to the Center, meeting more people and expanding their circle further. For example, tonight about 15 to 20 of us are going on a theater outing, which is not a program formally organized by SAGE Raleigh—it grew out of the connections people made here. I hope to continue to encourage these kinds of connections.

**SAGE RALEIGH'S FUTURE PLANS:** One of the things I'm interested in is offering trainings for healthcare facilities, retirement homes, and other agencies that serve older people. I'm hoping SAGE can provide us resources for that, whether it's trainers, or training for trainers. I'm hoping we can get involved in the community at large through this effort, and promote awareness of the issues facing LGBT older people. I also want to expand programming for people age 50-65. Our drop-in hours attract people who are already retired, and I want to offer activities that meet the needs of those who are not yet retired.

# SAGE SERVICES & PROGRAMS

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

## SAGE POSITIVE

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

## THE SAGE CENTER

### Hot Dinner

**M-F 5:00-6:30 pm**

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

### SOCIAL SERVICE CASE ASSISTANCE

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

## HEALTH, WELLNESS AND FITNESS PROGRAMS

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

## ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

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

Singing Out!  
SAGE Center Library  
Musical Performances and Concerts

## CAREGIVERS

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

## SAGECAP—CARING AND PREPARING INITIATIVE

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

## SOCIAL

Bridge  
Mah Jong  
Brunch  
Bus Trips

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

## INFORMATION PROGRAMS

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

## LIFELONG LEARNING

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

# SAGENet MEMBERS

## SAGEWORKS

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

## HARLEM

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

## SOCIAL SERVICES

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



For a full listing of SAGE activities, including a calendar of events, please visit us at [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org).

## NORTHEAST REGION

**SAGE of the  
Genesee Valley**  
[gayalliance.org](http://gayalliance.org)

**SAGE Hudson County**  
[hudsonpride.org](http://hudsonpride.org)

**SAGE Hudson Valley**  
[lgbtqcenter.org](http://lgbtqcenter.org)

**SAGE Long Island**  
[sageli.org](http://sageli.org)

**SAGE Philadelphia**  
[waygay.org](http://waygay.org)

**SAGE Rhode Island**  
[sageriinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sageriinfo@gmail.com)

**SAGE Upstate**  
[sageupstate.org](http://sageupstate.org)

**SAGE Western Pennsylvania**  
[persadcenter.org](http://persadcenter.org)

## MIDWEST REGION

**SAGE Center on Halsted**  
[centeronhalsted.org](http://centeronhalsted.org)

**SAGE Metro St. Louis**  
[sagemetrostl.org](http://sagemetrostl.org)

**SAGE Milwaukee**  
[sagemilwaukee.org](http://sagemilwaukee.org)

## SOUTH REGION

**SAGE Atlanta**  
[sagecenla.org](http://sagecenla.org)

**SAGE Central Virginia**  
[gayrichmond.com](http://gayrichmond.com)

**SAGE Metro DC**  
[sagemetrodc1@gmail.com](mailto:sagemetrodc1@gmail.com)

**SAGE Raleigh**  
[lgbtcenterofraleigh.com](http://lgbtcenterofraleigh.com)

**SAGE South Florida**  
[sagewebsite.org](http://sagewebsite.org)

**SAGE Tulsa**  
[okeq.org](http://okeq.org)

## WEST REGION

**SAGE Albuquerque**  
[newmexicoglbtcqcenters.org](http://newmexicoglbtcqcenters.org)

**SAGE of the Desert**  
[thecenterps.org](http://thecenterps.org)

**SAGE Las Cruces**  
[newmexicoglbtcqcenters.org](http://newmexicoglbtcqcenters.org)

**SAGE Metro Portland**  
[friendlyhouseinc.org/programs/gay-and-grey](http://friendlyhouseinc.org/programs/gay-and-grey)

**SAGE Olympia**  
[sageolympia.org](http://sageolympia.org)

**SAGE of the Rockies**  
[gltbcolorado.org](http://gltbcolorado.org)

**SAGE Utah**  
[utahpridecenter.org](http://utahpridecenter.org)



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



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

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

[sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org)

[facebook.com/sageusa](https://facebook.com/sageusa)

[twitter.com/sageusa](https://twitter.com/sageusa)

[youtube.com/sageusa](https://youtube.com/sageusa)

## NATIONAL OFFICES

NEW YORK

CHICAGO

WASHINGTON DC

## NEW YORK OFFICES

### THE SAGE CENTER

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

### SAGE HARLEM

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

### WALK-IN HOURS

Fridays, 2 pm – 8 pm

### SAGE SOCIAL SERVICES

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

# SAVE THE DATE!

## SAGE Awards & Gala

October 21, 2013 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Gotham Hall, New York City

Check back soon at [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org) for more information,  
and to purchase tickets.

