

THE MAGAZINE OF SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS

sageSM

Matters

FALL 2014



SPOTLIGHT ON
SAGE WOMEN'S
PROGRAMS

WHAT'S NEW ON
THE NATIONAL STAGE

A NEW INITIATIVE
FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING

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



The change in seasons can symbolize new beginnings. It often sets in motion a new slate of activities. And it's a time to reminisce and celebrate recent victories.

For SAGE, summer brought on a variety of highly visible successes, which we profile in this issue of *SAGEMatters*. And as we move into the fall, the launch of many new initiatives affirms SAGE as the premiere national organization dedicated to LGBT aging!

As profiled throughout this issue, early summer kicked off an array of impressive achievements for SAGE and for LGBT older people nationally. Through its cutting-edge partnerships with leading national organizations, SAGE continued to pave the way for breakthroughs and historic moments. In late June, SAGE partnered with the White House and StoryCorps to host a landmark "Generations of Pride" event at the White House that featured older people and young people exchanging their stories about being LGBT in this country—as veterans and transgender people, as people of color and as people of faith, and as much more. A month prior, SAGE joined forces with the Diverse Elders Coalition and ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America) to issue eight concrete recommendations that could transform the lives of older adults with HIV; this report, coupled with a national teleconference that gathered hundreds of callers nationwide, served as a call to action to our country's top leaders to help end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially as it increasingly affects LGBT older people.

This summer, we also partnered with the Administration for Community Living and Administration on Aging to release a new learning tool, "Building Respect for LGBT Older Adults," which offers aging service providers an introduction to LGBT aging. SAGE had worked with leaders from HHS—as well as our peer organizations in Washington, DC—to inform and develop this essential tool. It's now available on the website for SAGE's National Resource Center for LGBT Aging. Every month, thousands of people visit this site for unique educational resources related to LGBT older people—and now they can access this new tool endorsed by our federal government in a unique partnership with SAGE.

In this issue, we also feature programs that engage lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women around the country. Our experience as an LGBT aging organization has shown us that too often the lives and contributions of LBT women are not sufficiently addressed by leaders in the LGBT sector, or in the aging and long-term care field. This leaves many LBT women without the supports or the advocacy platforms to affect the change they envision. In contrast, SAGE affiliates around the country, as well as The SAGE Center in New York City, shared with us some lessons from their programs targeted to LBT women. This growing focus on LBT women falls perfectly in line with SAGE's current strategic plan, which emphasizes our critical role in promoting diversity and inclusion in our fields and communities.

Finally, what's a summer recap issue that doesn't celebrate Pride? We have so much to be proud of in this historic moment as LGBT people, across the age spectrum. As older people, SAGE's constituents continue to advance LGBT rights and shape the innovations that make SAGE's mission possible for millions of LGBT older people around the country. In this spirit, we thank you for your generous support of SAGE. And we thank you for joining us in making LGBT aging the focus of so much Pride.

Michael Adams, *Executive Director*

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Cover Photo: Frances Gordon and her partner Beatrice Trotman at the 2014 NYC Pride Parade.

CELEBRATING, SUPPORTING AND CREATING COMMUNITY

By Kira Garcia

SPOTLIGHT ON SAGE WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

Throughout the country, SAGE offers an incredible array of programming—both through our 27 affiliates and at our national headquarters in New York City, The SAGE Center. Our programs include diverse offerings such as creative writing workshops, yoga, Wii Bowling and meditation, as well as events tailored for lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women. Why are these gatherings for women so important? SAGE's Women's Programs Coordinator Felicia Sobel says: "In New York City, historically there have been more male participants at SAGE, and we've increased our efforts to expand the number of women who participate." Today, she says the effort has definitely paid off.

Events for LBT women can help participants share stories, build relationships, and live more fulfilling lives. Below are a few samplings of current women's programs offered by SAGE—both through our affiliates nationwide and in New York City.

WOMEN'S 40+ SUPPORT GROUP AT SAGE HARLEM IN NEW YORK CITY

Facilitated by Cynthia Diao, Harlem Assistant Program Coordinator, with support from Patricia Fraser-Morales, Harlem Program Assistant

This open discussion group includes 10-25 women primarily from the Harlem community, as well as some regular participants who travel to SAGE Harlem from the Bronx. Harlem Program Assistant Patricia Fraser-Morales says, "The goal of the group is to come together, talk and support each other. We emphasize the importance of respecting differing opinions. Participants discuss current events, LGBT issues around health, sexuality,

*Patricia Fraser-Morales
and Cynthia Diao at work
at SAGE Harlem.*



discrimination, relationships—you name it, they talk about it!” Patricia adds: “It’s important to have a safe space for lesbians of color to find common ground. We are working to integrate the interests of women of color into all SAGE programming.”

SAGE WOMEN’S WEDNESDAYS AT THE WILLIAM WAY COMMUNITY CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Facilitated by Ed Miller

These events bring together LBT women for activities, outings and conversation. Recent gatherings have included a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a presentation on sexuality by Terri Clark of Action AIDS, a Philadelphia-based AIDS education initiative. When asked how he measures success for women’s

weekends to support her. That’s how I know the program is working—it’s about building relationships,” said Miller.

SAGE CENTER, NEW YORK, NY

Facilitated by Jackie Mautner and Asia Lyons

This group creates community through a safe space where trans women can share personal stories, healthcare information, and form friendships. Facilitator Jackie Mautner says that the group is especially important since transgender women have traditionally been underserved in both the LGBT sector and the aging field. Mautner described how this group has already begun to engage participants. “A recent conversation covered political opposition to trans rights. Some of the women were unaware of these issues and many were

reflecting change in how to best serve the LGBT community as a whole,” said Mautner.

WOMEN: OUR EVOLVING LIVES AT THE SAGE CENTER, NEW YORK, NY

Facilitated by Felicia Sobel, SAGE Women’s Programs Coordinator

Begun in 2011, this weekly discussion group is founded on the concept that we continue to grow throughout our lives. Participants examine their personal histories and imagine new possibilities for what’s ahead. Women’s Programming Coordinator Felicia Sobel notes, “Sometimes there are more opportunities for growth as we age, rather than fewer.” This group provides a safe space for women to explore possibilities for the future: new work situations, creative pursuits, relationships, and changing approaches to core values.

TRANS WOMEN’S GROUP AT THE SAGE LESBIAN LUNCH AT THE LGBT CENTER IN RALEIGH, NC

Facilitated by Jeanne Kauss

This monthly social gathering at a local restaurant helps women get to know each other and connect through shared interests. Facilitator Jeanne Kauss says that her primary goal is to prevent isolation. For some of the women, this is the only regular lesbian social activity they can access, so Jeanne also connects them with other lesbian gatherings, including a local potluck that has been taking place weekly for 25 years. She remarks that while being LGBT is getting easier in Raleigh, “it’s still important for lesbians to connect with each other, especially after retirement, which can be an anxious time. This group helps women support each other in figuring out the next chapter of their lives.”



Participants and facilitators from the Trans Women’s Group at The SAGE Center in New York City.

programs, Coordinator Ed Miller describes a recent incident. “One of the women in the group is going through cancer right now. We all love her. Other women have started to visit her on

eager to learn what they can do to help. It’s important to have a seed—and I think this group can be that seed—to increase participation by trans women in all programming at SAGE. The group is



WHAT'S NEW ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO PROTECT LGBT WORKERS

SAGE was privileged to be in the room with President Barack Obama on July 21, when, with the stroke of a pen, he put in place protections that will help millions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. In the executive order that he signed that day, he

ensured that transgender federal workers are protected against job discrimination based on gender identity. He also ensured that LGBT employees of federal contractors will be protected against discrimination, which, according to the UCLA's William's Institute, protects 34 million of these workers today. Many LGBT older adults, after facing a lifetime

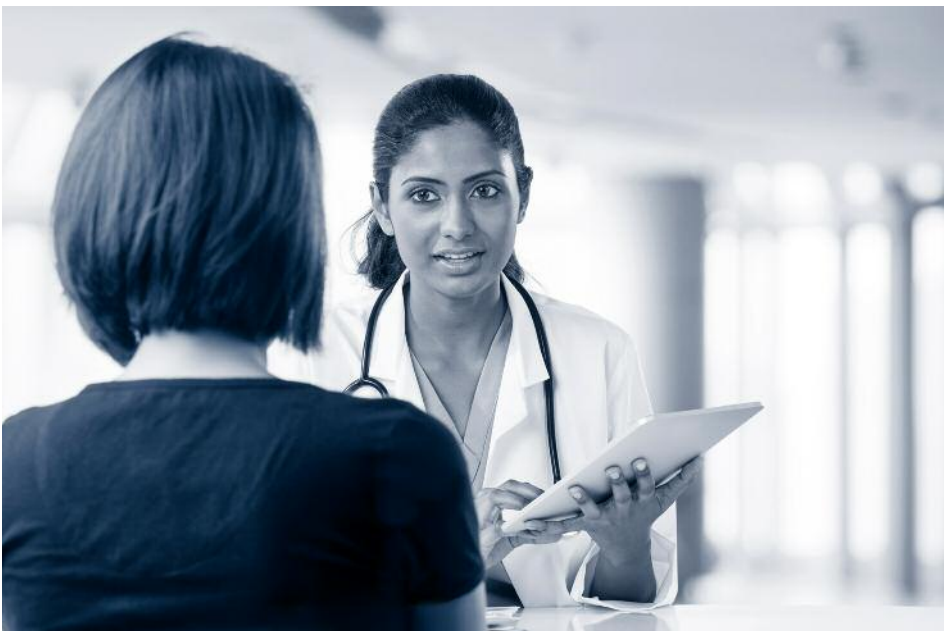
of discrimination and lower earnings across their lifespan, continue to work to maintain their economic security. We welcome the news that this generation—who fought to help many LGBT people come out of “the closet”—will be able to bring their full selves to work, at more workplaces, without fear of discrimination.

Continued on next page

Top Photo: President Barack Obama delivers remarks before he signs an executive order regarding further amendments to Executive Order 11478, Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government, and Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity, to protect LGBT employees from workplace discrimination, in the East Room of the White House, July 21, 2014. Official White House Photo by Amanda Lucidon.

MEDICARE WILL COVER TRANSITION-RELATED CARE

In May, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Department Appeals Board (DAB), an independent federal appeals board, ruled that Medicare must cover medically necessary care for individuals with gender dysphoria, just as it does for those with other medical conditions. In short, Medicare will now cover transition-related care



for transgender older adults. SAGE applauds our advocacy partners—GLAD, the ACLU, Lambda Legal, and NCLR—for their tireless advocacy on this issue. It was a life-changing victory for transgender older adults, who are finally on a more level playing field with other Medicare recipients.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA) BENEFITS EXTENDED TO SAME SEX SPOUSES

The 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) allows eligible employees to take 12 weeks of leave from their jobs without pay for family and medical reasons. With

the Windsor decision in place (the Supreme Court case that cleared the way for the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages), the Department of Labor (DOL) announced in August 2013 that it would recognize same-sex marriages, but only those of couples who live in a state that recognizes their marriage. In June of this year, the DOL announced a proposed “place of celebration” rule, meaning regardless of where a couple lives or moves, the DOL

would recognize that same-sex marriage for FMLA purposes. If and when the rule becomes final, it would ensure that LGBT individuals who take professional leave to care for a sick spouse will enjoy job security—and a little more peace of mind.

SOCIAL SECURITY

With the Windsor decision in hand, President Obama directed the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review every federal law, rule, policy and practice implicating marriage. On June 20, 2014, nearly a year after the date of the Windsor decision, DOJ completed its comprehensive, year-long review, providing guidance to federal

agencies on Windsor implementation. What does this mean? According to the review, all federal agencies have now implemented Windsor, meaning they are treating married same-sex and opposite-sex couples the same, to the fullest extent possible, under the law.

But what about Social Security benefits for same-sex couples? Here are a few points to help answer this complex question:

- **If you are married and living in a state that recognizes marriage equality, generally speaking, SSA (the Social Security Administration) will recognize your marriage.**
- **If you are in a Civil Union or Registered Domestic Partnership and living in a state that provides those forms of relationship recognition, generally speaking, SSA is going to recognize your relationship as if you were married.**
- **If you are married and were living in a state that recognizes marriage equality when you applied for Social Security benefits, or while your application was pending, SSA will honor your marriage even if you move.**
- **If, however, none of the above apply (for example, if you're married but have always been living in a state that does not recognize marriage equality), you will not receive spousal SSA benefits. For example, if you have always been living in Biloxi, Mississippi, but flew to Washington, DC, just to get married, SSA will not recognize your marriage.**

One final important message on this issue: regardless of where you live, we recommend you apply for spousal Social Security benefits, as new or increased benefits will be granted retroactively. If the law changes through legislation or litigation, you should get SSA benefits retroactive to the date of your application.

SUCCESSFUL AGING: PREPARING FOR A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER OLDER ADULTHOOD

By Jerry Chasen

When you think of getting older, what comes to mind? Possibilities, new adventures, a second or third chance to pursue a lifelong dream? Or is it anxiety, anticipation, hope, fear—or a mix of these emotions?

The subject of aging can stir up different feelings for all of us, but one thing's for sure: we all want to remain healthy, happy and independent as long as possible. With this in mind, SAGE has developed a "Successful Aging" initiative to help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, age 45 and older, navigate their older years with greater ease.

When it comes to aging, the LGBT community faces many of the same challenges and aspirations as the general population, such as health and financial concerns. Yet LGBT people also face unique challenges: they are more likely to face social isolation and certain health issues, have smaller support networks, and experience legal barriers and a lack of community from spaces that don't support them as older



WELLNESS

people or as LGBT people. At the same time, many LGBT people are also resilient and have paved their own ways through remarkable times in history. SAGE's Successful Aging addresses these concerns and taps into this resilience—first and foremost, through dialogue, both online and in person.

Through the Successful Aging Initiative, SAGE will convene gatherings in key cities where participants will learn about the realities of aging and let go of some assumptions and myths that can get in the way of health and happiness. Our goals are to create community and to open up a space where we, as LGBT people, can connect and learn about the various choices we can make



LEGACY



PREPARATION

early on in our adult lives to enhance our retirement years.

Reflection, Preparation, Wellness, Momentum, and Legacy are the five themes for our Successful Aging Initiative. Reflection helps us see what we hold dear, and what we should change going forward. Wellness—both physical and mental—provides the foundation for aging well. Preparation means making choices long before a crisis makes the choice for you. The sum of all of our choices is Legacy: we'll each be remembered by how we live and what we give.



REFLECTION

The first Successful Aging presentations will be held in Washington, DC on November 19, 2014 and in South Florida in February 2015. We'll also soon schedule presentations in New York City and Los Angeles. Visit <http://sageusa.org/successfulaging> to learn more, or contact SAGE's Director of Legacy Planning, Jerry Chasen at jchasen@sageusa.org.



MOMENTUM

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES: GOOD FOR YOU, GOOD FOR SAGE!

By Jerry Chasen

“You can’t have your cake and eat it too,” or so the saying goes. I’ve never been clear why anyone would want cake they couldn’t eat...but that’s beside the point. SAGE is now offering Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA’s)—and they’re pretty close to having some cake and getting to eat it as well! With a “CGA”, a donor can increase his or her fixed income and, at the same time, help support SAGE’s mission to improve the lives of LGBT older people around the country.

A CGA is simple. Let’s say that I want to support SAGE, but I also need to make sure I have the adequate resources I need to age securely. I make a contribution; in exchange I get a promise to be paid a fixed sum, based on the amount of my gift and my life expectancy, every year for the rest of my life. I can set it up so that payments continue for the life of another, as well—my spouse, partner or good friend, for example—with a corresponding adjustment in the payout based on their life expectancy.

From my perspective, I’ll receive:

- **An immediate tax deduction for a portion of the gift (as long as I itemize);**
- **Lifelong income for one or two people (a portion of which is tax free); and**



- **The ability to spread capital gains tax over my life expectancy (if I pay for my CGA with non-cash assets, like stocks).**

And if you choose to make SAGE your beneficiary, SAGE will receive the balance of the gift that remains when both my spouse and I have passed away.

How much I’ll receive depends on the interest rates that are in effect at the time I make the gift. It also depends on my age, and when I want the payments to begin. The older I am when my payments begin, the larger the payments.

There’s more information about CGAs available on our website at <http://www.sageusa.org>, where you’ll find both a free guide to Charitable Gift Annuities, as well as our new “Gift Illustrator” that allows you to explore your potential benefits in an easy and interactive way.

Of course I’d be delighted to discuss this opportunity with you personally. Please get in touch by email (jchasen@sageusa.org) or phone (212-741-2247 x240). We hope you’ll agree that this win-win opportunity is one worth pursuing.

In fact, I like it so much, I bought SAGE’s first CGA. That’s some tasty cake!

Jerry Chasen is the Director of Legacy Planning at SAGE. Chasen is the former principal of Miami based Chasen & Associates, PA, a pioneering LGBT Estate Planning law firm, and former Vice President (and later chief operating officer) of the Alliance for Global Good. Trained and certified as a life coach, Jerry’s coaching practice focused on the challenges of reinvention and productivity for older adults looking at “the next third” of life.

SAGE'S NATIONAL REACH AND IMPACT

SAGE's national programs ensure that LGBT older people have the supports they need, no matter where they live. These programs gradually improve how all of us age by training providers, educating policy leaders on key issues, building programs and services for LGBT older adults in different parts of the country, promoting employment and financial security, and drawing on storytelling to reduce isolation and change public policy. Visit sageusa.org for more information on these programs, including locations, eligibility and more.

SAGE'S NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON LGBT AGING

SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging (NRC) is the country's first and only technical assistance resource center aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to LGBT older adults. The NRC offers cultural competence training to aging providers and LGBT groups on the various issues affecting LGBT older people, as well as a robust website of educational resources on LGBT aging. For more information, visit lgbtagingcenter.org

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

The voices of LGBT older adults should be heard throughout Washington, D.C. Through its federal advocacy, SAGE ensures that the unique needs of LGBT older adults are addressed in Congress and throughout the federal government. We coordinate gatherings of policymakers, release original policy analysis and publications, and work with leaders in the aging field and the LGBT rights

movement to ensure that policymakers remain responsive to our issues. We also help lead important coalitions that integrate diverse elders into the policy agenda. For a round-up of the latest policy victories, turn to page 5 ("What's New on the National Stage").

SAGENET

LGBT older people in diverse parts of the country have local needs that require local solutions. Our 27 SAGENET affiliates in 20 states around the country provide services and advocacy for LGBT older adults. This vibrant network is changing lives in communities large and small with a diverse array of services and programs. They also work on city and state advocacy to ensure that public policies better support the needs of LGBT elders. To find an affiliate in your area, or to start one, visit sageusa.org/sagenet

SAGEWORKS

A fulfilling job is a vital part of one's financial and emotional well-being, but many LGBT older people encounter barriers

to employment. SAGEWorks supports LGBT people age 40 and older in finding employment by expanding participants' job hunting skills and career options, and connecting employers to diverse high-caliber candidates. SAGEWorks provides hands-on workshops, technology training and personal coaching in six cities: Chicago, Denver, Ft. Lauderdale, New York City, Philadelphia and Palm Springs, California.


SAGE STORY

Storytelling can be transformative for both the listener and the storyteller! That's why our SAGE Story program works with LGBT older adults; we want to help create community for LGBT elders through workshops, and collect stories that help change minds and move policy efforts. The personal narratives captured by SAGE Story are inspiring, funny and heartfelt. Recently, SAGE has also partnered with the national oral history project StoryCorps to collect and share the stories of LGBT elders as part of StoryCorps' OutLoud initiative. To find workshops in

your community, or to submit a story online, visit sageusa.org/sagestory

THE SAGE CENTER

The SAGE Center is a full-time center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older people age 60+ in New York City—the first center of its kind in the country. Founded in 2012, The SAGE Center provides a comprehensive array of unique services and programs related to arts and culture, fitness, food and nutrition, health and wellness, and lifelong education for LGBT elders. This innovative site provides an affirming community for LGBT older adults and inspiration for similar centers across the country.

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

A CONVERSATION WITH REGGIE VAN LEE

Making an impact in Harlem and a Road Map for Services for LGBT Elders of Color Nationwide By Keith Butler

Thanks to excellent leadership and partnership between SAGE Board Member Reggie Stanley and our development staff, SAGE recently launched its first program-specific giving circle: the SAGE Harlem Investors Circle. This group is designed to recruit individual donors to support and expand SAGE's Harlem programming, grow the number of LGBT older adults we support in the Harlem neighborhood, and ultimately build a new physical home for SAGE Harlem.

The Circle is chaired by well-known philanthropist Reggie Van Lee, who hosted a reception on June 3 to launch this campaign. Thanks to his vision and personal support, the event raised \$87,000 for SAGE Harlem! We're honored to highlight Van Lee and share his personal insights on what inspires his philanthropic nature.

WHERE DOES YOUR PHILANTHROPIC SPIRIT STEM FROM?

It really began as a child, with my parents. They were innately giving and generous. It started in our church—this notion of being part of community was embodied there. My parents were big on sharing with others at a grassroots level—providing Thanksgiving baskets of food, visiting church members in the hospital, etc. I was blessed with an upbringing that emphasized giving back.

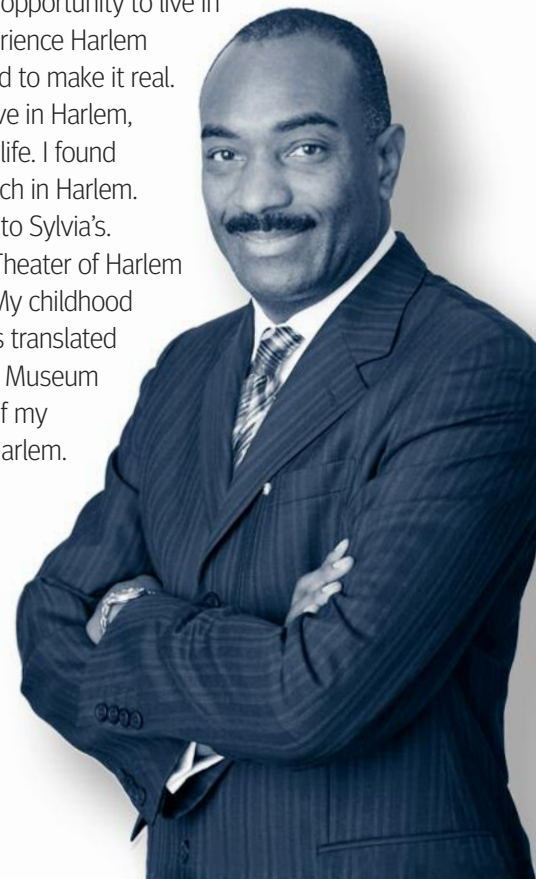
YOU'VE SUPPORTED SUCH A WIDE ARRAY OF ORGANIZATIONS – COMMUNITY, CULTURAL, LGBT. WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO SUPPORT AN ORGANIZATION?

There has to be a personal relationship to the cause - whether it's an organization that fits within a particular demographic that I hold close, or there's a context relevant to my friends or family. I have very diverse interests. For example, I studied dance for many years, and have always had a passion for the visual arts—

hence I support dance organizations and museums. I'm very devoted to education and the needs of children, so I support educational programs. As an African American, I'm invested in supporting that community. And then there are the passions of my friends—if I can help support their causes, all the better.

YOU'RE A HOUSTON NATIVE WHO SPLITS HIS TIME BETWEEN NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, DC. YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR PARIS AND A HUSBAND IN MILAN. YET YOU'VE FOCUSED SO MUCH OF YOUR CIVIC ENERGY ON HARLEM. WHY HARLEM?

My fascination with Harlem started as a child. The Harlem renaissance, the way people dressed, the food, the notion of it being NYC, the Cotton Club, its representation in the movies...utterly fascinating. When I actually had the opportunity to live in New York—and to experience Harlem firsthand—well I decided to make it real. I chose not to actually live in Harlem, but I made it part of my life. I found a United Methodist church in Harlem. After church, we'd head to Sylvia's. I volunteered at Dance Theater of Harlem and joined their board. My childhood interest in the visual arts translated to service for the Studio Museum of Harlem. I found ALL of my passions right there in Harlem. Plus, I found the impact I could make in Harlem was so much greater than at institutions in other parts of the city.



YOU'VE MADE A VERY VISIBLE IMPACT FOR SAGE HARLEM—BOTH FINANCIALLY AND THROUGH OUTREACH TO YOUR FRIENDS. WHAT SPEAKS TO YOU ABOUT THIS PROGRAM THAT PROMPTED SUCH A STRONG LEADERSHIP ROLE?

SAGE Harlem is one of the best kept secrets for LGBT elders of color. I've known about SAGE peripherally, but never knew the breadth of what it does—or how directly it served this community. There's also a bit of self-preservation to my support. I do actually aspire to be an LGBT older adult, and I want programs like this in place for my own future. Helping others will ultimately help me and people like me down the road. I can genuinely see myself as a beneficiary of the work we do today.



From Left: David Canter, Michael Adams, Christopher Jones, Reggie Van Lee, Reggie Stanley. Photo credit: Jason Russo.

SAGE WELCOMES TWO TALENTS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAGE's National Board of Directors is a talented, dedicated group of leaders from different fields, sectors and parts of the country. Recently, two new influential members joined SAGE's board. We welcome Douglas E. Harris and Chris Kann—accomplished leaders in their respective fields—who each offer critical insight and guidance to SAGE's mission of improving the lives of LGBT older people nationwide. Doug and Chris recently spoke to SAGE about their work as LGBT advocates and why they've chosen to support SAGE.

What prompted you to join the SAGE Board of Directors?

DH: Though I have known of SAGE for many years, I first started focusing on what SAGE actually does just a few years ago when my good friend Scott Bromley was honored by SAGE at its annual Fire Island fundraising event. As I learned more about the organization, I realized how important and valuable its work is to the LGBT community, and not just the older adult LGBT community. I became directly involved with SAGE when I

co-hosted the Fire Island fundraising event a couple of years ago; something that I did again in June of this year. At that point, it became an easy decision for me to become more actively involved by joining the Board.

CK: I've been hosting the Toys Party for over 10 years now which has grown to become one of the most anticipated events of the season in a large part due to the fact people feel great about giving back and making a difference in children's as well as SAGE constituents'

lives. Over the years, I've gotten to know firsthand the work that SAGE does by way of my involvement with the Toys party. I am feeling elated by the changes that have come about with the recent wave of gay marriage acceptance in our country. It is a great time to be spreading the news of the wonderful work that SAGE does and has the ability to do across the country going forward.

Can you describe the importance of SAGE's mission to your life?

DH: I have a good job, which I enjoy very much. I am in good health. I am in a stable, long-term relationship. I have a loving and supporting family and I still enjoy the company of good friends. I am lucky. I am blessed. But I also realize that I am the same age as many of the people that SAGE provides services to and that those people don't necessarily enjoy all of these benefits and, most importantly, don't have the resources and don't have a network of supporting family and friends that they can rely on. It is important to me, and important to them, that SAGE exists.

Continued on page 19

TOWN HALL ON HALSTED

By Serena Worthington

THE MIDWEST'S FIRST LGBT-FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



In any gathering of older adults, the topic of conversation will often turn to the high cost of housing. For lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, this discussion often includes questions about whether or not they will be welcomed and safe in a senior housing community. It's hard to hear that LGBT older people—many who fought discrimination to make the world better—are struggling to meet this basic need.

Across the country, cities are beginning to address this issue by creating LGBT-inclusive affordable housing developments for older adults. This fall, Chicago will join this group of forward-thinking cities when it celebrates the opening of its Town Hall on Halsted housing project, which combines housing with social services provided by two full-time case managers.

The project is comprised of two connected buildings: an historic 1907 building with public community spaces and a second location which will hold 79 housing units and retail space. By including green design features, the developers are aiming for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification.

In a recent conversation, Peter Johnson, Director of Public Relations for Center on Halsted, shared the story of this exciting new project.

How did this project come about? It bubbled up in the last five years and it's something that had really been needed for a long time. It's a partnership with Center on Halsted, the City of Chicago and Heartland Alliance. I'm happy to say that despite the harsh winter we had in

Chicago, we are still really close to our target opening date in the fall.

Why is this project important? There are specific issues that LGBT older adults face and certainly housing is one of them. Also, we recognize that not many senior housing providers are culturally competent nor are they providing programming specifically for LGBT elders. While our project is inclusive of LGBT elders as well as allies, our LGBT seniors' needs are always considered.

Can you tell me about the design process? The great thing about this partnership between us and Heartland is that we had a group of LGBT seniors—many of whom would live in a place like this—to talk to during our [research] phase about what they would want.

Can you tell me how the property is being managed? The Center on Halsted is managing all of the services (case management and programming) and the property management (development, applications and intake, maintenance) is being done by Heartland.



Serena Worthington and Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto Tico Valle touring the construction site.

How does someone qualify for this housing? People who qualify are 55 plus and meet the financial criteria for affordable housing. While the building is LGBT friendly, that is not a defining characteristic to get into the housing.

The SAGE program at the Center on Halsted is also relocating to the new building. What can folks look forward to in the new space? This will be more accessible and more comfortable and will really allow seniors to feel like they have a home and our programming will be in line with that concept. We are creating a metaphorical bridge between the Center on Halsted and Town Hall by programming cooperatively between the two buildings. We now have the whole



Town Hall Terrace.

block from Addison to Waveland so it really starts to create a campus feel for Center on Halsted.

As with other recent LGBT older adult inclusive affordable housing projects, such as the John C. Anderson Apartments in Philadelphia and Spirit on Lake in Minneapolis, interest was very high leading up the opening. How do you accommodate high demand?

You won't necessarily need a new housing site if [existing housing providers] are, in essence, LGBT friendly. Our Director of Senior Services, Britta Larson, worked with Howard Brown Health Center to create a LGBT Senior Long-Term Care

and Supportive Living Guide. She and our Senior Services Intern, Kevin Newhall, reached out to housing providers asking about LGBT competency: Do they have program? Is sexual orientation and gender identity part of their non-discrimination policy? We are realizing that the way that system change will occur is by normalizing the work we are doing at the new site.

What are you most excited about?

I'm really excited to see how residents start integrating into other types of programs at Center on Halsted because there will be some who have not used the Center. I think it will become really infectious seeing people day in and day out involved in programming at the Center and as the residential community integrates into the Center on Halsted community.

What do the soon-to-be residents seem most excited about? They are really excited about the communal space and having a place that they can call their



Town Hall Apartment.

own. During Pride fest they will have a prime seat right at the corner of Addison and Halsted.

What are you looking forward to next?


I'm looking forward to creating that metaphorical bridge and really growing our programming. It's a fun challenge to create programming for one population and to make sure they stay integrated into our other programs. We don't want separate but equal, we want all facets of the community engaged.

A CASE FOR LGBT OLDER ADULT HOUSING

Many LGBT older adults struggle to find secure and affordable housing—a reality that places them at a significant disadvantage at a vulnerable point in their lives.

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; working with local housing providers to educate them about LGBT issues and their rights; informing LGBT elders about their rights under the Fair Housing Act; developing innovative programs such as “homesharing”; and connecting LGBT elders to LGBT-friendly services.

 To learn more about housing and LGBT older people, please visit sageusa.org/housing.

It's been a season of tremendous growth for SAGE! We've launched new programs, announced upcoming expansions, offered new resources, and celebrated LGBT Pride Month across the country with friends, SAGE participants and collaborators. Here are some of the highlights. For more photos, visit flickr.com/sageusa.

A PATHBREAKING NEW STUDY ON LGBT OLDER PEOPLE,

AGES 45-75. For the last two years, SAGE has been working with Nielsen, a premiere national research firm, and Harris Interactive to conduct a national market research study on the values, lifestyles, needs, wants and beliefs of LGBT older people aged 45-75. In September 2014, SAGE and Nielsen will release the findings of this quantitative market research study, the first of its kind, which studied more than 1,800 LGBT older people; this report will include key findings in areas such as finance and retirement, housing, healthcare, support networks, and more. More importantly, the data will help ensure that aging providers, businesses, policy leaders and others take into account our interests as LGBT people in ways that better support our aging.

NYC INVESTORS CIRCLE EVENT—JUNE 10, 2014. On June 10, SAGE's Investor Circle members gathered for a thank you celebration at the home of former SAGE Board Co-Chair Frank Stark, who was instrumental in creating the SAGE Investors Circle. Guests enjoyed cocktails, food, and great company!



From Left: Richard Weber, Bernard Brahm, Norman Haffner, Roger Davenport and Hector Romero.

GENERATIONS OF PRIDE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

On June 27, SAGE, StoryCorps and the White House co-hosted "Generations of Pride," an event held at the White House to honor the lives of LGBT older people and young people. In his closing remarks, SAGE's Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications Robert Espinoza observed that "In every town and city, in every state, at the federal level and worldwide — we have so much to build upon. Our story unfolds — and it's panoramic." SAGE is currently collaborating with StoryCorps through "Outloud", a national LGBT oral history initiative.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF LGBT AMERICAN INDIAN/ TWO-SPIRIT ELDERS.

SAGE's partnership approach ensures that we work closely with the country's leading organizations to create responsive innovations for all LGBT older people. In September, SAGE partnered with the National Indian Council on Aging to co-host two workshops at their 2014 Biennial Conference, held in Phoenix, Arizona from September 3-6. The first workshop answered: What does it mean to be LGBT/Two-Spirit and older in our communities — and what are the realities and common misconceptions about LGBT people, especially elders? The second workshop provided an overview of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and described various recommendations made by the Diverse Elders Coalition, a national coalition that's advocating for policies and programs that improve aging in communities of color and LGBT communities.

SAGE IN THE NEWS. SAGE has made a splash in the media this summer! In June, a *New York Times* article covered SAGE's collaboration with StoryCorps for its national LGBT oral history initiative, "OutLoud." Later that month David Heitz covered the housing challenges faced by LGBT older adults in Los Angeles for the *Los Angeles Times*, quoting Michael Adams, Executive Director of SAGE. And in his article for Reuters, "Retirement and same-sex couples, a year after DOMA ruling" Mark Miller also covered issues of national interest and cited SAGE resources. To read these articles and see other press highlights, visit <http://sageusa.org/news>.

SAGE HARLEM INVESTORS CIRCLE EVENT—JUNE 3, 2014.

SAGE Harlem has been a beacon for the Harlem LGBT community since it opened in 2004. On June 3, 2014 people gathered at Reggie Van Lee’s home to see how SAGE has helped change the landscape for our LGBT elders in Harlem over the past decade. Read an interview with Reggie on page 10.



From Left: Reginald Van Lee, Christopher Jones, Willis Burton and Peg Alston.

RECENT GATHERINGS CELEBRATED SAGE SUPPORTERS.

Taylor Society Event—June 4, 2014. On June 4, Ketel One hosted SAGE’s Taylor Society Members at the Diageo offices for an evening of cocktails. The event served as a thank you from SAGE to members of our Taylor Society, which honors individuals who have made planned gifts to SAGE.



From Left: Robert J. Powers, Jerry Chasen, Dr. Howard Leifman, Keith Butler, Kenneth Cox and Robert Espinoza.

A NEW POLICY REPORT ON HIV AND AGING. People age 50 and older will soon represent 1 in 2 people with HIV in this country, yet few leaders in the public or private sectors are discussing the "greying of AIDS." In May, SAGE partnered

with the Diverse Elders Coalition and ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America) to release a new policy report with eight recommendations to address the needs older adults with HIV. Additionally, the three organizations co-sponsored a national teleconference for policy leaders, and for professionals in the aging, health and HIV fields. Among the recommendations offered in the report is a call to prioritize HIV and aging as a topic at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging, a gathering held every decade to address current federal policy issues in aging.



SUPPORTING NON-DISCRIMINATION AT THE STATE LEVEL.

SAGE has begun working with our affiliates in North Carolina and Pennsylvania to bring an elder voice to their statewide LGBT non-discrimination initiatives! Through three sites in North Carolina and two sites in Pennsylvania, SAGE will help coordinate SAGE Story trainings for LGBT elders in both states on effective storytelling, serving as spokespeople on non-discrimination issues, and engaging as advocates in their local communities. We know that progress for LGBT older adults needs to happen in all parts of the country, and we’re excited to partner with groups on the ground to help make change happen in those states.



SAGE RECEIVES TWO COMMUNICATOR AWARDS.

SAGE has received two 2014 Communicator Awards from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts (AIVA)! The Communicator Awards is the leading international creative awards program honoring creative excellence for communication professionals. SAGE received an “Award of Excellence” (AIVA’s highest honor) for our SAGE Story Contest Memes and an “Award of Distinction”



for our print design of SAGE’S Strategic Plan, “The Road Ahead.” Both campaigns were created by RD Design based in Milan, New York.

SAGEWORKS CAREER DAY. SAGEWorks hosted its first-ever career day at the SAGECenter this June. More than 250 ambitious job seekers arrived for resume and job interview workshops and to meet prospective employers. In September, SAGEWorks will debut another career-boosting first: the two week Career Boot Camp, an intensive training course to help participants identify job opportunities, polish interview presentations, and land that job!



Greeting guests at The SAGE Center

programming across the City. We’ll share updates in the coming months as planning progresses for this exciting new chapter.

PORTRAITS OF PRIDE. As part of this year’s LGBT Pride Celebration, SAGE worked with photographer Liz Clayman to produce four beautiful portraits of SAGE participants, which were presented on our blog alongside brief profiles of each individual. These images captured the vibrant spirit of the SAGE community—see all four on our blog at sageusa.org/blog.



James Carlson, Director of Business Development for Good Temps greets job seekers at the first-ever SAGEWorks Career Fair.

2014 TRANS HEALTH CONFERENCE. In June, SAGE attended the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. SAGE staff members provided information on our programming to hundreds of attendees, and participated in vital workshops pertaining to aging issues within trans communities.



SAGE staff brought back more information on best practices in working with transgender older adults, and made connections with other service providers as well as community members.

THE SAGE CENTER EXPANSION. Since it opened in 2012, SAGE’s innovative LGBT senior center in New York City (the first of its kind in the nation) has been serving dinner and engaging older adults with an incredible array of programs. A lively, engaged community has formed around the The SAGE Center — and now it’s about to get even bigger! An award of \$1.5M from the New York City council will help SAGE expand its senior center



CELEBRATING SAGE PRIDE 2014

June brought a multitude of Pride activities culminating with SAGE’s annual participation in the New York City Heritage of Pride march on June 29, 2014. SAGE constituents, staff and board members marched and rode the SAGE bus southward from Midtown to Chelsea hoisting signs celebrating positive aging. Edie Windsor, a SAGE constituent, SAGE Award winner and DOMA heroine joined us, garnering enormous cheers from the crowd.

For more Pride photos, visit <http://bit.ly/nycpride2014>.



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Clockwise from Top Left:

1. The SAGE contingent marches down 7th Avenue in the 45th NYC Pride Parade.
2. SAGE participants waved to the crowd from the top of a double-decker bus.
3. Recognizing our 35 year history helping LGBT older adults.
4. Marchers celebrate wisdom, the SAGE way.
5. Edie Windsor waves to the crowd.
6. It keeps getting better—marchers share our inspiring messaging.

A New Guide from SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging—En Español!

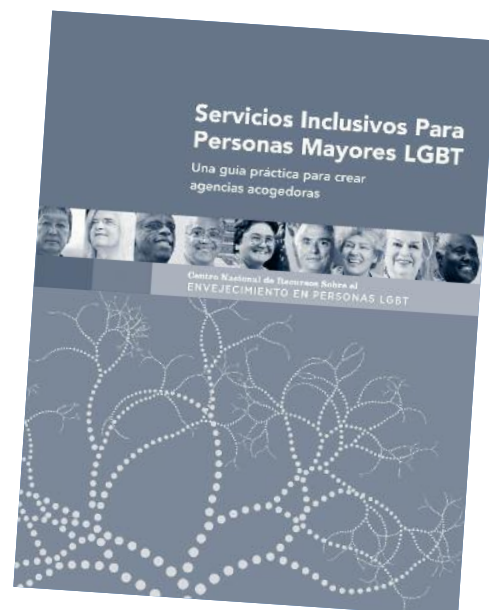
**National
Resource
Center** 
ON LGBT AGING

There are an estimated 37 million Spanish speakers in the United States today. Spanish is, by far, the most spoken non-English language in the U.S.

With that in mind, this spring the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging released *Servicios Inclusivos Para Personas Mayores LGBT: Una guía práctica para crear agencias acogedoras*, the Spanish translation of our very popular *Inclusive Services for LGBT Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Creating Welcoming Agencies*.

LGBT older adults deserve safe and inclusive services. With the release of this new guide, we can reach an even wider audience with the information they need to provide the best possible care.

This new guide is provided free of charge in both hard copy and via download on the website for SAGE's National Resource Center for LGBT Aging. You'll also find more than 20 other Spanish-language articles and publications related to LGBT aging. Visit www.lgbtagingcenter.org to learn more.



New National Resources to Improve Knowledge, Housing and Health for LGBT Older People

BUILDING RESPECT FOR LGBT OLDER ADULTS: AN ONLINE LEARNING TOOL

This online learning tool offers aging service providers an introduction to LGBT aging. Created by the Administration for Community Living and Administration on Aging, with support from SAGE and its National Resource Center on LGBT Aging (and several partner organizations), this educational program will help providers build cultural competence and learn to create safe, welcoming and inclusive services for LGBT older adults. To find this tool visit the training section of the National Resource Center's web site at www.lgbtagingcenter.org.

BUILDING INCLUSIVE HOUSING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR LGBT OLDER ADULTS: A WEBINAR

One of the biggest issues facing LGBT older adults is securing safe and affordable housing. To address this critical issue, Serena Worthington, Director of National Field Initiatives at SAGE and Cheryl Gladstone, Senior Housing Program Director at Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., co-hosted a webinar on building housing services and supports that are inclusive and supporting of LGBT elders. Visit the Audio Library on the Resources page at www.sageusa.org to find this webinar, and read more about an LGBT-inclusive elder housing project in Chicago on pg. 12.

LGBT OLDER ADULTS, HIV AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

It's estimated that by 2015, 50 percent of people with HIV in the U.S. will be age 50 and older. Yet what does the Affordable Care Act (ACA) mean for LGBT older adults with HIV? This consumer brief looks at what the ACA has done to support this population and offers information to help people with HIV understand their new health options. Visit the Resources page at www.sageusa.org to find this brief.

SAGENet

NORTHEAST REGION

SAGE of the Genesee Valley
gayalliance.org

SAGE Hudson County
hudsonpride.org

SAGE Hudson Valley
lgbtqcenter.org

SAGE Long Island
sageli.org

SAGE Maine
sagemaine.org

SAGE Philadelphia
waygay.org

SAGE Rhode Island
sageriinfo@gmail.com

SAGE Upstate
sageupstate.org

SAGE Western Pennsylvania
persadcenter.org

MIDWEST REGION

SAGE Center on Halsted
centeronhalsted.org

SAGE Cleveland

SAGE Metro St. Louis
sagemetrostl.org

SAGE Milwaukee
mkelgbt.org

SAGE West Suburban Senior Services

SOUTH REGION

SAGE Atlanta
sageatl.org

SAGE Central Virginia
gayrichmond.com

SAGE Metro DC
sagemetrodc1@gmail.com

SAGE Raleigh
lgbtcenterofraleigh.com

SAGE South Florida
sagewebsite.org

SAGE Tulsa
okeq.org

SAGE Wilmington of the Cape Fear Coast
thefrankharrfoundation.com/sage

WEST REGION

SAGE Albuquerque
pflagabq.org

SAGE of the Desert
thecenterps.org

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

SAGE Olympia
sageolympia.org

SAGE of the Rockies
gltcolorado.org

SAGE Utah
utahpridecenter.org

SAGE WELCOMES TWO TALENTS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Continued from page 11

CK: I was raised in large part by my grandmother, and I know the satisfaction and love she gained from the experience. Many, if not most, gay people who are older now do not have family or children to provide that kind of love and encouragement in their lives. SAGE has the ability to bring older LGBT people together to create a family, and that is priceless.

What do you hope to accomplish as a Board member?

DH: I would like to help SAGE increase its institutional support from the financial and financial services community. Many of the organizations in that community have very forward thinking policies on their LGBT employees. I would like them to lean forward a bit more and think about what happens to those employees once they retire or are no longer able to work.

CK: I hope to see SAGE become a nationwide symbol of compassion for LGBT older adults. I will be proud to be able to help achieve that.

SAGE is honored to salute the **Macquarie Group** for its visionary leadership and support. Over the past year, Macquarie has contributed \$85,000 to local and national programming—mostly recently as a \$25,000 Founding Sponsor of the SAGE Harlem Investors Circle, our newest initiative to expand vital programming for LGBT elders in Harlem.

We applaud **Macquarie** for standing alongside SAGE in the fight to ensure that LGBT older adults from all walks of life have the right to age with dignity and respect!

 To learn more about SAGENet, including how to become a SAGE affiliate, visit us at sageusa.org/sagenet.

sageSM

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

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