

sage<sup>SM</sup>

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

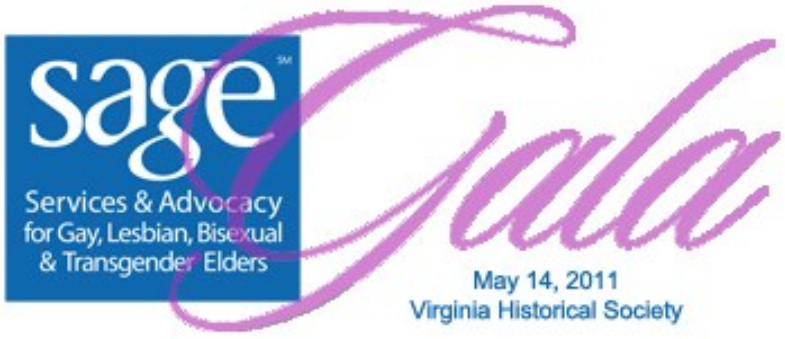
Central Virginia

# SAGE of Central Virginia

## Central Virginia's Only Organization

### Dedicated to Serving

### LGBT Older Adults Age 50 +



#### IT'S OFFICIAL!!!

We are now  
SAGE Central Virginia.

In February of 2011, GCCR's Older Adult Outreach was accepted as an official SAGE.net affiliate. Over the past 2 months the Steering Committee has been working tirelessly to put together a roll out event to introduce us to the community. The SAGE Gala will be hosted on Saturday, May 21st at 7:00 pm at the Virginia Historical Society. This historical event would not have been possible without the work of all the Steering Committee members and the support of all our LGBT community and our allies. SAGE of Central Virginia hopes to see you all there.

#### *SAGE Steering Committee:*

Cindy Bray

*Co-Chair*

Shannon Marling, CTRS,

MSG

*Co-Chair*

Thelma Bland Watson, PhD.

Jean Abbott

Jim Burns

Mary "Mazie" Florance

Lisa Furr, M.A.

Bob Jones

Bonnie Nemeth

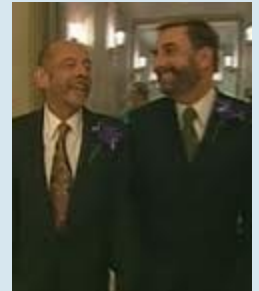
Terrie Pendleton, LCSW

Tarynn Witten PhD., LCSW

#### What else is in the news:

The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging continues to increase the amount of information available to LGBT older adults, LGBT Agencies and Aging Agencies.

Check them out at  
[www.lgbtagingcenter.org](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org)



SAGE of Central Virginia has a face book page. If you have not friended us we can be face booked at: SAGE CentralVirginia



**GCCR**

## LGBT CAREGIVING FACTS

April 2011

*If you're an LGBT caregiver, you should be aware of how current laws and practices affect you. Here's what you need to know.*

Caregiving takes many forms. While we might think of caregivers as paid aides, in reality, the majority of caregiving in the U.S. is provided by informal caregivers, usually a spouse or child. In the LGBT community, it is important to realize that many LGBT older adults do not have the same familial supports.

For example, when compared to their heterosexual counterparts, LGBT older adults are:

- Twice as likely to age as a single person
- Twice as likely to live alone

Three to four times less likely to have children to support them

While LGBT older adults may not have the same biological family supports as their heterosexual counterparts, many have developed important social networks of partners, friends, ex-partners, neighbors and others. These networks are often referred to as "families of choice."

### What's Different about LGBT Caregiving?

There are more similarities between LGBT and non-LGBT caregivers than differences—all caregivers provide critically needed support and assistance to older adults to help them age in their communities. However, LGBT caregivers' families of choice may not always be recognized under the law. It is important for LGBT caregivers to be aware of the local services in their areas, as well as the laws and regulations in their cities and/or states to ensure they and their loved ones are protected. Here are some issues for LGBT caregivers to consider:

**Health and end-of-life care:** Due to federal and some state laws, same-sex spouses and loved ones are not granted the right to oversee healthcare and end-of-life decisions. Fortunately, there are simple legal documents that can protect your choices. Read the article, **Legal Documents Every LGBT Older Adult Needs** for more information.

**Finances:** Whether you are caregiving for a partner or a friend, it is important to have certain legal documents (e.g., Financial Power of Attorney) in place to ensure that you can manage your loved one's finances in the event he/she cannot oversee them. Read the article, **Legal Documents Every LGBT Older Adult Needs** for more information.

**Family and Medical Leave:** Unfortunately, LGBT partners and family are not currently covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). FMLA provides unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons with continuation of group health insurance coverage under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave. Fortunately, many employers do extend these benefits to LGBT individuals, so be sure to check your employer's policies.

**LGBT affirmative care:** Many LGBT older adults and their caregivers can be reluctant to reach out for services for fear of discrimination. Not accessing essential services can lead to increased physical and mental health issues. For some helpful tips in identifying LGBT-affirming service providers please read **Nine Tips on Finding LGBT-Affirming Services**. <http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resource.cfm?r=4>

**WE WANT  
YOUR IDEAS!**

WHAT KIND OF SOCIAL  
EVENT(S) DO YOU WANT  
TO HAVE?

Let us know!  
Shannon Marling:  
Marlingsc@VCU.edu

Cindy Bray:  
Cindy.Bray  
@LGBTRichmond.net or  
804-622-4646 X22 (office)  
804-380-0904 (cell)

**SAGE  
CENTRAL  
VIRGINIA**

**Sponsorship  
Space**

**SAGE Contact Information**

For more information on  
how to become involved or  
be on the mailing list for  
Setting the Stage for SAGE  
events, please contact:

Shannon Marling at  
Marlingsc@VCU.edu  
Or

Cindy Bray at  
Cindy.Bray  
@LGBTRichmond.net  
or by phone at  
(804)622-4646 ext. 22 (o)  
(804)380-0904 (cell)

**Speaker Series 4th Sunday of Month from 2:00-4:00**

**Sunday, May 22nd**

**Old, Transgender and Worried:** What should transgender-identified persons be thinking about as they grow older:. Presented by Tarynn M. Witten, PhD, MSW, FGSA

**Sunday June 26th**

**Be Prepared: Protecting LGBT Families** Learn how LGBT Families in Virginia need additional supports to ensure all their decisions are protected throughout the life course. Presented by ClaireGuthrie Gantanaga and Anne Dunberg

**Sunday July 24th**

**Alternative therapies– TBA - watch newsletter.**

**Sunday August 28th**

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute:** If you're 50 or better with a curious mind and an interest in learning, join us! Presented by Members of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

**Monthly SAGE Social Event**

**Tuesday, June 14, 6 pm Dinner and a Movie**

Meet at Banditos at 6 pm and then meet at Richmond Triangle Players at 7:15 for Movie Night. The movie is: *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

This Academy Award-winning 1984 documentary is a perfect way to celebrate National Gay Pride month. This documentary is an absolute must see! (Not to be confused with Sean Penn film.) **Tickets \$5, free popcorn with drink purchase**

**Tuesday July 9th 9:00 aM—12: 00 Community Service**

**Projectat Foodbank of Virginia** Meet at 1415 Rhoadmiller Street Richmond, VA 23220). SAGE participants who are interested in being more involved in your community this social is for you. Volunteers can work all 3 hours or in shifts to help work in the warehouse.

**Sunday, August 21st 3:00PM-5:00 PM—SAGE Luau**

Hosted at the Gay Community Center of Richmond  
Grass Skirts, Appetizers, cocktails with umbrellas and your closest friends to round out a summer of fun. Watch for more details



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And Attendees!*

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VCU Department of Gerontology

Jean Abbott and Mazie Florance

*in memory of Nancy A. Abbott*

*Please support those businesses that support us!  
Watch this Space for more information in coming months!*

