

A Message from SAGE

June 2009 was marked by celebration! Kicking the excitement off, President Barack Obama proclaimed June 2009 LGBT Pride Month. In addition to commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Stonewall and the birth of the current gay rights movement, Obama “call[ed] upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Then, on June 13, SAGE Metro St. Louis celebrated its first anniversary and the work and dedication of our local LGBT leaders. With over 60 guests in attendance, we honored the inaugural SAGE Visionaries for their activism and service to the LGBT community and their continued efforts to achieve LGBT equality. SAGE is grateful for all of their shared talent, time, and passion! We invite you to read their inspiring and humbling stories on our website and join us in thanking our SAGE Visionaries for the groundbreaking work that they’ve done.

A couple of weeks later, on June 27 and 28, PrideFest St. Louis celebrated its 30th anniversary. SAGE was proud to join in the festivities with the SAGE Hospitality Booth. In addition to distributing nearly 500 bottles of free water, SAGE provided a relaxing shaded area for older adults and Pride attendees to take a break from the sun.



We would like to thank our PRIDE sponsors, Beauvais Manor, Tower Grove Manor, Get Promoted, Mederi Caretenders and PrideFest St. Louis, for supporting our efforts to make Pride safe and fun for everyone! Additionally, many thanks to all of our PrideFest volunteers and supporters; we couldn’t have done this without you!

Finally, we want to thank our supporters who have contributed towards our \$5,000 matching grant. To date, we have raised \$2,528! Let’s keep it up! These generous donations allow SAGE to provide services and advocacy for LGBT older adults, their families and friends. If you haven’t given, now is the time as we need to raise an additional \$2,472 by the end of July to meet our goal. Every dollar counts, \$10, \$30, \$50 or more helps meet our goal. Donations to our matching grant can be made online at www.SageMetroSTL.org or by returning the donation form in this newsletter.

We look forward to the coming year and having you join us as SAGE develops new programs for the community. Be sure to see our upcoming events and new program announcements on the following pages.

Stay safe and cool,

SAGE Monthly Events

Events at Tower Grove Manor

Location: 2710 South Grand Blvd.,
St. Louis, MO 63118

SAGE Time

Join SAGE every Monday morning at Tower Grove Manor for coffee, tea, and more. We have been having a great time playing Wii Bowl – so come on by! At noon, you are invited to enjoy lunch at Tower Grove Manor for \$5 per person.

Date: Every Monday **Time:** 10 a.m. 12 noon

Tia Chi—Exercise Class

Get up and stretch with the residents of Tower Grove Manor for Tia Chi.

Date: Every Wednesday **Time:** 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Games at Tower Grove Manor

Invite your friends and join the residents of Tower Grove Manor every Friday for card games and more. Have lunch at 12 noon for \$5 per person.

Date: Every Friday **Time:** 1 p.m.

SAGE LGBT Monthly Grief Discussion

The SAGE LGBT Grief Support programs are open to all LGBT adults (18 or older) who have experienced the death of a partner, family member and/or friend. The groups are led by trained facilitators. Please **RSVP** for these groups by calling: 314-821-4845 or by email: swayland@sagemetrostl.org

Date: 3rd Tuesday, 7/21 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.



Events at MoKaBe's Coffee House

Location: 3606 Arsenal @ Grand in St. Louis

SAGE Caregiver Coffee

Are you providing care and support for a partner, parent, friend or other family member? Providing care and support for a loved one with a chronic illness or disability is an important but often overlooked role in society. At SAGE we recognize the contribution and care you are providing and wish to support you as a caregiver. To assist in the journey as a caregiver, we offer the Caregiver Coffee. Join with other LGBT and allied caregivers once a month for networking, support, and special presentations.

Dates: 3rd Wednesday, 7/15 **Time:** 6 p.m.

(Look for the SAGE Metro St. Louis table sign!)

Events at the LGBT Community Center

Location: 625 N. Euclid, Suite 420, St. Louis, MO 63108 Phone: 314-367-1166

The Simply Seasoned Social “Aged to Perfection”

Hosted by Sylvia, Mary Ann and C-Note
Every Thursday

Come and enjoy friends, laughter, fun talks, and more...

1st Thursday: Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screenings, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

2nd Thursday: Discussion of the Month, From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

3rd Thursday: Workshops/Special Guests, From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

4th Thursday: Generations, From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sponsored by The Center and SAGE

Special Events in July, August, & September

SAGE Café Potluck

Invite your friends, make or purchase your favorite dish and join us for the SAGE Café hosted by our friends at Tower Grove Manor. After the SAGE Café make plans to enjoy a friendly game of Bridge, Scrabble or even Wii Bowling. Residents at Tower Grove Manor are excited to have us join them for friendship, food, and games! RSVP by calling (314) 821-4845 or send an email to swayland@sagemetrostl.org



Date: Saturday, July 25th **Time:** 11:30 a.m. **Location:** Tower Grove Manor

SAGE Wine and Cheese Reception Hosted by Bethesda Terrace



SAVE the date! Bethesda Terrace a retirement community in South County is hosting a SAGE Wine and Cheese Reception. Join your friends for a relaxing afternoon and take a tour of the Bethesda Terrace property. ALL are invited to attend. This event is open to all LGBT Adults. Please RSVP for this event by calling (314) 821-4845 or by email to swayland@sagemetrostl.org

Date: Tuesday, August 25th **Time:** 2 p.m.

Location: Bethesda Terrace ~ 2535 Oakmont Terrace Drive ~ St. Louis, MO 63129

(314) 846-6400 website: <http://www.bethesdahealth.org/residences/?resID=8>

(Bethesda Terrace is located behind Bethesda Southgate on Telegraph Rd. Take the entrance past the nursing home on the right side of Telegraph.)

NEW! SAGE on the Road



All Aboard!! SAGE on the Road is ready to go. Go where you say? Chicago! Mark your calendar for September 11-13, 2009. The SAGE Advisory Council is working hard to make the final arrangements. A highlight of the trip will be joining SAGE Center on Halsted (Chicago) and SAGE Milwaukee for the first Midwest SAGE gathering as we share an afternoon BBQ on September 12, 2009. Final details will be sent by the end of next week.

SAGE on the Road is a collaboration between SAGE Metro St. Louis and St. Charles Community College.



In Your Own Words ~ By Flowing Margaret Johnson

The fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, seen historically as the beginning of the modern day lesbian, gay and transgendered movement in the United States, caused me to look back on my life and remember Stonewall. What I realize is my brain delivers memories of celebrations of Stonewall and historical facts about Stonewall, but I was not aware of the Stonewall Riots when they actually happened.

The riots began on June 27, 1969 in New York City and lasted for several days. At the time I was 29, had identified as a gay woman for about a year, and was not yet a feminist. My life at the time revolved around my position as a young teacher at Meramec Community College and my newly found lesbianism that centered around my first partner and a small close-knit group of female and male couples. We mostly socialized in one another's finished basements. Every once in a while a group of us would venture over to East St. Louis for an adventure among drag queens. We were a closeted bunch, had no politics, and spent our time drinking, partying, and trying to outdo one another's bad jokes.

The most serious problem at the time of Stonewall was the transparency of the lesbian and gay community and the subsequent invisibility of the movement as it struggled to be born. That transparency encompassed my life as a lesbian even as I became president of the faculty at Meramec Community College and began to understand the need for feminism. I have a vivid memory of standing before the faculty while I facilitated a meeting and thinking how much I would like to declare my happiness at my newly found lesbianism. I, of course, did no such thing. I would probably have been fired.

Sometime during my tenure as president of the faculty we sent a questionnaire out to the faculty asking what qualities should be considered for hiring and retention. One of many items was "personal lifestyle." The faculty over-whelmingly rejected "personal lifestyle" as a criteria. I then endured a stream of faculty coming to my office saying that apparently the faculty didn't realize that disallowing lifestyle as a reason to not hire or fire a teacher might give homosexuals some employment protection and "we wouldn't like that." I, still firmly in the closet, indicated I and the vast majority of faculty thought lesbian and gay faculty was fine. My homophobic colleagues went away clueless. Such were the contradictions of the closet.

I've been out of the closet since the late seventies, and helped create many of the local liberation organizations that made and continue to make our lives as LGBT folks better. Some of these organizations existed for a time, pushed our liberation forward, and ceased to exist when no longer needed. Many of them were radical, direct action groups using non-violent civil disobedience. Among them are Women Rising in Resistance, Act-Up, St. Louis Acts Out, and Queer Nation St. Louis.

Some of the groups still exist in an evolved form. St Louis Pride, PROMO, and Gay American Youth come to mind. I would be remiss if I did not mention the importance of our own media. The Gay News Telegraph, which later became the Gay and Lesbian News Telegraph, was critical to the development and maturation of our local movement. The Vital Voice serves our community today.

It is vitally important that all of us, and especially those who have no memory of the movement history, acknowledge and remember those who created the spaces for us to live life to the fullest. When I began my career as an educator in St. Louis I could be fired for being a lesbian. Fear kept me and my lesbian and gay community invisible except to each other. The courage of those who stood in the streets proclaiming our love for the same sex, who lobbied scorning legislators, and who blocked the court house doors has changed our culture.

Continued on page 5.



In Your Own Words—Continued

The current question is no longer whether lesbians can teach, but whether lesbians can marry.

It's essential that we acknowledge that our laws and cultural ideas change and evolve only in as much as they are challenged by committed citizens. Slavery ended, non-white males got the vote, workers got the right to unionize, women got the vote, and folks who are not heterosexuals are getting our rights due to the work and diligence of community organizers and activists. There would be no more fitting thank you to those brave drag queens, cross-dressing dykes, and other Christopher Street queers than for all of us to put our own shoulder to the wheel and move our laws and culture just a little closer to justice for all.

Calling all writers: SAGE is looking for community members to contribute your own stories for the column, In Your Own Words. We know there are many interesting stories out there and we want to hear from you. Simply write a story (preferably 200 words or less). We are interested in a wide variety of topics including: Movie, Book and Restaurant Reviews, Coming Out Stories, Life as an LGBT Older Adult, Travel Journals, etc. This is your column and we want to hear from you. Submit your story to editor@sagemetrostl.org . SAGE reserves all rights to approve, edit, or reject editorial content submitted for publication in the SAGE News. Articles should be submitted in an electronic format, preferably by Email to editor@sagemetrostl.org in text, Word or PDF format. Digital photographs are preferred.

Introducing Pamela Bigelow, SAGE Volunteer Newsletter Editor

SAGE is pleased to introduce our volunteer newsletter editor, Pamela Bigelow. Pamela also serves as a member of the SAGE Advisory Council. Pamela brings many skills and talents as a volunteer to SAGE including: many years of nonprofit management, board and advisory council membership; world travels having moved to St. Louis from Hong Kong; and over twenty-five years of writing/editing experience. SAGE is pleased to have Pamela join our team of volunteers. She can be contacted via email at: editor@sagemetrostl.org

Cooling Centers and Energy Assistance

During the hot summer months a number of programs are made available to assist the community. For information on cooling centers and energy assistance programs, call the following numbers:

Missouri Metro Area:

United Way of Great St. Louis 1-800-427-4626

St. Louis Area Agency on Aging: 314-612-5900

State of Illinois: 1-800-843-6154



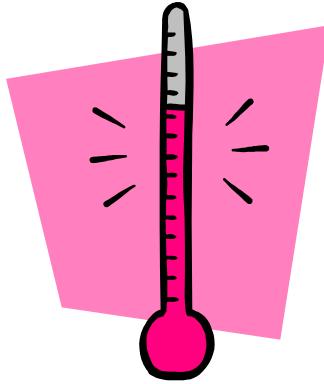
Matching Grant

\$5000

Support SAGE and your donation will be matched dollar for dollar!

Your donation towards the matching grant assists with our on going strategic goals of:

- Increasing our community outreach
- Developing new programs
- Providing trainings & workshops
- Establishing a community based office
- And much more...with your help



To date twenty-five individual and corporate donors have given **\$2,528** in one month.

During the month of July we ask you to help us raise the remaining \$2,472.

SAGE has over 300 people on our newsletter list. If each person gives at least \$10, we will not only meet, but exceed the amount needed for this matching grant!

SAGE Founding Ambassador—Matching Grant Donation Program

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____ I wish for my donation to remain anonymous: ____Yes ____No

Donations made to SAGE Metro St. Louis are tax deductible. According to MO State Law, all returned checks may be accessed a \$25 fee.

Return this form along with your check to:
 SAGE Metro St. Louis
 P.O. Box 260016
 St. Louis, MO 63126

Or make your donation online at: www.SageMetroSTL.org

Thank you for supporting the work of SAGE through your donation. All donations are tax deductible as SAGE is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization.

Announcements

Volunteers Needed Grief Support Facilitators

SAGE Metro St. Louis is looking for volunteers to co-facilitate grief support groups for older LGBT adults in the St. Louis community.

Grief support groups provide those who have experienced a painful loss with a circle of friends with whom they can share feelings and experiences without fear of judgment and discrimination.

This volunteer opportunity is open to all but may be of particular interest to those in the helping professions and to graduate students in social work or counseling. Training will be provided for all interested persons. Support groups typically span 6 weeks with 2 hr group sessions held once per week in the Tower Grove area.

The next training session is currently scheduled for July 29th from 6:30-8:30 PM. Please contact Kathryn Stinson (kstinson@sagemetrostl.org) or Sherrill Wayland (swayland@sagemetrostl.org) or call (314) 821-4845 if you are interested in attending the training session.

Environmentally Friendly Newsletter Distribution



At SAGE Metro St. Louis, we made an environmental decision to have our SAGE News as an online newsletter. This not only helps reduce our carbon footprint, but it also saves money in monthly printing and postage costs.

We realize that everyone does not have access to our online Newsletter and many may prefer a print version.

Here is how you can help:

- Word of mouth is the best marketing tool. If you know of others who would enjoy receiving our newsletter, please forward it to them via email.
- If you have friends who do not have email, print the SAGE News for them using the double sided print setting on your printer.
- If you prefer a printed version and have access to a printer, we request that you print a copy to read to help keep our printing and postage costs down.
- If you have received our Newsletter and do not have access to the internet, please call our office at (314) 821-4845 and we will send you a printed copy of the newsletter.

Thank you for helping us to provide an environmentally friendly and cost efficient newsletter.

July, 2009

SAGE Metro St. Louis
P.O. Box 260016
St. Louis, MO 63126

Phone: (314) 821-4845
email: swayland@sagemetrostl.org
web: www.SageMetroSTL.org



SAGE Metro St. Louis strives to enhance the quality of life of LGBT older adults through service, advocacy and community awareness.

Thank you to our SAGE Sponsors!

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Debra K. Schuster, PC - Attorney at Law
Companion Care
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In-Kind Support

Get Promoted LLC
Tower Grove Manor, A Retirement Community

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Volunteer Editor

Pamela Bigelow