

The Rainbow Seniors Logo



***Promoting and addressing life issues affecting the  
general welfare of older gay, lesbian, bisexual,  
transgender, and intersex (GLBTI) individuals***

[RSWNY](#)[HOME](#)[ANNUAL  
REPORTS](#)[BY-LAWS](#)[COMMITTEES](#)[CONTACT LIST](#)[UPCOMING  
EVENTS](#)[NEWSLETTERS](#)[ARCHIVES](#)Empty Closet  
Articles[February 2005](#)[December 2004  
January 2005](#)[November 2004](#)[October 2004](#)[September 2004](#)[August 2004](#)[July 2004](#)[June 2004](#)[May 2004](#)[April 2004](#)[March 2004](#)[February 2004](#)[December 2003](#)

## *The Empty Closet*

**November 2003****Moving Ahead: Rainbow Seniors of Western New York (RSWNY)****By Sherlea Dony, Vice President**

RSWNY is a group focusing on older GLBTs. Members range in age from our 40s to our 70s and even 80s. We exist to provide personal services as well as workshops and social activities for our members.

Some of the more able-bodied of our group can provide personal assistance such as transportation, picking up prescription refills, or getting groceries for our less-abled peers. Equally important, we are ready and able to provide companionship and telephone reassurance. We know that there are probably many senior GLBTs in the community who aren't aware of our services, so if you are out there and in need of assistance and interaction, please contact us at 585-442-6369 (voice). You don't have to be isolated. We care and want to get to know you!

In addition to providing personal contact/assistance, RSWNY provides services to older GLBTs through social and life-enriching programs. We have social events as well as discussions or workshops led by professionals in the community who have information we need and want to know. We've also begun networking with community-based organizations that provide human services for older people so that we can share services and programs and increase awareness about the special needs of older GLBTs.

We recognize that "senior" encompasses a significant range of ages and needs. Our chronologically younger members may be interested in investing wisely and planning for retirement; some of our older members are already retired and in need of personal services or someone to talk to, or perhaps they simply like to get together with others who share similar interests. Our programs are designed with this age range in mind.

RSWNY promotes positive images of growing older and the importance of our community, and we advocate for the rights of older GLBTs in both the gay and non-gay communities. Within our organization, RSWNY strives for substantial representation of people 50 years of age and older and an equitable balance of men and women, abled and differently abled, representing diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and economic groups.

Speaking of positive images, RSWNY and its members were involved in ImageOut this year. Sandra Ehman won second place in the ImageArt/Gallery event for her sculpture, and Ginny Dekin read one of her poems at the ImageArt/Poetry event. In addition, we co-sponsored the movie "Lily Festival" at the Dryden Theater, about two older women who fall in love. RSWNY is also one of the co-sponsors at the Halloween Costume Party at ARI. So you see, growing older doesn't have to be a negative thing. Older GLBTs are alive and well and doing great things!

RSWNY continues to have group social events and informational programs. Our monthly

[January 2004](#)

November 2003

[PHOTO  
COLLECTIONS](#)

[MEMBERSHIP  
FORM](#)

[FEEDBACK  
FORM](#)

[LINKS](#)

schedule will soon be expanding to include a game night and other events. Our Cheap Date program--lunch and a movie on the third Thursday of the month--is off and running. Contact Sandra Ehman at 473-4765 for more information or a ride. And there's our monthly potluck social, which often features a guest speaker.

Last month we had several guests join us: Ann Young and Todd Plank. We're excited about working more closely with the GAGV, and it was great to get to know Ann and Todd! Todd talked about his personal interest in GLBT gerontology, as well as LifeSpan's interest in working with aging GLBTs. (LifeSpan is the clearinghouse for organizations on aging in the Rochester area.)

RSWNY's membership dues are \$30/year, but we never turn people away who want to join but can't afford to. Exceptions can be made based on financial need, so please don't let the dues requirement keep you from becoming involved! As with any not-for-profit group, we are always looking for motivated people to assist with our various activities and services. If you have some time and energy, we have a place for you!

We also graciously and gratefully accept monetary donations, which are tax deductible. At this time memberships are our only source of income. Our vision is to become the premier organization for senior GLBTs from the Southern Tier, Ithaca, Rochester, Buffalo, and all places in between. We plan to develop a terrific support system that will endure for the long run!



© 2004 by RSWNY. All rights reserved.

Designed by Karmicom Design.

[Click here to contact](#)