

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

April 2004

By Marilyn Mitchell, Secretary

It is a pleasure and an honor to write an article for the Empty Closet. What I wish to share are, a) my reason for being a part of this new, active and vital organization, b) upcoming events, and c) encourage people to participate in the activities of RSWNY.

Why did I choose to become an active member of RSWNY? First, I believe the purpose and goals of RSWNY are worth repeating so that I can better share personal reasons for the attraction. "The Mission of this Corporation is to provide services that promote quality living and address specific life issues affecting the general welfare of older gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, and transgendered individuals (GLBT)." The goals, summarized are: a) provide personal services to older GLBTs; b) provide social and life enriching programs and events to older GLBTs; c) network and collaborate with community-based human service organizations that are available to older people and; d) provide positive images and advocate for the rights of older GLBTs.

Western New York, from my perspective and experience, has a very active GLBT community - politically, socially, emotionally, and professionally. I have traveled extensively and believe the GLBT community we are privileged to be a part of here is one of the most active and most welcoming. Looking at EC listing of groups in Western NY there is a group for everyone. There are events like the week long Image Out cultural experience, Pride Parade and picnic, Sweetheart Ball, etc. GAGV now has impressive opportunities for youth of the GLBT community. RSWNY has now taken strong roots and is a visionary organization for older GLBTs. If this organization had been here when I was younger and included the mission and goals stated above, I believe I would have wanted to find out if I could participate. My reason? Quite simply, this would have been my future "family" from which I would have found support, help, companionship and laughter. It would have become a plan for the future, a forum for discussions of politics, religion, traveling, and a senior citizens center. It truly is all of those things and more, and I am so grateful it is here for me now that I am truly a senior citizen. Each time I go to a meeting or an event, I meet old and new friends, laugh, share meals, and feel at home.

RSWNY began one year ago and is moving faster than most organizations I have been involved in over the years. Sometimes my head is spinning with the speed of development. We have applied for and are awaiting approval to become tax exempt. We have fun activities occurring between monthly organization meetings like Euchre and cheap movies. There are workshop events to stretch our minds and assist in making our lives better now and in the future. During the monthly meetings (third Sunday of the month, 4:00-7:00 PM), we have a great family dinner with everyone sharing food from home, a brief meeting, and then either games, brown bag auction, pool party, Bingo, summer picnic, holiday gift exchange, etc. During March, we had an Intergenerational Panel, comprised of GLBTs from almost every decade sharing their experiences. Look for more plans through our calendar of events in another section of the EC. We have several

[January 2004](#)

[November 2003](#)

[PHOTO
COLLECTIONS](#)

[MEMBERSHIP
FORM](#)

[FEEDBACK
FORM](#)

[LINKS](#)

committees of RSWNY - Workshop, Events, Membership, Transportation, Communication, Nominating, Public Relations, and Fundraising. The development of our new Web site is well underway with plans to implementing it in April. When it is available check out the site for information about the organization, committees, events, and how to contact us. It will be colorful, inviting, and a very informative web site.

Perhaps you have already sensed the excitement I have for RSWNY, an organization that has become such an integral part of my life and my future. Please come and check it out for yourself. The members include sign language interpreters so if you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, you will find the activities totally accessible.

Where can you find the monthly meeting? For one year, we met at ARI. We are currently meeting at Peace Lutheran Church, 125 Caroline Street. We hope to have our own space in the near future. To ARI and Peace Lutheran, we are extremely grateful. I am confident that with the growth we are experiencing, it won't be too far into the future when we will have our own long-term permanent home and office. This is a movin' and groovin' organization, filled with active and vibrant members and guests! I am proud to be a part of its happenin' and glad it is here for me to join.



© 2004 by RSWNY. All rights reserved.
Designed by Karmicom Design.
[Click here to contact](#)