

The Rainbow Seniors Logo



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

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## *The Empty Closet*

### July 2004

#### Rainbow Seniors

by Bob Hammond, RSWNY President

Has it been a year already? Time does fly when you are having fun and working with wonderful people. On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who gave us a sign of confidence when a group of 15 decided it was time to make a difference for the <sup>3</sup>older<sup>2</sup> GLBT community in western New York.

Our group of 15 has grown more than I ever imagined in a very short time. Our numbers now reach almost 15 times that number. This is just a beginning. You, each and every one, should think about where our/your community is headed in the next year and beyond. If you do not think of yourself as <sup>3</sup>old<sup>2</sup> join the club, we don't think we are old either! Our ages range from 32 to over 80. We have already made friends and alliances with groups outside of Rochester and Monroe County. Syracuse, Buffalo, Ithaca know we are here.

- June 2003: We first met each other and decided a voice was needed for the <sup>3</sup>older<sup>2</sup> GLBT community.
- July 2003: We turned a few faces. Who ever expected a group of <sup>3</sup>old<sup>2</sup> people in the Pride Parade?
- October 2003: Yes, we liked costumes and fun at the Queertastic Halloween Party and of course we can't forget ImageOut.
- November 2003: We were officially incorporated by the State of New York.
- March 2004: We received our tax exempt status from the I.R.S.
- April 2004: We unveiled our website, [www.rainbowseniorswny.org](http://www.rainbowseniorswny.org)
- May 2004: We were fortunate enough to be included in a joint awareness training effort with the GAGV for the staff of Lifespan.
- June 2004: Our first birthday party! Seeing the friendly faces of friends old and new, is always a good time. The birthday cake was yummy. Were YOU there to join us?

Where do we go from here? Plans are in the works for Pride 2004. There may be a few surprises in store for you as well. Last year we started the parade as a small group and more than doubled in size along the way! I wonder what will happen this year? Our limits are only those thoughts and ideas we have not yet considered. Why not join us and give us your ideas? It was very interesting to see the reactions at our first intergenerational panel. The youth from the GAGV learned about our times and trials and we learned about the difficulty they have as well. In many ways today is easier than in the past to <sup>3</sup>come out<sup>2</sup> but it is never easy. Everyone learned something and no one left without making a new friend.

There will be some very interesting times and events happening in the next year so let's

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all be a part of making history.

We currently meet the 3rd Sunday of every month. Our board meeting is at 2 P.M. followed by a potluck dinner at 4 P.M. We are currently meeting at Peace Lutheran Church, located at 125 Caroline St. Our July meeting is the day after the Pride Parade. If you are here from out of town for the festivities then stay over and join us. Check out [our website](#) for any updates or call 585-442-6369.



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