

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

September 2004

Reaching Out

by DeeDee Corcimiglia

First I want to just start off by saying that Rochester's GLBTI is such an awesome community! Getting involved with this group has been a very life-growing experience for me. I am probably one of our younger members of Rainbow Seniors of Western New York. I am forty-eight.

I went to, I believe, their first organized get together pot luck. It was at Ellison Park and my partner and I had a very good time and even joined that very day. All the people were friendly and it really felt like a safe place to be me in our aging, but very active, fun community.

As meetings continued and we continued to attend, I was intrigued by a lot of things. The outreach to our aging community in so many ways. I started to get more involved and when they had their first board voted in by the group, I became a member at large. I was meeting a lot of new people and seeing many people I had not seen in years. It was really fun and exciting as new people came in and new ideas developed.

Then an old friend of mine died. I had not seen her for several years. I meant to see her. Once again, at her funeral I was seeing some people I hadn't seen in a long time. And this really hit me hard. I don't want to see all my old friends just when someone dies. I want to see you now!

Personally, I just love people, old and young. I don't think there should be so much emphasis on age or sex or race or religion or size or just about anything that is different from you. We all have, if we're lucky, beating hearts.

We have a new meeting place beginning with this September's potluck: the First Universalist church of Rochester located at 150 S. Clinton downtown. I am very excited about this for many reasons. We will be centrally located right in the downtown area. It will be at a place where all people from all walks are welcome. It's on the first floor with plenty of windows that is not only handicap accessible, but easy for all to get to. A parking area right next to the building for those who need to be closer, and plenty of parking in a very large lot for those of us who need the exercise. The meeting space is huge and it is so fun to see us need to have this space to accommodate our large group.

Also as we grow, our ideas grow! And that is where you come in: we need your ideas also. We need to keep learning to reach out to our aging but very active community. You also may know someone who interested in helping this group grow or someone who is shut in and needs this group. We have several committees to join up and help out with. We have a bunch of great people who are very active on the board. We also have a great bunch of fellow members too! When there was something that needed to get done,

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someone has always stepped up and taken it on.

Our yearly membership is \$30, \$50 for families. We also have scholarships available to help make the fee affordable. We need to be able to pay postage, rent and other expenses, however we can't afford to not have you with us. So, in saying that, donations are certainly welcome too.

We also have a web site www.rainbowseniorswny.org. How cool is that? Check it out. OK, that is what I know and I look forward to seeing you again or meeting you real soon.



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