

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

March 2005

Never Let It Be Said...

By Sherlea Dony, VP

Calling all African American, Latino, Native American, Asian, and transgender GLBTI individuals of a certain, ahem, age! We need you! Rainbow Seniors of Western New York doesn't choose to be an Anglo organization. We want to be diverse and inclusive. Problem is, we need you to come and join the fun.

We all acknowledge that GLBTI individuals often find it easier to identify with their own gay subcultures (and we have so many!). However, we also share common interests and issues when it comes to aging—affordable housing, health care, dating, just to name a few. I know I'm not alone when I state that getting to know the people who attend RSWNY potlucks and other events has deeply enriched my life.

RSWNYers have grown up in a variety of cultures, Anglo and non Anglo alike. The feeling of kinship and camaraderie that develops through shared issues and concerns—with our sexual orientation as a common base and the recognition that we are getting older—is all good. It will only get better as more folks join in, once a month. So let's break out of our same old same and share stories, experiences, laugh together, enjoy some excellent food and just hang out.

We've approached several other community organizations and established ties, but it's been hard to get more "Rainbow" into our potlucks. So, here is a direct appeal to the over 40ish African American, Latino, Native American, Asian and transgender GLBTI individuals out there. If you've been wondering where the party is... If you're afraid joining in might be like walking into a bar alone... you can now rest assured. The *Hi, how are you? Good to see you!* that you'll receive will be warm and genuine. Come play!

RSWNY has a monthly potluck on the third Sunday of the month. Our next get together is March 20, 4 p.m., 1st Universalist Church, corner of S. Clinton and Court. Parking is off Court behind the church; the lot directly behind the church is handicapped only, the lot next to the church lot is for those more abled individuals.

Members get in for free; guests \$3.00. No one is ever turned away for lack of funds. EVERYONE is welcome.

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