

Rainbow Seniors July column  
by Sandra Ehman

Continuing along from last month's column about family, I've been giving some thought to "family" as it applies to the GLBT Community... How many times have we asked ourselves and each other if someone we see is "family"? In some instances it's pretty important, right? especially if we want to get to know (hit on) them?

Think about that word and how it affects us as a community. As time goes by and we move along life's continuum, the definition morphs, doesn't it?

The bottom line is, however, that we ALL need someone, no matter who or how we are defined.

Our family at RSWNY embraces everyone of any age. A good example of that was apparent at our dance on May 26th. From awesome 20 something's dancing the night away to the 70 pluses who joined in, having a great time (drug and alcohol free, I might add) laughing, eating, waiting to see if they won a raffled basket. Wow! A real rainbow famly.

We are a fun lovin' group. Enjoying life every day. At times, tho, we are serious seniors—when some one of us is ill or has problems, we visit, prepare meals, run errands, drive friends and relatives and so on. This is what support and comfort are all about. What it means to be cared about and loved. Family.

At this point we are a "young" group being only in existence for 3 short years, celebrating our b.d. this month. Over this time we have tried many things, some worked, some didn't. Others fell by the roadside. Look for us. We're everywhere. At Pride gatherings, concerts, workshops, picnics, parties, even have had our own workshops. We are not stereotypical old farts by a long shot. Get to know us and surprise yourselves.

One of our members is a hospice volunteer. We are nurses, sign language interpreters, bikers, artists, farmers, teachers, in food service, unemployed, disabled, have health issues and are healthy. But no matter what, we are only a phone call away from each other. Over 18? Come join us.

Our picnic on August 20 with the infamous brown bag auction is a hoot and a great way to get to meet us. We have swimming on Thursdays, call Sherlea @ 585.544.2633. For euchre info, call Ginny @ 585.473.4765. Our yoga class is on hiatus for June 28 and July and starts again in August. Our family is waiting to welcome YOU!!! Our board of directors meets on the third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m., before we eat. It's an open meeting. Lastly, watch for info on our October 28<sup>th</sup> dance. Our web page is [www.rainbowseniorswny.org](http://www.rainbowseniorswny.org) or call us for more info at 585.442.6369.