

Rainbow Seniors of Western New York June 2006
By Bob Hammond

They say that spring time is when a man's thoughts turn to.....
Well, springtime is when I start thinking about what has happened in the past and what I hope to see happen in the future.

So much has happened since I moved to Rochester in 1998. I knew a few people in Rochester before I moved here. As much as people complain about this area, be it the people or the weather or whatever, I, for one, am glad that I moved here instead of somewhere else. Rochester is a much better place to live than many others in upstate New York

Little did I know when I made that move all of the new friends and now chosen family I have met here. I was fortunate enough to make one friend who invited me to ride along with him to a meeting in Syracuse. That afternoon trip was very informative and we knew Rochester could have an even better response. I'm glad we were right!!

Our solution has become Rainbow Seniors of Western New York. We started off as a small group of friends and now have become a large extended and chosen family. We accomplished more in the three years since we started than some of us ever expected. The most important aspect is that we became friends and chosen family. We are there for each other, be it a simple phone call or meeting for coffee and conversation.

How many times have you heard someone say, "in gay life you are dead at 30," or is that now 25? Well, they forget that for many, life begins at 30, or 40, and we are far from being ready to fade into the background. For many of us we are more active and vital than we ever were, with no intention of ever stopping. We have our monthly potluck dinner, our euchre club, and yoga classes. We just hosted our second dance for the GLBTI community. We will be present at Pride events in July and already have our annual picnic at Ellison Park planned for August.

More activities are in the works, so keep listening, or, better yet, get out and join us. Reconnect with an old friend or make a new one. Don't just sit and complain, come on out and get involved! Our potluck dinners are held the 3rd Sunday of the month, 4:00 p.m. at 1st Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave. (corner of Court St.). Find out there really is life in Rochester for those over 30. There is a lot of life if you know where to look, and you will find my chosen family right in the middle of most of it. Will you join us? I hope so. My family will be looking for you.

For further information, check our website, www.rainbowseniorswny.org, or mail us at 305 Pearl St. Rochester, NY 14607.