

Musings of a Rainbow Senior
By Sherlea Dony, board president

Rainbow Seniors is alive and well as we begin our fourth year. I remain amused about comments from some lesbians that, “gay men run this organization,” and from some gay men that, “lesbians run Rainbow Seniors.” For the record, neither statement is true. Fact is, we run it as a team. Seven men, five women—lesbian, gay, bi, transgender—each of us bringing skills and experience as diverse as we are as human beings, some of us doing more visible tasks than others.

In last month’s column, Scott LaCombe brought up ageism in our community. Trying to change ageist stereotypes is like trying to swim upstream, but I think it’s time to put a new spin on getting older. Sure, we all get older, so why not do it as gracefully as possible, with humor and self respect and in the company of same? Yes, it’s hard work, and yes, there are aches, but growing older can be so much more. By looking outside ourselves, we can have a greater sense of how we fit in the universe and the grand scheme of things. We can truly reflect on our personal lives and the world outside ourselves. We can offer knowledge while we continue to learn and be engaged in life. That’s not a bad thing! But I digress....

I’ve staffed the Rainbow Seniors info table at the past four pride picnics. Every year older gay men will quickly walk away from our table when they spot the word “seniors.” “Oh, that’s not me!” some 60+ year-old guy will say and often laugh uncomfortably. Happens like clockwork. I find those comments not surprising, and I know if that attitude ever changes, he (or she) will have a place where he’ll be welcomed. Oh and yes, this year at the info table it seemed like *everyone* stopped by to chat, young to elder. Many signed up to be on our mailing list. Lots of conversation like, “I have a friend who would really benefit from this group...let me take a flier” to “Great that this organization exists....”

Before I run, let me announce our new Rainbow Seniors Info Line at 585.234.1290. It has all of our upcoming events, and you can also leave a message. Give us a call and check it out. And I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention our Monster’s Ball Halloween party on Saturday evening, October 28 at the Roger Robach Center at Ontario Beach Park. You’ll see ads around the community, and I hope you’ll join us.