Ongoing groups are on Zoom this month, but join us in the Center for these programs.

If you'd like to wear a mask or keep some distance, please feel free to do that. Masks and hand sanitizer will be on hand for anyone who wants them.

You spot this?

Friday Social
8/5

Annual Picnic at Ryder Park
Sunday, August 14, 3:00 pm

We haven't been able to get together for a picnic in person since August 2019. This year we're back! Join us on August 14, 3:00 pm, at Ryder Park (400 Butternut Dr in East Syracuse).

This year, SAGE will provide all of the food -- hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, chips, potato salad and dessert. Please don't bring sides, but if you are able, bring a donation of any amount to offset food costs (suggested: $10 -- more if you can, less if you can't).

The Utica Social has moved to the First Saturday at 2:00 pm, and the August meeting (on 8/6) will be a picnic/cook out. SAGE will provide the food (same as above). Instead of bringing a dish to pass, please bring a donation of any amount.

SAGERS in Oswego are making plans about where and when to meet. Information will be shared via email and online at sageupstate.org. You can also call SAGE at 315-478-1923 or email Kim at kdill@sageupstate.org for more information.

Lunch & Learn 8/25, 11:30: TikTok

Have you ever wanted to learn more about TikTok? At the Lunch & Learn this month, find out how to set up an account, watch videos, and be a part of SAGE Upstate's posts. Amanda Yeoman (@beatricegrapefruit) is a member of the LGBTQ community, a CNY native and a music educator. She uses TikTok to spread inspiration, humor, music, and DIY projects to a wide variety of viewers and enjoys helping new users learn to navigate the app and create their own content.

Join us Thursday, August 25 at 11:30 am in the SAGE Upstate Center. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP (deadline Monday 8/21) to Trish, including any dietary restrictions. Email to tjohnson@sageupstate.org or call/text to 315-282-5428!

NYS Fair: Pride Day and Info Booth

Once again, Bonnie Strunk and FAIR-NY will organize the LGBTQ Pride Info Booth at the NYS Fair, and coordinate Pride Day on Friday August 26. Volunteers are needed for both. Contact Trish at 315-282-5428 or tjohnson@sageupstate.org to volunteer on Pride Day (8/26) with SAGE, or to staff the LGBTQ Info booth on Senior day (8/29)- she has tickets for Pride Day too.

To volunteer for the LGBTQ Info Booth, contact FAIR-NY at fairny@fairny.org or 315-460-6971, or visit them on Facebook at lgbtbooth Newyorkstatefair.
SAGEVets: 4th Tuesday, 6:00 pm on Zoom. Join other LG-BTQ veterans for socializing, programs about benefits, and resource sharing. 
Meeting ID: 871 5736 4984    Passcode: 1969

SAGE Luncheon, 3rd Wednesday, 12:30. SAGErs meet for lunch. 
To be added to the list: 315-478-1923 email kdill@sageupstate.org. In person. Reservations required.

Thursday Dine Out, 2nd Thurs, 6:30. SAGErs meet for dinner. 
To be added to list: 315-478-1923 or kdill@sageupstate.org. Reservations required.

Trans Social, 3rd Saturday, 7 pm: Trans-identified people meet for socializing and support. Meeting ID: 896 9963 6095    Passcode: 1969

Utica Social: Join SAGE folks from Utica on August 6, 2-4 pm at Utica Unitarian, 10 Higby Rd. Picnic.

Walking Group, Thursdays at 10 am, meet at Onondaga Lake Park, or Destiny. See Facebook for location

Writers Group, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm: All genres and experience levels welcome. Meeting ID: 596 630 088    Passcode: 1969
Follow-up on Dale Pierce: It’s never too late to get justice

This newsletter featured a story about Dale Pierce earlier this year. She was discharged from the Air Force less than a year after enlisting at age 17, and was told that she was not entitled to benefits or acknowledgement.

"I made the decision that in order to survive, I had to bury it," she said. Almost 50 years after she was discharged, Dale saw an article in the SAGE Upstate newsletter about a New York Veteran, Grace Lynch, who had a similar experience. She called SAGE and said, "this is my story-- this happened to me." This started a journey for Dale that would lead toward a recent piece of legislation in New York State -- the Restoration of Honor Act. We’re following up on this story to share the happy ending.

After speaking to Kim, Wanda, and Rita with SAGEvets in CNY, she was connected with Ashton in NYC who helped her apply and find Benjamin, an attorney. Then things started to happen. First, she was referred to a therapist who believed she had PTSD.

"She thought I had been affected by the trauma I experienced," she said. Next there was a deposition. Dale thought that the service member conducting it was "very fair," and as things were coming to a close, "I told her I have something I want to say. I will never know the person I might have been without all of this -- if I'd been able to finish training and get posted somewhere. I'll never know who I might have been. The 18 year old who came home after the discharge was sad, depressed, and broken."

Dale was notified that a claim had been filed, and when she got a letter shortly after she worried that not enough time had passed. She thought her claim may have been denied. But it wasn’t. She will get a monthly pension for the rest of her life. She will continue with her therapist and is now checking into other benefits she might be entitled to.

"I would not have been able to do this on my own," Dale said. "without SAGE this would not have happened. I just want to say to anyone out there who thinks it may be too late for them -- it’s never too late to get justice. I'm a clear example-- I was able get justice for something that happened 50 years ago. Now my life will be changed with this support."

SAGE Upstate News
Join us for the Annual Picnic at Ryder Park on August 14, 3:00 pm. Use this form to enter the Annual Picnic Raffle, and the chance to win Syracuse Stage Tickets, a basket from Syracuse Soapworks or a gift certificate for Brunch at the Wolf's Den. More info inside.

Name ____________________________     Phone #  ________________________
Address __________________________________________
City, State, Zip______________________________________
Phone or Email ________________________________________

Fill out the number of tickets you want. We’ll cut them out and add them to the drawing. You need not be present to win.

I would like (circle)  1  2  3  4  5 or _____ tickets

My check is enclosed
Please bill my credit card:

I can’t attend but here’s my donation: $___________

Card # ____________________________________________
Expiration ____________ CVV _________________________