

## Some Programs on Holiday Break

### Staff and Board plan for funding loss adjustments

SAGE Upstate is no longer funded by the NYS Department of Health, which has resulted in a large reduction of the organizational budget. There will be cuts and reductions if new funding is not secured. Certain programs will be suspended with the plan to bring them back when we can financially support them.

Some programs will take a holiday break, as participation in December is usually lower due to people having other commitments and traveling. Programs on break this month include Friday Social, Crafting, Game Night, Theater Thursday, the Syracuse Lunch & Learn, the Lunch Bunch in Oswego and the Lunch and Learn and Walking Group in Utica. Ambassadors will be off this month, and the future of the Ambassador program is up in the air, as it was funded by the NYS grant that we no longer have. We are searching for ways to support this critical work in BIPOC, Trans, and Rural communities.

At our brainstorming sessions in November, SAGE participants came up with the idea to hold small fundraisers throughout the year, and to broaden promotions to include both our community and also people outside of it, such as allies and participants in other organizations. The first

of these will be held this month. We hope you'll join us and tell your friends about the **"Santa Paws"** pet photo event (details inside). Other suggestions included a monthly pledge campaign and collaborative events with local businesses and organizations.

Our regular events, like the Pride 5K, the Community Dinner, and dances will go on and we'll add a few new ones. However, more than event income is needed to fill our funding gap. SAGE is engaging in a number of efforts to secure funding, such as meeting with legislators, writing grants, reaching out to foundations and engaging sponsors. SAGE will continue to be here for those who need us -- what that looks like will depend on the funds we are able to raise.

We do need donations, but that's not the only way you can help. Let us know if you can volunteer or have suggestions. Our programs will stay free and low-cost for all older LGBTQ people, regardless of ability to give. If you are someone who is able to give, we ask that you consider making a donation now. Our future programming depends on it. You can donate with the form on the back of this issue or give online at [sageupstate.org](http://sageupstate.org).

## Holiday Coping with Hope for Bereaved

This time of year can be tough if you're grieving. If the season is getting you down, try these Hope For Bereaved support programs.

### "Coping With The Holidays."

December 12

6:30 - 8:30 pm at All Saints Church  
1340 Lancaster Ave in Syracuse

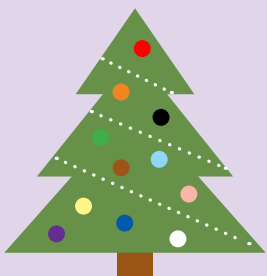
December 16

1:00 - 3:00 pm at OneGroup  
706 N Clinton St in Syracuse

The mission of Hope for Bereaved is to offer grief support by providing support groups and peer counseling at no charge. The Hope staff is knowledgeable and affirming of the LGBTQ community. In 2025, Hope and SAGE will collaborate to offer LGBTQ support groups -- stay tuned!



**Gift Swaps at Syracuse and Utica Potlucks:** details inside.



## Festival of trees to benefit SAGE

Every year the The Hearth on James holds the "Festival of Trees" for an evening of holiday cheer, community, and giving back. This year, the proceeds will go to SAGE. The free event will be held on **December 19, 2024**, from 4-7 pm at the Hearth on James, 830 James St. in Syracuse. Three-foot trees decorated by local organizations and businesses will be raffled off. The event features live entertainment, beverages, and festive cocktails. Come to the festival and support SAGE!

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 6 pm Men's Grp	3	4 5:30 Writers 7:00 Knitting & Fiber Arts	5 6 pm Dinner Out	6	7 2 pm Utica Potluck: Gift Swap
8 3 pm Syracuse Potluck: Gift Swap	9 6 pm Men's Grp	10	11 5:30 Writers 7:00 Knitting & Fiber Arts	12 9:30 Breakfast Out 10 am Walking	13	14 2 pm Santa Paws 7:00 Gender Blend
15	16 6 pm Men's Grp	17	18 5:30 Writers 7:00 Knitting & Fiber Arts	19 12:30 Lunch Out 10 am Walking 4-7 pm Festival of Trees (see p 1)	20 7 Men's Night Out	21 2 pm Watertown Potluck
22 2:00 pm Oswego Potluck	23 6 pm Men's Grp	24	25 Office Closed	26	27 6:00 Mahjongg	28 7:00 Gender Blend
29	30 6 pm Men's Grp	31 Office Closed				

Gender Blend now has two monthly gatherings. On the 2nd Saturday a social/support for Trans/Nonbinary communities. is held in person and on Zoom (details at [sageupstate.org](http://sageupstate.org)). On the 4th Saturday, the group meets out for dinner. For more info, contact Johna at 315-478-1923 or [jmelius@sageupstate.org](mailto:jmelius@sageupstate.org).

Knitting& Fiber Arts: Wednesdays at 7 pm. Learn, or work with others on knitting, crocheting, and other fiber arts.

Mahjongg in the Center, 4th Friday, 6 pm come and play-- if you don't know how, we can teach you.

Meals OUT -- Dinner on the 1st Thursday, Breakfast on the 2nd Thursday, and Lunch on the 3rd Thursday, See details on p. 5

Men's Night Out: Social for SAGE guys, 3rd Friday, 7 pm

Oswego Potluck, this month 12/22, meets at Trinity Methodist; 45 E Utica St. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

Second Sunday Potluck in Syracuse. This month: Gift Swap. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

Utica Potluck 1st Sat. 2-4 pm at Utica Unitarian, 10 Higby Rd. Gift Swap -- bring a dish to pass if you are able.

Walking Group Thursdays in Syracuse: The group meets at the benches by Panera at Destiny on Thursdays at 10 am

Watertown Potluck: 3rd Saturday at 2 pm, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

Writers Group, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm: All genres and experience levels welcome. Offered on Zoom only-- link at [sageupstate.org](http://sageupstate.org)

PLEASE NOTE: Some programs are on a break during the holidays, including Crafting, Game Night, Fun Friday Social, Oswego Lunch Bunch, Syracuse Lunch & Learn, Theater Thursday, Utica Lunch and Learn and Walking Group.

**Santa Paws: Saturday, 12/14, 2 - 4 pm**  
*Pet Photos, Paw Prints & Holiday Fun*



Has your pet been naughty or nice? Bring them to SAGE for a photo with Santa, paw prints, and holiday fun. For a \$10 donation (more if you can, less if you can't), have your pet photographed on Santa's lap ... or near Santa ... or maybe in front of a holiday background -- whatever fits your furry friend's comfort level. You can also make a paw print. We'll make holiday photos and send them to you in an email and/or hard copy. *PS: Photo-shopping is available for those pets who'd rather stay home. For more info, contact Leslie at 315-478-1923 or llamb@sageupstate.org.*

## Meet your SAGE friends for a meal!

To RSVP, contact Ron or Leslie at 315-478-1923 or llamb@sageupstate.org.

**1st Thursday Dinner: 12/5**

6 pm, Camino Real, 3811 Brewerton Rd.

**2nd Thursday Breakfast: 12/12**

9:30 am, Finally Ours, 3788 W Seneca Turnpike

**3rd Thursday Lunch: 12/19**

12:30 pm, Sherwood Inn, 26 W Genesee St, in Skaneateles

## Outside of Syracuse:

*Open to LGBTQ+ folks and Allies in these towns and beyond.*

**Watertown:**

Potluck on the 3rd Saturday, 2 pm (12/21)

All Souls Unitarian Universalist, 1330 Gotham St.

**Oswego:**

Potluck on 3rd Sunday at 2 pm (12/22)

Trinity Methodist, 45 E. Utica

**Utica:**

Potluck on the first Saturday (12/7), 2 pm

Utica Unitarian, 10 Higby Rd.

**Gift Swap Potlucks:**  
Syracuse 12/8, Utica 12/7

**Here's how it works:**  
bring a new, wrapped gift of \$5 value or less. We'll play a fun game to swap gifts.

**Can't bring a gift? Come anyway,**  
we'll have extras.

Everyone goes home with a holiday gift. Potluck supper-- bring a dish to pass if you are able.

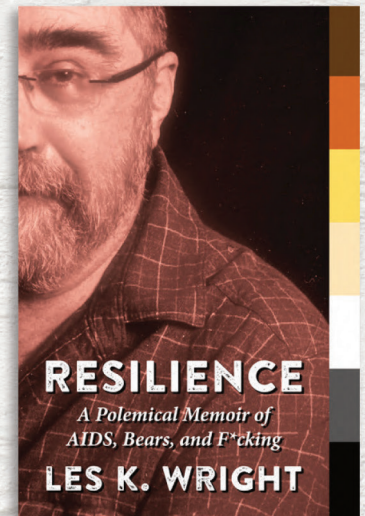
## "RESILIENCE READS LIKE A HISTORY OF A HALF-CENTURY OF OF GAY AMERICAN LIFE, CONDENSED INTO ONE MAN'S INTIMATE STORY."

—Wayne Hoffman

"WRIGHT'S STYLE OF WRITING IS CLEAR AND CONCISE, HONEST, AND EMOTIONALLY CHARGED AT ONCE."—Perry Brass

"RESILIENCE UNFOLDS THE PLEASURES AND PAINS OF GAY LIFE AND RAISES CHALLENGING QUESTIONS ABOUT SEX, SUFFERING, AND THE FAILURES OF QUEER REVOLUTION."

—Tyler Bradway



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gift in SAGE publications?  
 Yes  No