

Sexuality and Aging

By Lauren Taylor, LCSW

Most professionals who work with older adults have been taught little or nothing about sexuality in later life. Many feel uncomfortable just bringing it up, much less encouraging clients to talk about it. Often the topic of sexuality is just beneath the surface when an older person talks about loneliness or loss. We need to broaden our understanding of sexuality to include other experiences of affection and sensuality... [Click here to read the full article](#)



Herbert Feuerlicht displays his art

SPOP Welcomes New Board Members

George Kaplan, LMSW

Retired, previously with, FEGS and Jewish Association for Services for the Aged.

Stephen Kaufman, MD

Retired Attending Radiologist, Director of Nuclear Medicine and Associate Director of Radiology, Pascack Valley Hospital

Lawrence Marciano, Jr.

Vice-President, Productivity and Process Improvement Group at Lehman Brothers, Inc.

Lori Pennay

Vice-President and Counsel, Credit Suisse Securities, LLC

Showing Off—Adult Day Services Art



Sculpture by Herbert Feuerlicht

Friends and family joined 30 Adult Day Services clients at the program’s Annual Art Show in March. On display were paintings, collages, sculptures and t-shirts produced by clients in the Adult Day Center (ADC) and the Continuing Day Treatment Program (CDTP).

Many of the artists participate in the CDTP’s art workshop, led by Lilly White, an art therapist and professional artist who, for eight years, has been working with the clients,

older adults who are unable to attend a community senior center because of serious psychiatric illness. Lilly also works one-on-one with the clients who have various levels of skills – some have been professional artists, some are in the group for fun, and other participants discover a new talent that becomes their passion. Artists are encouraged to bring in work they create at home.

ADC clients can participate in an art group and create long term projects. For this year’s project, *Window to the Imagination*, participants created collages with photo

clippings from magazines. Creating a collage promotes discussion among participants and helps to launch a structured creative formal life review.

Participating in arts is therapeutic for SPOP's Adult Day Services clients. Amy Berg, Director, Adult Day Services, explains: "Even when older adults with dementia are unable to do other activities, they often can participate and find meaningful opportunities in arts. We find that our clients who participate in the arts group gain confidence as they learn a new skill, or rediscover one, at a time when they are losing the ability to successfully master tasks. Art activities can also lessen symptoms such as apathy and anxiety."

Staff News

SPOP welcomes new staff members in Adult Day Services:

Lovely Paulemon, Program Aide, Adult Day Center, **Kathleen VanSavage-Fink**, Nurse, and **Stephen Naughton**, Psychiatric Social Worker.

SPOP continue to expand its mental health counseling services with the addition of **Linda Kociniewski**, and **Christine Pietris**, outreach Psychiatric Social Workers, and **Louise Marcigliano** and **Anette Ruperto**, Psychiatric Social Workers.

Teresa Gowan, the new Program Operations Assistant, will provide support for the Widowed Persons Service and Geriatric Outreach Assessment and Linkage Program. **Clarissa DeJesus** is the new Office Assistant for administrative staff at 91 Street.

Nancy Harvey, Executive Director presented *Staff Training: Identifying Mental Health Issues in Senior Centers* at the March 2008 National Council on Aging & American Society on Aging Annual Conference.

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We thank the many foundations whose support enables us to launch new programs and enhance services

SPOP welcomes new supporters: **Aetna Foundation**, \$25,000, to reach more Latino older adults with mental health counseling and related services; **Rose Badgeley Residuary Trust**, \$10,000, to expand SPOP's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service; **Mary J. Hutchins Foundation**, general operating support grant of \$15,000, **America's Second Harvest**, which provided SPOP's Adults Day Services with a grant of \$12,175 to purchase kitchen equipment and provide more nutrition food; and the **Avrum Katz Foundation** and **St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital Center**, \$500 each, for general support.

Special project grants included the **Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation**, \$222,620, to provide more services to homebound and Latino older adults; **The Isaac H. Tuttle Fund**, \$25,000, also to provide services to homebound older adults; **Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation**, \$15,000, and **The Hagedorn Fund**, \$10,000, to expand the agency's Adult Day Center; **FJC**, \$20,000, to expand counseling to Latino older adults; **The New York Community Trust**, \$45,000, to provide more services to older adults with a diagnosed mental illness and substance abuse problem; and the **Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation**, \$7,500, in support of SPOP's Widowed Persons Service.

Four general support grants will enable SPOP to more effectively serve the older adults in the community: **Mary Hutchins Foundation**, \$15,000, **Sidney & Judith Kranes Charitable Trust**, \$1,000; **The Starr Foundation**, a two-year grant of \$200,000; and the **Collegiate Church Corporation**, \$7,500.

Our gratitude to our elected officials who have supported SPOP's work: **Assembly Member Thomas Duane**, **Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell**, **Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal**, **State**

Neil, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, State Senator Eric Schneiderman, Council Member Gale Brewer, Council Member Daniel Garodnick, Council Member Jessica Lappin, Council Member Christine Quinn and Borough President Scott Stringer.

The **Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies** provided \$3,000 to SPOP to meet the one-time emergency needs of the agency's clients. [Click here to read about how this grant helps.](#)