

For Lesbian,  
Gay, Bisexual,  
& Transgender  
Older Adults

# RAINBOW ELDER NEWS

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Edited by:  
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## Angela & Cindy: Still Active And Involved

### Facts of Interest

- The third edition of *Silver Lining A Resource Guide* for the Older LGBT Community in Boulder County will be available the end of April. Call 303-441-3583 to reserve a copy.
- Project Visibility, Boulder County Aging Services LGBT sensitivity training for providers of services to older adults now has a web site. Check it out at [www.projectvisibility.org](http://www.projectvisibility.org)
- Sound Circle joins Resonance Women's Chorus of Boulder and Holly Near for a concert at the First United Methodist Church Saturday, May 12, 8:00pm.

Angela and Cindy, two members of the Rainbow Elders, met on-line in Feb. 1995.

Cindy writes of Angela's response to her on-line posting at AOL Women looking for Women site: "Once we got past her (Angela's) conjecture that I might be in the Witness Protection Program and/or have blue hair, tattoos, and body piercings (2 out of 3 turned out to be OK) we met in person in May 1995." At the time Cindy lived in Detroit, MI and Angela on Long Island. Angela says of their meeting: "I thought that we'd never meet, but we wrote emails daily and met in person 3 months later and once a month



Angela & Cindy fulfilling a dream by participating in a recent political rally in Washington D. C.

until Cindy moved to NY 9 months later."

Angela, a retired elementary school teacher, and Cindy, a Registered Nurse, moved to the Colorado Rockies in 1997. In 2004 they moved "from the mountains back to civilization." Since 2004 they have stayed active by putting their energies into making

their house into a home, being involved in organizations like the Rainbow Elders, and OLOC.

Cindy enjoys collecting clothing and toys for needy children, supporting Rainbow Alley, her local Food Bank, the Denver Rescue Mission, Bent Lens, and her church. One of Angela's hobbies is feeding birds. From November to April she participates in Cornell Ornithology Lab's Project Feeder Watch. Two days a week she records the number and type of birds for Cornell. Both Angela and Cindy volunteered for the Gay and Gray Conference and the Winter Lavender Gala. This summer they are planning their first cruise to Alaska.



## Home Sweet Home: A communal Concept Written by Jeanine Reeves



At the Gay and Gray in the West Conference in October of 2005, Nancy Nystrom presented a workshop exploring an affordable housing alternative for older GLBTs.

Nancy teaches at the University of Washington School of Social Work. Nancy has had a dream for many years to

establish a safe, friendly place to grow old in community rather than in institutions. Over the years she came up with a model. Three years ago Nancy and her partner bought a home on the coast of Washington state. Shortly after moving in, the larger house next store went up for auction.

She got a few friends to buy into a plan for turning it into a communal living space. Together they bought the place. Later the group was able to acquire more property in the area. Since then, they have been working on remodeling and landscaping to make the joint property better designed

more handicapped-accessible. There are currently 7 women who have bought into the property and they are looking at adding 3-4 more. What is most important, Nancy says, to making something like this happen is flexibility and a willingness to compromise on the little things that come up.



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**FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDER OLDER ADULTS**

*Sponsored by Boulder County Aging Services Division & the Open Door Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County*

We're on the web at  
[www.co.boulder.co.us/cs/ag/programs/glb.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/cs/ag/programs/glb.htm)

The **Rainbow Elders of Boulder County (REBC)** is a fun-loving, passionate, loosely structured social group of older LGBTs and friends who support each other, offer information, and share common experience. The group meets the third Tuesday of the month from 4-6pm. Meetings alternate between Longmont and Boulder. **Odd-numbered months** meetings are in Boulder at the First Congregational Church and even-numbered months at the Longmont Senior Center in Longmont. After meetings, folks usually go out to dinner at a local restaurant. **Come join us.**

**April 18, Longmont Senior Center  
910 Longs Peak Ave., Longmont**

**May 16, First Congregational Church,  
1128 Pine St., Boulder**

**June 20, Longmont Senior Center  
910 Longs Peak Ave., Longmont**

**To be added to the Rainbow Elder e-lert or mailing list call 303-441-3583.**

## Rainbow Elder Activity Survey

The Rainbow Elder meetings usually have a planned program as part of the meeting agenda. This year so far, the group has had a presentation on the geology of the Rocky Mountains, body-centered therapy, and the domestic partnership referendum. More activities are planned. In April the Rainbow Elders will host two speakers from Boulder County Aging Services Division. One will talk about health insurance issues surrounding Medicare and the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program. Information will also be given about legal

assistance for older adults, advocacy, elder abuse prevention, and identification. Other tentative programs include a writing or memoir workshop, transgender issues and film, discussion and video on the changing images of LGBTs in the media, alternative healthy living, dance lessons, the importance of humor to staying healthy, and ways we stay fit.

If you have some topics or preferences regarding Rainbow Elder programs send an e-mail to [elewis@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:elewis@co.boulder.co.us) or call 303-441-3583.

A number of *special programs*

are now in the works for this summer and fall. These include participation in the Boulder Pride Block Party, a picnic in August, co-sponsoring a film on LGBT aging with Bent Lens, sponsoring a winter dance, working with Boulder Pride on a LGBT history/herstory project, and sponsoring with Boulder County Aging Services a housing symposium. The symposium examines possible supportive housing alternatives for LGBTs as they grow older. *If you would like to volunteer for any of these special programs contact Teresa at 303-441-4995 or [tdaanni@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:tdaanni@co.boulder.co.us)*