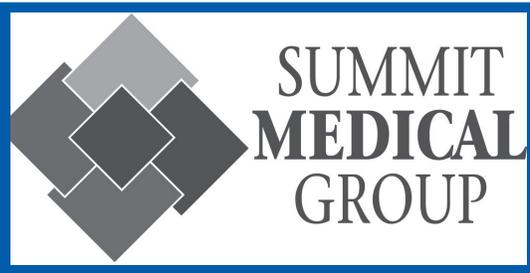


# the **sage eldercare** Caring Connection

WINTER 2015

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## 60th Anniversary Breakfast Honors SMG Violet Allen, 2014 OWL Award Recipient, & Dr. Paul McGhee Speaks



On Wednesday, December 3, SAGE held its 60th Anniversary Breakfast with Summit Medical Group serving as the honoree and presenting sponsor of the event at the Beacon Hill Club in Summit.

“Summit Medical Group is a leading example of the type of honoree who should be part of SAGE’s 60th Anniversary celebration year,” stated Angela Sullivan, Interim Executive Director of SAGE.

“SAGE has partnered with Summit Medical Group for many years via community outreach programs for older adults, with individual physicians to care for mutual clients, and as part of a joint program with SAGE’s GPS (Guidance Planning & Support) Services. Both organizations share the same commitment to providing services for older adults so that they remain active and independent in the comfort of their own homes,” she noted.

Summit Medical Group is the largest privately held multispecialty practice in New Jersey. With more than 50 locations in northern New Jersey, it offers the finest comprehensive health and medical service for the

entire family in a comfortable, safe, convenient, and friendly environment.

The event also honored Violet Allen of Vauxhall as the 2014 OWL (Outstanding Wisdom and Leadership) Award recipient. This is the second annual presentation of the award, with the first one honoring Dr. Rosalind Dorlen of Summit.



Violet, pictured on the left, came to the United States from Jamaica in 1969 and began working as a Certified Home Health Aide for SAGE’s Home Care service in 1974.

“Violet has a very calm and soothing presence,” noted Darriea Pigott, Director of Nursing for SAGE HomeCare. “She genuinely cares for her clients and their overall well-being and is an advocate for them and their families.”



During the event, Dr. Paul McGhee was the guest speaker, with his presentation, “Lighten Up! They Who Laugh, Last.” He entertained the guests and touched upon his many years of

scientific research regarding humor and health. He has published 15 books and many scientific articles and is internationally recognized for his research and public speaking.

In addition to Summit Medical Group’s presenting sponsorship of the event, HomeCare Assistance was a patron sponsor.

*SAGE would like to thank the attendees and supporters who have made all of the 60th Anniversary events a success – Community Day in March, Casino Night in June, Theatre Night in November, and December’s Anniversary Breakfast. We are so appreciative of your commitment to our mission and for helping us celebrate this milestone year!*



Marianne Kranz of Fanwood (15), Stacey Siddon of East Orange (5), and Marguerite Stewart of Chatham (15), were recognized for their varying years of staff service to SAGE on October 1 at the 60th Annual Meeting. See more award photos on page two.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Friends:

As we look forward to 2015, we are also looking back on a grand 60th Anniversary year.

We've experienced some major changes during our anniversary year at SAGE and are thankful that we have had the support of so many volunteers, staff, board members, and the public during these changes.

First, thank you to Carol King Barrow for her two years as President of the Board of Trustees -- I have some big shoes to fill in the coming years.

Second, a lot of gratitude goes to former board member Angela Sullivan, who has been doing a wonderful job as Interim Executive Director since August. We have been very fortunate to be able to

continue our variety of programs and services under Angela's leadership.

Third, in November, Darriea Pigott was promoted to the position of Director of Nursing for HomeCare. She was previously a Field Nurse Supervisor in the department and has been an employee since 2010.

Last, Adam Psichos has completed his tenure on SAGE's Board of Trustees. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his three years of service. We also have two new board members and Executive Committee for 2015 -- see page three for more information.

I look forward to all of you continuing SAGE's journey with me this year!

In anticipation,

Kitty Hartman  
SAGE Eldercare Board President

## WAYS TO GIVE

Donate or shop at SAGE's **Resale Shop**, 31B Chatham Road in Summit, for discounted treasures! Open Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. **908.273.5564**

Bring in chairs and furniture for repair at the **Furniture Restoration Workshop**, 290 Broad Street, Lower Level. Open 8:30 am to 11:30 am with drop-offs until 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. **908.598.5531**



AmazonSmile Foundation donates a percentage of purchases to SAGE. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1657929> to get started!



Go to GiveNik.com for discount Broadway and Off-Broadway tickets. Choose to support SAGE and we get 5% of the sale.

## 60th Annual Meeting Awards Presented October 1 at SAGE



Beverly Kaczmarek of Maplewood, Agnes N. Badgley Award for outstanding volunteer contributions.



Ellen McNally, SAGE Eldercare Director of InfoCare, accepting the Community Partner Award on behalf of the AARP Tax-Aide Program for Union County.



Pictured in the center is Chundrowtia (CC) Harpal of North Plainfield who received this year's Home Health Aide of the Year Award. Pictured with her is husband Ganesh Ram Harpal and Darriea Pigott, SAGE Director of Nursing for HomeCare.



Pictured to the left is Marianne Kranz, SAGE Director of Volunteers, with Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School Principal Matt Carlin, who accepted the school's Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.



Representatives from The Larks were on hand to receive the Good Neighbor Award. Pictured left to right are Lissa MacCallum, Leslie Carson, Loretta Smith, Lyle Brehm, Jacqueline Landwehr, and Martha White.

**Helping a Neighbor Can Involve Many SAGE Services**

What do you do if you are aging and there are no immediate family members living nearby? How do you stay safe, get enough to eat, or even get the medical care you need? Luckily for Stanley Coopelman, an 86-year-old Summit resident, his neighbor was looking out for him and SAGE Eldercare was contacted.

At the end of last July, a neighbor of Stanley's noticed that his health was declining and she called SAGE so he could get Meals On Wheels delivered to his apartment, which began the next day. SAGE's social work intern, Michelle Dsurney, visited him a few times and was in the process of bringing in a registered nurse from SAGE's GPS Services to find out what care plans were needed. Stanley was dealing with a diagnosis of Parkinson's and his health was rapidly declining due to dementia.



Left to right, Laurie Monroe, Michelle Dsurney, and Kathy Bassiacos.

By the third week that M O W volunteer Laurie Monroe had delivered food to Stanley, she also became concerned about his health and well-being. At one point, he had locked himself into his apartment and could not open the door, so she had to let herself in through his garage door.

In August, when the GPS nurse and social worker visited him, they found out that he had missed a doctor's appointment. At the recommendation of his doctor, they called 9-1-1 and he was admitted to Overlook Medical

Center. The neighbor went with him to the hospital and also put SAGE in touch with Stanley's brother in England.

Two days after Stanley's admission, his brother arrived. SAGE's GPS nurse, Kathy Bassiacos, contacted a local lawyer so that the brother would have power of attorney papers in place.

After a four-day stay at the hospital, SAGE helped transfer Stanley to King James Care Center in Chatham and the brother returned to England. Kathy also worked with the brother to set up a bill paying service for Stanley's medical bills; she brought in relocation and real estate specialists to help prepare Stanley's apartment for sale; they hired a handyman, painters and a house cleaning service to clean up his apartment so it could be put on the market; and, she helped get Stanley's passport renewed.

By mid-September, Stanley was transferred to Brandywine Assisted Living in Bridgewater and by early October, he made the flight to England. The real estate relocation experts, Doreen Hall and Anne Bangs, both originally from England, flew with Stanley to meet his brother at the airport.

Thanks to the kindness and concern by Stanley's neighbor and her knowledge of SAGE, Stanley is now in an assisted living facility that is located ten minutes from his brother's home.

As of January 1, 2015, two new members will be joining SAGE's Board of Trustees -- Susan C. Gieser, Esq., of Ewing and Ann Kale of Millburn.



Susan C. Gieser, Esq..

Susan is a partner with Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C. in Seacucus and concentrates in the area of environmental law. She received her undergraduate degree from Lafayette College, an MS from NJIT, and JD from Emory University. She is looking forward to furthering SAGE's mission and contributing to the organization's future development.



Ann Kale

Ann has a background in senior management roles in investment management and marketing. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and her MBA from New York University. In her spare time, she volunteers with EIESNJ, a South Orange nonprofit for the vision-impaired. She is looking forward to helping SAGE with fundraising and community outreach efforts.

**Community Events**

For a complete calendar of upcoming Community Events, please visit our website at: [www.sageeldercare.org](http://www.sageeldercare.org)



**2015 Executive Committee, SAGE Eldercare Board of Trustees**

Kitty Hartman, *President*, Joseph W. Buda, *Vice President (absent)*, Kathy Clingan, *Secretary*, John C. Hoffman, *Treasurer*, and Carol King Barrow, *Immediate Past President*.



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**SAVE PAPER AND SPREAD NEWS!**

Please pass this newsletter along to a friend, doctor's office, house of worship or club. Also, please let us know if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.



**SAGE ELDERCARE DEPARTMENTS**

Administration	908.598.5502
Community Education & Marketing	908.598.5529
Development Office	908.598.5503
Fall Prevention	908.598.5529
Finance Department	908.598.5549
Furniture Restoration Workshop	908.598.5531
Grocery Shopping and Errand Service	908.273.5554
GPS (Guidance, Planning and Support) Services	908.598.5529
HomeCare	908.273.8400
InfoCare	908.598.5509
Information on Services	908.598.5529
Meals On Wheels	908.273.5554
Medicare SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program)	908.273.6999
Public Relations Office	908.598.5553
Resale Shop	908.273.5564
Special Programs	908.598.5529
Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center	908.598.5520
Support Groups	908.598.5529
Volunteers	908.598.5514



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**SAGE Eldercare**

Angela Sullivan  
*Interim Executive Director*