

SSA 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



PRESIDENT

Danielle D. Gagne, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Executive Committee, SSA Electronic Communications and Publications Committee Chair



Dr. Danielle D. Gagne is a Professor of Psychology at Alfred University, where she teaches introductory and advanced courses for both the Psychology and Gerontology programs on topics such as Ageism, the Psychology of Death and Dying, and Cognition and Aging. Danielle earned a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and an Associate's degree in Alcohol & Chemical Dependency from Keene State College.

Dr. Gagne has served as the Chair of the Division of Psychology, Gerontology, & Communication Studies since 2013 and the Chair of the Human Subjects Research Committee since 2010. She has been working with the Age-Friendly Allegany County Coalition through Wellsville-based agency Ardent Solutions. For the past year she has taught an Age-Friendly University course with the goal of securing Alfred University's membership into the Age-Friendly University Global Network and created a concentration on Aging Studies within the Psychology major.

Dr. Gagne has presented over 40 posters and papers at both regional and national conferences. She has worked with her colleague, Robert Maiden, on barriers to mental health treatment in rural communities and loneliness. She is currently working with the School of Engineering at Alfred University and Ethar, Inc., on an NSF-funded grant to study the relationships between age, cognition, and semantically-enabled Augmented Reality. Her other research interests include grief and "digital" death as well as end-of-life preferences with respect to age, religiosity, and "green" values.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jackie Berman, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Executive Committee



Dr. Jackie Berman is a Senior Research Director at the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA). She has worked in the field of gerontology for over three decades. She has overseen a range of research and demonstration projects, and has authored numerous articles, as well as presented at national and international conferences. Dr. Berman has developed numerous health and mental health programs throughout her time at DFTA and is the educational coordinator of all social work placements at the department. Dr. Berman is a co-author of the book, *Depressed Older Adults Education and Screening*, which provides guidelines for providers on education and screening late-life depression. She was

also a co-principal investigator for the NYS Elder Abuse Prevalence Study; this ground-breaking project incorporated elder abuse data from the entire state as well as self-reported data from community-dwelling adults over 60.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Colette Phipps, LMSW

SSA Board, SSA Executive Committee, SSA Diversity Committee Co-Chair



Colette Phipps, LMSW, is the Coordinator for Research and Development for the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS). Ms. Phipps provides oversight for several major initiatives and projects sponsored by DSPS' Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services. She analyzes, interprets, and evaluates data and information for program and service delivery as well as policies, legislation and resource development related to such programs.

Ms. Phipps is the Executive Director of the national award-winning Westchester County Livable Communities: A vision for All Ages Initiative.

She earned her MSW degree from NYU and is an adjunct at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service. Ms. Phipps serves on the boards of the New York State Intergenerational Network and the Sarah Lawrence College Health Advocacy Graduate Program.

SECRETARY

Janna C. Heyman, PhD, LMSW

SSA Board, SSA Executive Committee, SSA Program & Education Committee Co-Chair, SSA Planning & Development Committee Chair, SSA Membership Committee Chair



Dr. Janna Heyman is Professor and Endowed Chair of the Henry C. Ravazzin Center on Aging and Intergenerational Studies at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Dr. Heyman has written numerous grants and published in health care, aging, palliative care, and social work education. In 2018, Dr. Heyman and Dr. Congress co-edited *Health and Social Work: Practice, Policy and Research*. She has taught social work research, advanced research, and social welfare policy courses in both the M.S.W. and the Ph.D. program. Dr. Heyman is a Fellow at the New York Academy of Medicine and a Fellow at the National Gerontological Society of America.

Dr. Heyman is also a Past-President of the State Society on Aging (SSA) and was awarded the SSA Walter M. Beattie Jr. Award and an Academic Excellence Award by the American Public Human Service Association for outstanding education and training in the field of human services. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Heyman was a researcher/policy analyst and served as Deputy Director of a large federal and state health care planning agency.

TREASURER

Robert F. Maiden, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Executive Committee, SSA Awards Committee Co-Chair, SSA Social Policy Committee



Dr. Robert J. Maiden joined the faculty at Alfred University in 1982, and currently serves as the Director of the Gerontology program at Alfred University.

A Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the American Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and a Diplomate-Fellow in psychopharmacology (certified by International College of Prescribing Psychologists), he maintains a part-time practice as a licensed clinical psychologist dealing with marriage, family and child issues, alcohol and substance abuse, and geriatric problems. He is an author or co-author of numerous journal articles, several book chapters on counseling grandparents rearing their grandchildren, and co-author of a book that deals with various aspects of the aging experience in rural settings. Dr. Maiden is an avid presenter at professional conferences. He has presented over 130 papers at state, national, and international conferences.

Many of these presentations were co-authored by students, whom he welcomes into his lab as research collaborators. In 2024, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recognized Dr. Maiden with the 2024 Faculty Scholar Award.

Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Awards Committee



Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD, is Director of Research and Evaluation at the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging at Hunter College, the City University of New York. Dr. Brennan-Ing's research focuses on psychosocial issues affecting persons living with HIV and older sexual minority and gender diverse adults. They are Past-President of the State Society on Aging of New York (SSANY), a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), a Fellow of Division 44 (Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity) of the American Psychological Association, and past Board Member of the New York Association on HIV over Fifty (NYAHOF). They were the Principal Convener for GSA's HIV/AIDS and Aging interest group, a member of the American Society on Aging's LGBT Aging Information Network

Leadership Council, and 2016 Chair of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity. They were an invited member of the NIH Office of AIDS Research Working Group on HIV and Aging in 2011.

Dr. Brennan-Ing has been recognized for their work by the Hunter-Brookdale Center on Aging, Pride Senior Network, and the New York State Office for the Aging. In 2017 they received the Walter M. Beattie Award from SSANY. Dr. Brennan-Ing was the lead editor of *Older Adults with HIV: An In-depth Examination of an Emerging Population* (2009), and the 2016 volume, *HIV and Aging: Interdisciplinary Topics in Gerontology and Geriatrics* (which received a "High Commendation" from the British Medical Association), and *Aging with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa: Health and Psychosocial Perspectives* (2022). They have authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and books.

Henry J Davis, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Electronic Communications and Publications Committee



Henry J. Davis, Ph.D., is the Director of Programs and Research at the Henry C. Ravazzin Center on Aging and Intergenerational Studies in Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Service (GSS). Previously, Dr. Davis worked in the City University of New York (CUNY) system as a faculty development specialist focused on high impact educational practices. Dr. Davis has taught in Fordham University’s Graduate School of Education (GSE), the Fordham GSS Department, and at Mercy University as an adjunct professor.

Dr. Davis has published original research in peer-reviewed journals such as *Urban Social Work* and *Children and Youth Services*. He has presented his work on youth in foster care and older adults at national conferences, mostly recently presenting with Dr. Janna C. Heyman at the 2024 American Society on Aging (ASA) conference.

Christian González-Rivera, MUP.

SSA Board, SSA Program & Education Committee Co-Chair, SSA Social Policy Committee



Christian González-Rivera, M.U.P. is the Director of Strategic Policy Initiatives at the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging. His work is to translate results and findings from Brookdale’s academic research and demonstration projects into policy and practice, create strategic partnerships across institutions and organizations, and help formulate and communicate Brookdale’s policy priorities.

Before coming to Brookdale, Christian spent seven years as a senior researcher at the Center for an Urban Future (CUF), where he led the organization’s work in the area of workforce development policy and older adult policy.

His signature achievement at CUF was to place the needs of New York’s growing and increasingly diverse older adult population firmly onto the radar of policymakers, elected officials, and city and state agencies.

Prior to that appointment, he researched housing policy at the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University. As the research manager at the Greenlining Institute in Berkeley, California (since relocated to Oakland, CA), he authored and supported research on housing, philanthropy, diversity in the healthcare workforce, access to financial services, consumer protection, and the green economy.

Christian is also a fellow of the Sterling Network, a group of system leaders from New York City’s government, non-profit, and business sectors working together to expand economic justice across the five boroughs. In 2016, City and State named Christian one of New York City’s 40 Under 40 Rising Stars. His work has been covered in both English- and Spanish-language media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Daily News*, *Next City*, *City and State*, *Gotham Gazette*, *Univision*, *NY1*, *WNYC*, *KPFA*, and others. He holds a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Columbia University and a master’s in urban planning from New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Annette Marie Hintenach, MSSW
SSA Board, SSA Program & Education Committee



Dr. Annette Marie Hintenach, MSSW, is a 2023 graduate of Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, where she studied social policy and gerontology. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree in social work and a Minor certificate in Law from Columbia University.

Dr. Hintenach is a gerontological social worker with eighteen years of experience in the field of Aging. She has worked in both inpatient and outpatient settings of care and has worked on several national research and policy initiatives regarding access to healthcare and entitlement programs including Medicare and Medicaid.

For over ten years, Annette worked as the Senior Education Specialist at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center's Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC) in Bronx, NY.

In this role, she was responsible for the development, administration, and sustainment of geriatrics education and training programs. From 2013-2019, she served as the Program Manager for the GRECC's Hudson Valley Rural Geriatric Education Collaborative, a multi-site rural health training and education initiative that prepares associated health trainees to provide high quality healthcare to older rural Veterans. Ms. Hintenach is a graduate of the Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability, and Development (LEAD) Program, a national Veterans Health Administration leadership program that develops core leadership competencies and helps prepare individuals for higher levels of responsibility within the federal government.

Judith L. Howe, PhD, MPA
SSA Board, SSA Governance Committee Co-Chair



Dr. Howe is Professor in the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Associate Director/Education and Evaluation and Deputy Director, VISN 2 Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Bronx VAMC. Her Ph.D. is in Social Welfare from Fordham University and her M.P.A. is from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

Dr. Howe has many years of experience in the field of aging in areas including program development and evaluation, aging policy, education, curriculum development, interprofessional education and teamwork, and community improvement.

Dr. Howe worked as a staff member in the US Congress and at the National Institute on Aging, NIH in program planning, evaluation, and legislative affairs. Working for many years in the East Harlem, NY community, Dr. Howe spearheaded housing for low-income older adults in that community through a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development which links housing with services. Linkage House remains a vital part of the community and Dr. Howe remains Chair of the Board. She has been or is the Director or Co-Director of several interprofessional team and rural training initiatives, including the John A. Hartford Foundation funded Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training program, the Quentin Burdick Program for Interdisciplinary Rural Training, and the VA Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training Program. She was the Director of the New York Consortium of Geriatric Education Centers from 2005 to 2015.

Dr. Howe has presented at many national meetings, published widely in peer-reviewed journals, edited or co-edited three books on aging and is the past Editor-in-Chief of *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education*. Dr. Howe is the immediate past chair of the Academy of Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). She is a Fellow of AGHE, GSA and the New York Academy of Medicine.

**Melissa Lang, DrPH, MPH, MPA, MA
SSA Board**



Melissa Lang, DrPH, MPH, MPA, MA is the CEO at the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, which provides services to older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. Dr. Lang’s background includes a range of experience in community-based health services, including cancer care, hospice and palliative care, long-term care and disabilities, and aging services. Her experience in public health and community settings includes expanding services for marginalized populations, addressing health inequities, and strengthening health services for older adults.

She actively engages in advocacy and policy development on issues related to Medicaid HCBS and Medicare, family caregiving, end-of-life care, and strategies that strengthen the public health workforce. She is committed to deepening the focus on health equity by engaging communities in identifying disparities and building partnerships that address health-related social needs.

Dr. Lang is a faculty member at Yale School of Medicine and serves on several boards and committees in both CT and NY, including Yale’s Center for Research and Engagement, the adult Ethics Committee at Yale New Haven Hospital, The Collaborative for Palliative Care, Connecticut Age Well Collaborative Steering Committee, and the State Society on Aging of NY. She is also a facilitator for the National Center to Reframe Aging led by The Gerontological Society of America. Dr. Lang is co-author of the book, *A Public Health Strategy for Living, Aging and Dying: Designing Elder-Centered and Palliative Systems of Care, Environments, Services and Supports* (Routledge, 2018). She received her doctorate in Public Health from New York Medical College, Master of Public Health and Master of Public Administration degrees from Columbia University and holds advanced certificates and training in bioethics and clinical ethics consultation from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Columbia University.

Katherine Martinez, LMSW
SSA Board, SSA Diversity Committee



Katherine Martinez, LMSW has been working with older adults and the wider community for over 30 years in the areas of supportive services, senior centers, caregiver support, senior housing, nursing homes, care coordination, elder abuse, crisis intervention, and advocacy. She is a strong leader in New York City’s nonprofit aging services who encourages and promotes diversity and cultural competence to ensure that the needs of all persons regardless of age are met despite any barriers and/or challenges.

In 2018, Katherine was named President and CEO of Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons Project Inc. (SHOPP) — a non-profit social service organization founded in 1980 serving over 10,000 individuals in the community annually through its various service initiatives located throughout the Bronx and uptown Manhattan.

Katherine earned her BSW and MSW from New York University School of Social Work. She is a member of the NYC Department for the Aging Senior Advisory Council; serves on the board of the Bronx Regional Interagency Council on Aging (BRICA), is Co-Chair of the Hunts Point / Longwood Coalition and serves on the Leadership Collaborative with the National Council on Aging (NCOA), National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC).

Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD
SSA Board, SSA Governance Committee C-Chair, SSA Social Policy Committee Chair



Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH., JD, is a health and gerontological social work researcher and health care attorney. She is an Associate Professor at Yeshiva University and serves as senior advisor for health policy and ethics to the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center at University of Rochester Medical Center.

Dr. Morrissey’s scholarship, policy practice and research concentrate on pain, suffering, and resilience among marginalized older adults.

In her recent work, she is leading efforts to develop and disseminate next-generation models of palliative care through integration of medical and social care for older adults, building palliative environments across all care settings and levels of the society, expanding community-based palliative care through cooperation with aging services agencies and faith-based communities, and developing generalist-level palliative care workforce standards.

James O’Neal, MPA
SSA Board, SSA Diversity Committee Co-Chair



James O’Neal is an undergraduate of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, and earned his MA from New York University in New York City.

After years of community healthcare education and advocacy for older adults, primarily in ethnic and racial communities of New York City, James retired in 2015 to begin the “next phase of life” - still advocating for older adults.

He is a representative United Nations of the International Federation on Ageing and currently serving as the New York State President of the Executive Council of AARP.

In addition to duties at the United Nations, James is an ardent advocate for community development and human rights for older persons. He serves on the Board of Directors on a number of New York City’s Interagency Councils on Aging NY State and Community Advisory Boards. He’s a member of the Board of Directors of Neighborhood SHOPP, a group of older adult centers, in the Bronx. James is also an independent consultant on older adult human rights and healthcare issues.

Mr. O’Neal is a Past-President of the State Society on Aging of New York (2003), and is on the Board of Directors of SSA where he is co-chair of the Diversity Committee.

James has been the recipient of many community leadership and service awards including SSA’s *Advocate for Older Adults Award* and the *Walter Beattie Award* for outstanding contributions and commitment to the work of the State Society on Aging of New York.

Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW
SSA Board, SSA Membership Committee, SSA Nominations Committee



Dr. Manoj Pardasani is Provost at Hunter College, CUNY. Previously he served as Dean and Professor at Adelphi University. Earlier he served as Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education at Hunter College, CUNY, Also, Dr. Pardasani was a Senior Associate Dean, Faculty Research Scholar at the Ravazzin Center for Social Work Research in Aging and Associate Professor at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.

Manoj has a Master's of Social Work degree and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University. He is the nation’s leading researcher on senior centers and has conducted a number of studies on senior center programming, characteristics of senior center administrators and participants, and policy advocacy by senior centers, which have been published in peer-reviewed, academic journals.

Dr. Pardasani serves as the Principal Researcher on the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) and has been a part of their Research, New Models and Policy sub-committees. He has also evaluated community-based programs for older adults such as home-based case management, geriatric mental health and friendly visitor programs. His studies have directly led to strategic improvements in program models, caseload sizes and increased funding for community-based services for older adults. He is the past President of the New York State Society on Aging (SSA), the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) and the National Social Welfare Alliance. He is the Chair of the National Nominating Committee of the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) and a Fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine.