

BIOS & PHOTOS OF SSA 2025 BOARD MEMBERS

SSA BOARD OFFICERS

2025 PRESIDENT

Colette Phipps, LMSW
SSA President



Colette Phipps' human services background spans approximately 40 years. She presently serves as the Director, Program Development for the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS). In her current position, she conducts research and analyses on trends relating to the senior citizen population and develops new programs to address the needs of these residents as well as their caregivers.

Ms. Phipps' additional responsibilities include providing oversight of several major initiatives and projects sponsored by DSPS and its 501(C) 3, the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services. She is Executive Director of the national award winning Westchester County Livable Communities: A Vision for All Ages Initiative. Under the large umbrella of Livable Communities, she oversees several programs aimed at leveraging support for older adults and their caregivers. Ms. Phipps is a licensed master of social work, a certified dementia practitioner and a New York Academy of Medicine Fellow. She is an adjunct professor at Fordham University. Ms. Phipps earned a bachelors from Iona College and a Master of Social Work from New York University. Ms. Phipps is a published author and serves on numerous boards focused on the well-being of older adults.

SECRETARY

Danielle D. Gagne, PhD
Secretary, SSA Past President, SSA Executive Committee



Dr. Danielle D. Gagne is an Associate 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. Her current research is focused on the manifestation of ageism in children, digital death and grief, and “green” options for end of life.

TREASURER

Robert F. Maiden, PhD

Treasurer, SSA Executive Committee, SSA Finance Chair



Dr. Robert J. Maiden serves as the Director of the program at Alfred University leading to the BA degree in Gerontology. He is Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. Dr. Maiden maintains a private practice as a licensed clinical psychologist dealing with mental health issues across the lifespan. He also has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles, several book chapters on counseling grandparents rearing their grandchildren, and co-authored a book on the experiences of older adults in rural communities. Dr. Maiden has presented over 100 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.

2025 PRESIDENT-ELECT

Annette M. Hintenach, PhD, MSSW

SSA President-Elect



Annette Marie Hintenach, PhD, MSSW, is a gerontological social worker with twenty-two 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 health care and entitlement programs including Medicare and Medicaid. For over ten years, Dr. Hintenach 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 developed and administered geriatrics education and training programs for VA trainees and providers throughout the United States. She is a graduate of the prestigious Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability, and Development (LEAD) Program, a national Veterans Health Administration program that develops leadership skills and prepares individuals for higher levels of responsibility within the federal government. Dr. Hintenach is a published author, and her work has been presented at both national and international conferences including the Annual Meetings of the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

Dr. Hintenach holds a Bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles; a Master's degree in Social Work with a minor certificate in Law from Columbia University; and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social Work from Fordham University. Her primary research interests are related to Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia care; health policy issues including health care access, affordability of health care services, and high costs of prescription drugs and their implications for older adults; and mental health and compulsive hoarding in older adults.

GOVERNANCE

Judy L. Howe, PhD, MPA

SSA Executive Committee, SSA Governance Committee



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 PhD is in Social Welfare from Fordham University and her MPA is from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She 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.

GOVERNANCE

Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD

SSA Executive Board, SSA Governance, Co-Chair, SSA Social Policy Chair



Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD, a health and gerontological social work researcher and health care attorney, is an Associate Professor and the Director of the PhD Program at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. Dr. Morrissey is also Founder and President of the Collaborative for Palliative Care; and Chair of the New York State Bar Association Health Law Section. Dr. Morrissey's aging, health, and public health scholarship, policy practice, and research concentrate in pain management and palliative care. In her decades of 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. On November 20th, Dr. Morrissey was honored by Calvary Hospital at their Gala event with the conferral of the *Comptior Award* "in recognition of her legacy of work to advance interdisciplinary education and training in palliative care, create avenues of opportunity and diversity, and lead the legal community to address healthcare needs." Dr. Morrissey has also been recently appointed by Commissioner Mae Carpenter as Chair of the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services White House Conference on Aging Planning along with Co-Chair Colette Phipps.

SSA BOARD MEMBERS

Jackie Berman, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Student Committee Co-Chair



Dr. Berman is the Director of Program Evaluation and Research at NYC Department for the Aging. For three decades, she has focused on integrating mental health services within the aging network. She has designed and coordinated numerous nationally recognized programs, including the evidence based PROTECT, tailored for depressed elder abuse victims. She developed a health and wellness program that uses game play and group discussions to improve older adults' wellbeing and embedded mental health services in NYC older adult centers. Her programs have won national innovation awards from USAging.

Dr. Berman, a past president of the State Society on Aging of New York, co-authored Depressed Older Adults Education and Screening and co-led the first Elder Abuse Prevalence study in NYS. She holds an MSW and PhD from Columbia University and a BA from the University of Michigan.

Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD

SSA Board, SSA Award Chair



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.

Maria Brown, PhD
SSA Board



Maria Brown, PhD, LMSW, is an Associate Research Professor in the Syracuse University School of Social Work and Aging Studies Institute, with a history of interdisciplinary collaboration and community-based research. In 2020, Dr. Brown conducted a community-based participatory research project with adults aging with HIV in New York State which has led to changes in clinical care recommendations for HIV+ adults in New York. She is currently co-Investigator and Program Evaluator for the ongoing Healthy Brain Project, Embedding the Early Identification of Cognitive Impairment Among Older Adults into New York State Area Agencies on Aging (Principal Investigator: Sharon Brangman, SUNY Upstate Medical University). This project integrates a brief cognitive screening and referral process into client intake and client management of older adults in seven Area Agencies on Aging in Central New York. She has published her research in various peer-reviewed journals and *co*-authored multiple book chapters on health and cancer risk in LGBT adults, gerontological social work, and most recently on the evolution of religiosity, spirituality, and values across generations. A social gerontologist using the life course perspective to research the later-life experiences of traditionally underserved populations, Dr. Brown is also interested in intergenerational family relationships, dementia caregiving, the long-term care experiences of cognitively disabled older adults and their caregivers, and the treatment and survivorship experiences of breast cancer patients.

Henry J. Davis, PhD
SSA Board. SSA Electronic Communication – Co-Chair



Henry J. Davis, PhD, is the Director of Programs and Research for the Henry C. Ravazzin Center on Aging and Intergenerational Studies in Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Service. In this role, Dr. Davis assists in conducting research on issues relating to older adults. Most recently, Dr. Davis and the Ravazzin Center Team have worked on projects such as the “Live Well and Age Well Westchester County Study” and the “Mature Mindfulness” Intervention with the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services. Dr. Davis is an experienced researcher, leading both qualitative and quantitative studies, as well as using mixed methodological approaches. His research has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and has presented gerontological research at regional and national conferences.

Mary Ann Erickson
SSA Board



Mary Ann Erickson is Professor in the Department of Health Sciences and Public Health at Ithaca College. Her PhD from Cornell University is in Human Development, and her research interests include housing and gerontology education. Dr. Erickson was president of SSA 2016-2017 and was the recipient of SSA's Walter M. Beattie award.

christian gonzález-rivera, M.U.P.
SSA Board, SSA Policy Committee, SSA Program and Education Committee Co-Chair



christian gonzález-rivera is an immediate past-president of the State Society on Aging and the director of strategic policy initiatives at the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging at Hunter College, CUNY. 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. christian serves on the steering committee of the Inclusive Growth Initiative, a diverse group of policy leaders who are developing an inclusive, cohesive agenda for inclusive economic growth. christian is a fellow of the Sterling Network, a group of systems leaders from New York City's government, non-profit, and business sectors working together to expand economic justice across the five boroughs. 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 areas of workforce development policy and older adults 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, 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), he authored and supported research on housing, philanthropy, diversity in the healthcare workforce, access to financial services, consumer protection, and the green economy. 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 BA in urban studies from Columbia University and a master's degree in urban planning from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Janna C. Heyman, PhD, LMSW
SSA Program and Education Committee Co-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 MSW and the PhD program. Dr. Heyman is a Fellow at the New York Academy of Medicine and a Fellow at the national Gerontological Society of America. She is also a Past-President of the State Society on Aging (SSA) and was awarded the SSA Walter M. Beattie Jr. Award. Dr. Heyman was awarded 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.

Patricia Kolb, PhD
SSA Board



Dr. Kolb is an expert in gerontological social work with experience in direct practice, supervision, mentoring, administration, research, and teaching. She has authored key works, including *Caring for Our Elders: Multicultural Experiences with Social Work Practice* and *Understanding Aging and Diversity: Theories and Concepts*. She has published articles and book chapters on aging in journals like *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the New York Academy of Medicine, where she served as co-chair of the social work section. She also chaired the Research, Education, and Practice

Section of GSA and edited a special issue of *Gerontology and Geriatrics Education*. She is currently co-editing an issue of *Social Work* focused on supervision.

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



Dr. Melissa Lang has extensive experience in community-based health services in both NY and CT and currently serves as President and 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 hospice and palliative care, long-term care and disabilities, cancer care, and aging services. Her leadership 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, 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 Community Engagement and Health Equity, the Ethics Committee at Yale New Haven Hospital, The Collaborative for Palliative Care, Connecticut Age Well Collaborative Steering Committee, and the Advisory Board at The Center for Long-Term Care, New York Medical College. 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 Law and Columbia University.

Katherine Martinez,
SSA Board



Katherine Martinez, LMSW has been working with older adults for over 30 years in the areas of mental health, senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes, community care, elder abuse, crisis intervention, senior centers, family caregiving, 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 older adults 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 nonprofit social service organization founded in 1980 serving over 10,000 older adults and families annually through its various service initiatives located throughout the Bronx. Katherine earned her BSW and MSW from New York University School of Social Work. In addition to serving on NY State Society on Aging board, Katherine is a member of the NYC Department for the Aging Senior Advisory Council; is Co-Chair of the Hunts Point / Longwood

Coalition, and serves on the Bronx Regional Interagency Council on Aging (BRICA), NASW Aging Specialty Practice Committee, and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) Leadership Collaborative.

James C. O’Neal, MA
SSA Board, SSA Diversity Committee Chair



James C. O’Neal is AARP-NY State President. In this position, he chairs the AARP New York Executive Council, a select leadership group of AARP New York members with an outstanding record of service and a commitment to the goals of the Association. As State President, he is shaping AARP New York’s strategic priorities, building community partnerships with key decision makers and serves as volunteer spokesperson for the organization.

O’Neal, an independent consultant on older adult issues, has spent over two decades in the community health care industry, first with Oxford Health Plans, followed by the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Beth Abraham’s CenterLight Health Care, where he held the position of Director of Community Outreach until his retirement in January 2015.

“AARP’s incredible strength comes from its members and volunteers, and I’m so proud to help lead this dedicated group,” O’Neal said. “I look forward to continuing the important work of making New York State a healthier, more livable and more affordable place to live and age.”

O’Neal currently serves as a Board Member of the State Society on Aging of New York, Neighborhood SHOPP (senior centers and services) and the Washington Heights/Inwood Interagency Council on Aging, and is President of the Bronx Interagency Council on Aging (BRICA).

His past appointments include advisory and leadership roles with the Adult Immunization Coalition of the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene of New York City and the U.S. Department of Housing and Development-sponsored “Healthy Homes, Healthy Seniors” Community Study. In 2016, O’Neal was appointed a Member of the governor’s Advisory Committee for the Aging, and since 2018, he has served as a United Nations Representative for the International Federation on Ageing. He is currently on the Stakeholders Advisory Committee for the Development of the New York State Master Plan on Aging.

O’Neal holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Franklin & Marshall College and a Master of Arts from New York University.

Manoj Pardasani, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW
SSA Board



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. He 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. He 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.