



Winter 2006

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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This year the State Society on Aging (SSA) begins its 34<sup>th</sup> year as New York State's foremost multidisciplinary society focused on gerontology, aging issues, and the needs of New York State's older adults, their families, and communities. SSA's mission is to bring together "individuals and groups from health, government, educational and community settings to improve the quality of life for older New Yorkers..." Our organizational strength derives from our diverse perspectives and disciplines, representation from across the state, and our members' commitment to the field of aging and older New Yorkers.

This year it is my privilege to be SSA's President. I join a long list of distinguished colleagues who have guided our organization since 1972 when SSA was founded as the New York State Association of Gerontological Educators. I joined the society when my career refocused from occupational therapy and rehabilitation medicine toward gerontology. SSA welcomed me and provided opportunities to meet leaders in gerontology and the "aging community" and to share my ideas and perspectives. Few other organizations provide these opportunities for statewide professional networking and collegial relationships, forums to address pressing policy issues, and opportunities to share gerontology research and views on gerontology education. New York State and our local

communities are increasingly experiencing the challenges of changing demographics, including aging communities. SSA's partnership with the New York Office on Aging on *Project 2015* and most recently with the 2005 regional pre-WHCOA events highlight the society's commitment to aging issues in New York State.

I welcome our new members, our past members, and our student members and look forward to being in touch with colleagues from across New York State. This year I look forward to increasing opportunities for members to meet and work together throughout the year. Consider how your participation in SSA can enhance your professional development and interests. Visit our website at [www.ssany.org](http://www.ssany.org) to learn about SSA activities, and mark your calendars for October 25-27<sup>th</sup> 2006 for our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the beautiful, historic Gideon Putnam Hotel and Conference Center in Saratoga Spring, New York.



**Beverly P. Horowitz, PhD, OTR/L  
SSA President, 2006**

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## Greetings from Judy Howe, 2005 President

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I hope this finds you well. It's hard to believe that 2005 has come and gone! The State Society on Aging of New York (SSA) had a banner year in 2005 with an enthusiastic Executive Committee and a lively annual conference at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center in Verona, New York. During 2005, we undertook several projects, including partnering with the New York State Office on Aging (SOFA) and Area Agencies on Aging in hosting pre-White House Conference on Aging public forums throughout the State. Other projects during the year included a rejuvenation of our website, a hard look at how the organization operates, with recommendations for by-law changes.

Thanks to all of you for a great year as President of the State Society of New York! It was my pleasure to serve the Society in this capacity, and I look forward to many more years of involvement with this unique and important organization. I firmly believe that SSA fills a niche that no other organization does or can, and that we can work together to ensure a strong future.



**2005 SSA President Judy Howe and  
2006 SSA President Elect  
Beverly Horowitz**

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## Conference Highlights

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The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center provided an opportunity for colleagues and friends to come together to learn about emerging issues in aging. 2005's theme, **Aging Today and Tomorrow: The Community of New York State**, examined the aging baby boomer population of New York State and the various issues that they face, including health and long term care, retirement, and productive aging.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, Isabella Geriatric Center, Loretto Geriatric Center, and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, for hosting wonderful receptions at the annual conference. Thanks also to the large number of organizations that took out advertisements in the annual program.

The Legislative Town Hall Meeting was, as always, lively, focusing on long term care reform. Organized by the SSA Social Policy Committee, the meeting was moderated by SSA 2006 President, Beverly Horowitz, with participation by Neil Lane, Director of the New York State Office on Aging, Bob Herz, Chief of Staff of State Senator Martin J. Golden, Greg Olson, Chief of Staff for State Assemblyman Steven Englebright, and Jurgis Karuza, Past President of SSA.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the SSA President's Award to Msgr. Charles Fahey and Dr. M. Joanna Mellor for their exemplary leadership in aging on the state and national levels.

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## Photos Highlighting the 2005 Conference

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**Sarah Panepinto**  
2005 SSA Conference Program Chair



**Marilyn Schatzberg** accepts the  
2005 SSA Graduate Student Paper  
Award from Terry Beckley



**Joanna Mellor**, recipient of the  
Walter M. Beattie, Jr. Award



**Logan Jamison** accepts the SSA  
Student Participation Award from  
Terry Beckley on behalf of Ithaca  
College



**Monsignor Charles Fahey** accepts the  
President's Award from 2005 SSA  
President Judy Howe



**Neal Lane**, Executive Director of the  
New York State Office for the Aging  
addresses the closing session.

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## Student Participation at the Conference

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Fifteen universities and colleges from throughout New York State as far west as Buffalo, including Rochester, Utica, and Stony Brook participated in the conference.

Marilyn Schatzberg, a student at Fordham University, was the 2005 recipient of the SSA Graduate Student Paper Award. Schatzberg's paper was titled "Medicare and Chronic Care Coverage for the Elderly."

This year's Student Participation Award was shared by Ithaca College and the James J. Peters Bronx VA Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship Program.

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## Join The State Society on Aging and the American Society on Aging and benefit

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SSA is an organizational member of the American Society on Aging (ASA). ASA is the largest organization of professionals in the field of aging. ASA resources, publications, and educational opportunities are geared to enhance the knowledge and skills of people working with older adults and their families.

ASA's educational programs and publications are packed with innovative models, best practices and ways to apply the latest information. In addition to an annual conference (co-sponsored with the National Council on Aging), ASA offers regional programs like the

Summer Series on Aging and Web-delivered seminar series.

If you are an SSA member you can join ASA at the reduced organizational membership rate of \$95 (a savings of \$45 on individual membership). In other words, for the price of full individual membership in ASA you can join both SSA and ASA and enjoy the benefits of both organizations.

If you are new to ASA or renewing your membership, take advantage of this savings opportunity today. And, be sure to renew your SSA membership at the same time. Just go to the ASA website and download the ASA membership form.

[www.asaging.org/members/brochure/membership\\_application.pdf](http://www.asaging.org/members/brochure/membership_application.pdf)

Send your completed ASA form along with a check made out to ASA for \$95 to the SSA membership coordinator:

**Mary Ann Erickson  
Ithaca College Gerontology Institute  
421 Center for Health Sciences  
Ithaca, NY 14850.**

Once your SSA membership is validated, your membership application will be sent on to ASA.

### **SSA MEMBERSHIP**

To become a member of the State Society on Aging and receive all future mailings, contact:

**Mary Ann Erickson, PhD  
at 607-274-3705 or  
[merickson@ithaca.edu](mailto:merickson@ithaca.edu).**

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## **Statewide Regional Meetings help New Yorkers Provide Input to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging**

**Christine Klotz, MHA**

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As we all know by now, the fifth White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) was held December 11-14 in Washington, DC to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress. The theme for the 2005 WHCoA, "The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action" reflected the mandate of the 2005 WHCoA to focus on the aging of today and tomorrow.

New York State had the second largest conference delegation with 74 delegates. The Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue and SOFA Director Neal Lane coordinated a dialog with the NYS delegation including two well planned pre-conference meetings of the delegation, a list serve, and a resource binder. The NYS delegation was one of the best prepared delegations to enter the conference.

As part of the preparation for this conference and to provide input to the WHCOA delegates and Policy Committee, a series of regional Solutions Forums were held in June and July 2005. These meetings were sponsored by the State Office on Aging, the State Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the State Society on Aging of New York. The meetings were convened by Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue.

Each of the NYS pre-WHCoA events provided an opportunity for participants to discuss important issues that will affect the lives of the elderly, their families, and all citizens across the country in the decades to come. Among the topics discussed were: long term care; designing vital communities for the future; and ensuring that critical infrastructure characteristics are included in communities so that all are provided the opportunity to age well in our society. It was understood in the design of the discussion that Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are known high priorities. Focus was placed on determining other issues of high priority.

The eight regional events were attended by more than 1,050 participants. In addition to participation by the senior population and the aging network from communities across the state, participants included family caregivers, local service providers, the non-profit and business community, legislators, college faculty and students, representing a range of backgrounds, interests and perspectives. Each of the events included "break-out" sessions designed to give participants the opportunity to discuss issues, formulate proposed solutions, and prioritize solutions within the selected issue areas. The results of the regional sessions were summarized and a report was sent to the WHCoA Policy Committee. To read the complete report see: <http://www.aging.state.ny.us/news/whoc/a/whcoaindex.htm>

## **NYSOFA: Selected Solution Statements from the Summary Report**

**The regional meetings resulted in the following themes that were constant across NYS:**

### **1. ACCESS TO QUALITY AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND LTC**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- National education on LTC
- Designate one agency to coordinate existing federal policy and programs and develop new initiatives to address LTC
- Universal points of access for medical and social services to provide unbiased information/referral/assessment
- More flexible financing of LTC
- Information for those entering the Medicare program

### **2. CAREGIVERS**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- Financial incentives for caregivers of older adults
- Use 10% of caregiver funds to support grandparents providing care for children
- Test initiatives to enhance and sustain caregivers
- Support caregivers with remedies to offset wage loss and reductions in future retirement benefits

### **3. HOUSING**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- Tax credits for home modifications supporting aging in place
- Tax credits for builders to design homes that support aging in place
- Grants to fund local, comprehensive housing plans to include the aging and disabled populations
- Adopt safety and convenience design features
- Increase senior-friendly community design

### **4. TRANSPORTATION**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- Stimulate integrated use of transportation services
- Funding to provide transportation services

- Cluster housing and businesses near public transportation
- Support transportation and mobility options that enable independence for elders
- Remove liability barriers that prevent use of volunteer drivers

### **5. WORKFORCE**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- Tuition, job training and tax incentives for careers in critical shortage areas of older adults
- Incentives to educational facilities that train/educate healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals
- Incentives for programs that train workers to replace the aging workforce in selected fields
- Remove barriers affecting the ability and interest of older adults to work

### **6. USE OF COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION SYSTEM FACILITIES AND RESOURCES/INFORMATION TRANSFER**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- Direct educational resources to residents not in the educational system
- Federal grant funding for integrated use for schools and other federally funded community structures
- Direct 1% of federal education funding to the community for facility use or enrichment programs
- Create information points of access

### **7. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM**

*Suggested Solutions:*

- Establish Federal office to facilitate employers and others to provide support for caregiving and civic engagement activities
- Assist older adults and adults in transition to create meaningful lives and engagement
- Match the skills and talents of residents with community programs that need help

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## 2005 White House Conference on Aging *Top 10 Resolutions Announced*

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The 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) delegates prepared recommendations to be sent to the President and Congress on the pressing aging issues of today and the future. Delegates in attendance selected the top 50 resolutions to present and participated in working groups to develop strategies for implementing the resolutions. The top 10 resolutions as voted by the delegates are:

1. Reauthorize the Older Americans Act Within the First Six Months Following the 2005 White House Conference on Aging
2. Develop a Coordinated, Comprehensive Long-Term Care Strategy by Supporting Public and Private Sector Initiatives that Address Financing, Choice, Quality, Service Delivery, and the Paid and Unpaid Workforce
3. Ensure that Older Americans Have Transportation Options to Retain Their Mobility and Independence
4. Strengthen and Improve the Medicaid Program for Seniors
5. Strengthen and Improve the Medicare Program
6. Support Geriatric Education and Training for All Healthcare Professionals, Paraprofessionals, Health Profession Students, and Direct Care Workers
7. Promote Innovative Models of Non-Institutional Long-Term Care
8. Improve Recognition, Assessment, and Treatment of Mental Illness and Depression Among Older Americans
9. Attain Adequate Numbers of Healthcare Personnel in All Professions Who are Skilled, Culturally Competent, and Specialized Geriatrics
10. Improve State and Local Based Integrated Delivery Systems to Meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century Needs of Seniors

By statute, the final report from the conference will be presented to the President and Congress by June 2006. For a full listing of the 50 resolutions, visit [www.whcoa.gov](http://www.whcoa.gov).

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## President's Circle

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There is a new initiative that Beverly Horowitz and Judy Howe are launching ~ **the SSA Presidents Circle**, which will be open to all Past Presidents of SSA. The Society's strength lies in the wide range of talent and interdisciplinary expertise of its leadership and members from across New York State. The *President's Circle* will ensure that the rich talents and experience of past Presidents continue to be a vital resource to SSA. We see the structure of the *President's Circle* as advisory, engaging in highly critical and visible projects, and sponsoring key sessions at the annual meeting.

Isabella Geriatric Center (IGC) and Evercare co-sponsor a one-day conference for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) biannually to provide them with education regarding how to improve the delivery of palliative care. **Contact Patrice Ranellone at IGC for more information about the next conference 212-342-9472.**

## **Aging Studies in Higher Education: A Rarity**

By Robert Maiden

Past President/SSA Board Member

By now, it is a fairly well known fact that 76-78 million baby boomers will begin to turn 60 years old this year. Meeting their needs associated with growing older will require an appropriately trained cadre of service providers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the number of jobs in aging-related services will increase by more than 36% over the next few years. With this in mind, it is important to know what types of training programs are available, particularly at institutions of higher education. To accomplish this, the State Society on Aging of New York (SSA) and The State Office for Aging of New York (SOFA) conducted an inventory of all the institutions of higher education within New York State. We anticipated that most colleges and universities would offer at least isolated courses in aging and many of them would provide a major or minor program. In all, we contacted 241 schools.

Surprisingly, the majority (60%) of the schools surveyed reported offering no course work at all on aging. Of the schools polled, only 4% offered a major, 2% offered a minor, 16% offered a certificate, 3% had a concentration, and a few schools extended combinations of the above and one school offered a PhD program in aging – one of nine nationally.

The enrollment figures were also disappointing. The associate's degree programs had an average of 25 students enrolled in gerontology, the bachelors

had an average of 15, the masters an average of 19. Only one doctoral program was cited and it reported having around 7 students enrolled.

There are several possible reasons for the paucity of programs and their limited enrollment. First, most agencies that provide aging-related services do not require that their hirelings have an academic background or course work in aging for employment. Second, salaries tend to be relatively low for the same level of work. Third, many young people do not pursue a career in gerontology because they confuse the word "gerontology" with geriatrics and believe it is associated with only medicine or health. Fourth, most programs in gerontology do not formally network with agencies and service providers to provide their students access to jobs in the field upon graduation. Finally, few high school graduates have an interest in majoring in the field of aging because they received little, if any, formal exposure to content on aging issues and concerns throughout their schooling. That is why John Krout and others have assertively advocated for educational programs that infuse gerontology into the classroom from kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

All in all, the results are distressing. The next step is for SSA and SOFA to develop a carefully designed master plan aiming to increase student interest in the field of aging and to enhance, to expand and to increase the number of existing programs on aging. We plan on initiating this project over the next few months.

We invite your comments, suggestions and participation in devising this project.

\*\*Contact information for Robert Maiden, Judy Howe, Beverly Horowitz, Jurgis Karuza, and John Krout is on the website: [www.ssany.org](http://www.ssany.org)

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## 2005 White House Conference on Aging

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**Bold = Friend of SSA or SSA Member**

Robert Abrams – Lake Success  
 Delores Bacon-Finch – Brooklyn  
 Linda Barrington – New York  
**John Beale – Poughkeepsie**  
 Kathleen M. Beichert – New York  
 Judith Binney – New York  
 Angela Blackley – Middleport  
 Myrna Blyth – New York  
 Dr. Patricia A. Bomba – Rochester  
 Dr. Robert N. Butler – New York  
 Suleika Cabrera – New York  
 Dr. Eugene Callender – New York  
**Ellen Camerieri – Bronx**  
**Mae Carpenter – Mt. Vernon**  
 Shian James Chang – Niskayuna  
**Geraldine Chapey – New York**  
 Dr. Kathleen E. Christensen – New York  
 Edward Creegan – Levittown  
 Gloria Coles – New York  
**Ann Marie Cook – Rochester**  
 Michael Cooley – Cohoes  
 Lawrence E. Davidow – Islandia  
**William Dionne – New York**  
**Dr. Rose W. Dobrof – NYC**  
 Mary Donohue – Albany  
 Eva A. Eng – New York  
 Don Ezra – New York  
**Msgr. Charles J. Fahey - Bronx**  
 Lorrie G. Foster – New York  
 Lisa Gaudet – Troy  
 Dr. George K. Gleason – Clifton Park  
**Dr. Carl V. Granger – Amherst**  
**O. Lewis Harris – New York**  
 Dr. Brian F. Hofland – New York  
**Carol Hunt – Jamaica**  
 Rena Iacono – Lido Beach  
**Igal Jellinek – New York**  
 Rev. Carol Jubenville – New Hartford  
 Enis L. Jurado-Nieves – New Windsor  
 Carl F. Kaelber – New York

Diana J. Kalman – New York  
 Mark Kissinger – Albany  
**Dr. Dennis Kodner – New York**  
 Mary Krause – Canastota  
 Mark Lachs – New York  
**Neal Lane – Albany**  
**Dr. Evelyn Laureano – Bronx**  
 Carol Levine – New York  
**Edwin Mendez-Santiago-New York**  
 Dr. Ann Merlino – Staten Island  
 Elizabeth Mullin-DiProsa – Rochester  
 Dr. Sharon Mullon – Uniondale  
 Joseph Murphy – Rye  
 Dr. Stanley Nussbaum – Atlantic Beach  
 May Newburger – Mineola  
 Dr. Antonia Novello – Albany  
 Alberta L. Orr – New York  
**Marilyn Pinsky – Syracuse**  
**Carol Rodat – Albany**  
 Vincent J. Russo – Westbury  
 Jeri L. Sedlar – New York  
 Talbott Smith – New York  
**Susan Somers – Rensselaer**  
 Alice Spratley – Brooklyn  
**Dr. Irene Wald Stein – Ithaca**  
**Dr. Cynthia Stuen – New York**  
 Sherry F. Sweik – Armonk  
 Dr. Jeanette Takamura – New York  
 Dr. Frederick W. Telling – New York  
**Kimberley Toot – Belmont**  
 Norman Volk – New York  
 Nat Yalowitz – New York  
**Thomas Yandeu – Catskill**  
 Patricia Wojcik – Cheektowaga  
**Governor's alternates:**  
 Lois Aronstein – New York  
 Dr. Katharine Briar-Lawson – Albany  
 Richard Iannello – Albany  
 Catherine James – Syracuse  
**Christine Klotz – Newfield**  
 Gary O'Brien – Schenectady  
 Robert Paganelli – Fredonia  
 Dr. Martha Sullivan – New York  
 Mario Tapia – New York

Members of SSA are encouraged to participate and share their expertise with other professionals through a number of standing committees. Below are a list of committees with a brief description and contact person for more information.

1. **Awards**

This committee is made up of a number of SSA members who review suggestions for potential candidates for a number of SSA awards. Awards include the Walter M. Beattie, Jr. Award and the SSA Student Awards.

For more information contact:  
Patricia Brownell, Ph.D., Chair  
E-mail: [brownell@fordham.edu](mailto:brownell@fordham.edu)

2. **Budget/Finance**

The budget/finance committee works to oversee the financial operations of SSA including fund raising activities.

For more information contact:  
Robert Maiden, Ph.D., Chair  
E-mail: [fmaiden@alfred.edu](mailto:fmaiden@alfred.edu)  
Terry A. Beckley, Treasurer  
E-mail: [tbeckley@ithaca.edu](mailto:tbeckley@ithaca.edu)

3. **Committees and Standards**

This committee ensures that the Society is in compliance with by-laws and makes recommendations for changes to the by-laws as appropriate.

For more information contact:  
Mark Brennan, Ph.D., Chair  
E-mail: [mbrennan@lighthouse.org](mailto:mbrennan@lighthouse.org)

4. **Education**

The education committee works to develop and coordinate educational programming for SSA members, especially for the annual conference.

5. **Membership**

The membership committee works to recruit and attract new members to SSA as well as maintain contact with current and previous members.

For more information contact:  
Mary Ann Erickson, Ph.D., Chair  
E-mail: [merickson@ithaca.edu](mailto:merickson@ithaca.edu)

6. **Nominations**

The nominations committee works to identify and nominate members to

various board positions available in SSA.

For more information contact:  
James O'Neal, MA, Chair  
Email: [joneal@vnsny.org](mailto:joneal@vnsny.org)

7. **Planning and Development**

For more information contact:  
Chris Klotz, Co-chair  
E-mail: [crk-ssa@bcx.net](mailto:crk-ssa@bcx.net)  
James O'Neal, Co-Chair  
E-mail: [joneal@vnsny.org](mailto:joneal@vnsny.org)

8. **Program**

The program committee works to develop and organize the SSA annual conference, a 3-day educational event. Tasks include developing the conference program and reviewing abstract submissions.

For more information contact:  
Patricia Maiden, PhD, Chair  
Email: [pmaiden@gmail.com](mailto:pmaiden@gmail.com)

9. **Publications**

The publications committee develops and publishes the biannual newsletter, membership directories, and other printed SSA materials.

For more information contact:  
Deborah Heiser, Ph.D., Chair  
Email: [dheiser@isabella.org](mailto:dheiser@isabella.org)

10. **Social Policy**

The social policy committee works on advocacy efforts surrounding various public policies that effect older adults.

For more information contact:  
Ann Brownhill Gubernick, LMSW,  
Chair

For more information contact:  
Email: [bffyneqss@aol.com](mailto:bffyneqss@aol.com)

11. **Student Committee**

The student committee works to develop student interest in SSA activities which includes planning the annual SSA student conference and involving students interested in gerontology.

For more information contact:  
Terry A. Beckley, Chair  
Email: [tbeckley@ithaca.edu](mailto:tbeckley@ithaca.edu)

Save the Date for the  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the State  
Society on Aging of New York State  
[www.ssany.org](http://www.ssany.org)

Join colleagues from across New York State to address the concerns and needs of older New Yorkers on October 25-27, 2006 at the Gideon Putnam Resort Saratoga Spa State Park Saratoga Springs, NY

Patricia Maiden, PhD  
Conference Chair  
Email: [pmaiden@gmail.com](mailto:pmaiden@gmail.com)



Saratoga Springs is 30-40 minutes from Albany. The Gideon Putnam Resort and Conference Center is located within Saratoga Spa State Park, on 2,300 acres that has a 9 hole golf course, tennis courts, and a mineral bath spa. Members may want to stay an additional day to fully enjoy the facilities and activities! The website for the Gideon Putnam is: [www.gideonputnam.com](http://www.gideonputnam.com).



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**Beverly Horowitz, PhD  
President 2006**

**Deborah Heiser, PhD  
Editor**

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**Ithaca College  
Gerontology Institute  
407 Center for Health Sciences  
Ithaca, NY 14850**

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