

Older Americans Act Reauthorized with Enhancements

On September 30, Congress reauthorized the Older Americans Act, preserving existing OAA programs and adding new initiatives. Provisions include grants encouraging “aging-in-place” through the development of innovative models of naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC), increased funding for family caregiver support, and a granting program for multi-generational and civic engagement projects.

Funding for the OAA for fiscal year 2007 is not in place; Congress considers appropriations in November.

For more detailed information on the OAA and its many provisions, plus statements from congressional sponsors and stakeholder organizations, visit the U.S. Department of Human Services, Administration on Aging Web site:
http://www.aoa.gov/OAA2006/Main_Site/index.aspx.

The text of H.R. 6197 in its entirety is available [here](#).

VAN Program News

Eight volunteers participated in the card sorting activity conducted October 13 and 14 in the specially-equipped Web useability lab at the University of Minnesota. Results, currently being compiled and analyzed, will be used to improve the overall design and organization of the VAN Web site. Final reports will be completed by year-end.

The Vital Aging Network is the topic of several discussion groups that are being conducted in the metro and rural communities as part of VAN's strategic planning. Three additional discussion groups were convened to focus more specifically on the Advocacy Leadership for Vital Aging (ALVA) program.

Civic Ventures Opens Nominations for Two Awards

Every day nearly 8,000 baby boomers turn 60. This past September, anticipating this huge demographic shift, Civic Ventures announced the first winners of The Purpose Prize— five \$100,000 and ten \$10,000 investments in Americans over 60 whose creativity, talent and experience is transforming the way our nation addresses critical social problems. Dozens of other innovators received national recognition for their work. Now nominations are being accepted for the 2007 Purpose Prize. Visit www.purposeprize.org to read about the prize and this year's winners, to nominate someone or apply. The application deadline is February 1, 2007. The awards will be announced in the summer of 2007.

The MetLife/Civic Ventures BreakThrough Award is a new award for innovative organizations that tap the passion and experience of people over 50 to improve society. It's a salute to any nonprofit or public sector agency that takes on local, national, or international challenges by engaging this vast and vibrant workforce for good. Learn more and nominate or apply at www.civicventures.org/breakthrough. The

application deadline is February 1, 2007.

Second Journey Visioning Council Rescheduled

Aging in community...what does it feel like? What does it look like? Can individuals create the conditions that support community anywhere; and if so, how? **The Midwest Visioning Council: Creating Community in Later Life** invites participants to thoughtfully explore ways to live and grow together during the second half of life. It will be held June 22-24, 2007 at the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, 25 miles south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Attendance will be limited to 36 participants. To achieve the goal of envisioning new institutional models, the viewpoints of many are solicited: architects, developers, educators, practitioners, writers, artists, cultural visionaries and catalysts. This and other Regional Councils are sponsored by Second Journey, a nonprofit organization dedicated to working with individuals and organizations, to create a new vision of aging, new models of community for the second half of life, and a just and sustainable world now and for future generations. For more information, results of previous Councils, and to register for the Midwest Council, see the Web site: <http://SecondJourney.org>.

Cohousing Workshop in the Twin Cities

Cohousing communities are intentional neighborhoods designed to optimize sustainability and social connections. For an example of a local community visit www.IslandParkMN.com.

A workshop on cohousing will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Michel Servetus Unitarian Society, 6565 Oakley Dr. NE, Fridley. Members of new communities that are being formed locally will be on hand. For directions to the Unitarian Society in Fridley, visit <http://www.msuu.org/>. Contact Joanne Malone for more information on this event: jmalone@mn.rr.org or 952-926-8554.

The Cohousing Association of the United States provides information, directories, and other resources at www.cohousing.org.

Educating Mid-Life Learners: New Course at U of M

"Educating Learners in Mid-Life and Beyond" is a new University of Minnesota course for students and professionals interested in older adult learning. The three-credit course begins on January 20, 2007 and meets for 10 Saturdays on the St. Paul campus. Topics covered include lifelong learning and vital aging, physical and cognitive changes in older adults, program planning, useful approaches and tools for teaching older adults. Contact Jan Hively at hivel001@umn.edu or Janet Jacobson at 651-690-0483 or janet.jacobson@usa.net for additional information.

Internet Curriculum for Direct Support Professionals

The Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota provides internet-based training of direct support professionals through its College of Direct Support. Example course titles include Direct Support Professionalism, Positive Behavior Support, Individual Rights and Choice, and Cultural Competence. Supervisor courses include Training and Orientation, Recruitment and Selection, and Developing an Intervention Plan. The center is planning additional courses such as Functional Assessment, Aging and Disability, and Communication Supports. The Research and Training Center is a program of the College of Education and Human Development. Visit <http://rtc.umn.edu/dsp/projects1.asp> for more information.

Retirement Living TV on Cable

A new cable television network that targets the 55+ plus audience debuted in September in the eastern U.S. **Retirement Living** is the first network to provide a full roster of programming specifically aimed at the boomer and beyond demographic. More information and online viewing is at www.rl.tv/.

Ace Hardware Rebates for Energy-Efficient Lighting

If every household in the U.S. replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), the CO₂ emission equivalent of one million cars would disappear, according to Environmental Force, the VAN Venture that mobilizes older adults to work for a better environment. A CFL uses only 25% of the electricity of an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light. And if every U.S. household replaced the most commonly used incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, electricity use for lighting could be cut in half. To make it easier to switch, Ace Hardware stores are participating in the "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign through November, by offering a rebate on GE Compact Fluorescent Lamps in 60, 70, and 100 watt equivalents. An instant store rebate of \$2 brings the net cost to \$1 each while supplies last. Call your local Ace Hardware to check availability.



Dates to Put on Your Calendar

Let VAN know if you have events in your community for vital agers. Visit www.van.umn.edu and click on "Send Us a Calendar Event." Events must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the following month's Bulletin.

November 3 - 4

Creativity Matters: National Conference on Arts and Aging, Newark, NJ.

The Conference will highlight research findings on health and psycho-social benefits of cultural programming; provide an overview of "best practices" through exchange among professional artists and cultural organizations. The Conference will also feature an "Arts and Aging Best Practices Toolkit." **To download the best practices publication, visit:** <http://www.nea.gov/resources/Accessibility/BestPractices.pdf>.

November 6: Never Too Late

Facilitated Discussion on Midlife Transitions, sponsored by Shift: This week features three individuals who shifted toward more meaning in their vocation at mid-life. Don Samuels (toy designer to politician), Jane Leach (electrician to English profession), Tim Danz (distributor to teacher).

Dunn Brothers Coffee in Loring Park, 7 p.m.

Contact: David Buck (612) 308-9394

November 9, 5 - 8 p.m.**Caregiver Appreciation Dinner**

November is National Caregiver Appreciation Month, and at this celebration event, guests will enjoy a complimentary dinner, and presentation by Suzanne Mintz, president of the National Family Caregivers Association. The evening also features free head and shoulder massages, gifts, prizes, and informative exhibits. The event is open to all family members age 13 and older, in caring roles. No fee, but registration is required.

Location: Crowne Plaza St. Paul Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul

Contact: Call Charlene to register: 612-335-7970.

Through November 9***Signatures of Age* exhibit in Chicago**

Artwork in all media by women is featured in this exhibit that touches on all aspects of aging. Exhibit juror, Helen Redman, states that "The art in 'Signatures of Age' addresses body changes, beauty obsessions, health issues, societal ills, individual identity, emergence, survival, transformation and just being here. The pieces included, like aging, range from poetic to disturbing, humorous to pensive and defiant to enduring."

Location: Woman Made Gallery, 885 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

Information: www.womanmade.org.

November 13: Social Forces

Facilitated Discussion on Midlife Transitions, sponsored by Shift: This week features Phyllis Moen, celebrated national sociologist, and Jan Hively, past Deputy Mayor of Minneapolis and now lifework coach and founder of the Vital Aging Network, discussing the social forces contributing to societal shifts.

Dunn Brothers Coffee in Loring Park, 7 p.m.

Contact: David Buck (612) 308-9394

November 20: Three Wise Counselors

Facilitated Discussion on Midlife Transitions, sponsored by Shift: This week features three career counselors sharing their observations of what people are looking for in midlife transitions: Janet Pelto, career consultant at the University of Minnesota, Lee Bailey of Bailey Consulting Group, and Jean Tollefson of VisionQuest.

Dunn Brothers Coffee in Loring Park, 7 p.m.

Contact: David Buck (612) 308-9394

November 27: Inspiration from Immigration

Facilitated Discussion on Midlife Transitions, sponsored by Shift: This week features three immigrants to the U.S. sharing their personal stories of change. Sonia Cordero, Hussein Samatar of African Development Center of MN, Txong Pao Lee of Hmong Cultural Center.

Dunn Brothers Coffee in Loring Park, 7 p.m

Contact: David Buck (612) 308-9394

VAN connects older adults with education to promote and support their self-sufficiency, community participation, and personal enrichment. VAN is supported by the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education. Visit the VAN Web site at www.van.umn.edu



Vital Aging Network
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