



1964

## Notables

### Golden Age Club organizers

Minnie Borneman & Edna Hogan

### Board of Directors

First Board (1955)

Norman L. Ritche, President  
Rev. Paul Hydon, Vice-President  
Minnie Borneman, Secretary  
Fred W. Dunson, Treasurer

Claude van Wie, President (1959-1960)

Robert Gass, President (1976-1988)

### Executive Directors

Marjorie Vokes (1961-1970)

Sylvia Newcomb (1984-2002)

Bill Davis (2002-2010)

Lois Celeste (2010-present)



1973



1976

## About the Exhibit

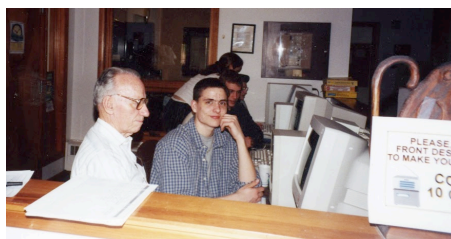


In its first 60 years, the members and staff of the Adult & Senior Center of Saratoga collected photographs, newspaper articles, minutes, news-

letters and mementos of the Center's rich life. Early member Sabra J. Hook, perhaps the archive's original organizer, stamped several items.



At the request of Executive Director Lois Celeste, Skidmore College's MDOCS program supported five students – Phoebe Radcliffe, Eli Ruben, Natasha Thaler, Rebecca Walker and Tracey Wingate – as they drew on these materials to develop a history of the Center and to create materials for this exhibit and a short film on the Center's past, present and future. Faculty Crystal Dea Moore (Social Work) and Jordana Dym (MDOCS/ History) advised this part of the Skidmore-Saratoga Memory Project, <http://ssmp.skidmore.edu>



# SIXTY YEARS YOUNG

Stories from the archives

From Golden Age Club to  
Adult & Senior Center of Saratoga

1955-2015



**The Adult & Senior Center of Saratoga**

5 Williams Street  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



# Timeline

- 1955 Saratoga Golden Age Club est.; 48 charter members
- 1957 Senior Center of Saratoga incorporated
- 1958 162 Circular Street bought
- 1959 Meetings begin at Circular Street
- 1960 Saratoga Senior Center officially joins Senior Centers of America
- 1975 Saratoga Springs Senior Services begin
- 1978 November, new Center opens, 5 Williams Street
- 1979 New Senior Center dedicated (April 1)
- 1993 Kilmer Pavilion, funded by bequest by Margaret Kilmer of Greenfield
- 2012 New entrance (Price Chopper grant)  
New carport (Alfred Z. Solomon Trust grant)

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**FOR** just as I approve of a young man in whom there is a touch of age, so I approve of the old man in whom there is some of the flavor of youth. He who strives thus to mingle youthfulness and age may grow old in body, but old in spirit he will never be.

—Cicero

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Senior Citizens Center  
OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y. INC.  
162 Circular St. Saratoga Springs, N. Y.



The mission: to empower seniors to achieve and maintain personal independence and individual well-being by providing the program structure and support services necessary for healthy recreation, companionship social involvement, and problem solving.

In the 1940's, the concept of community centers designed for seniors --"Golden Age Clubs"-- in the US. New York State senator **Thomas C. Desmond** was a leader in this movement, who championed the "Age of the aged" and "oldsters" "rebelling against idleness, learning new tricks, & changing our economies."

In 1955, Saratoga Springs seniors and community organizations met at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, Veteran's Home and other locations to plan. Mrs. **Minnie Borneman** sent a letter to senior citizens inviting them to meet on March 28, 1955 in the office of Saratoga County Health Association to explore forming a Saratoga Golden Age Club. By July, the Club was airborne with 48 charter members, including co-pilots **Edna Hogan & Minnie** herself. The Club set out to serve seniors 60 years (soon 50) and older because (as she wrote) "we oldsters have a job to do. And do you know, we can be very potent in our community and in our country – for good—if we learn how to work together to achieve that goal."



In 1958, the Senior Center, Inc. incorporated to be able to purchase a home, **162 Circular St.** and laid down a mission: "promote the best interests of the seniors" of Saratoga Springs & Saratoga County.

By 1964, its fifth anniversary, the Center was open 5 days a week, 10am - 4pm, offering a "variety of programs... [so] each person is able to find some activity of interest." The list included ceramics, painting, chair-caning, rug-hooking, card playing, billiards, singing and sewing. plus events from hobby and flower shows to dinners, picnics, field trips & weekly film screenings. Today many (not all) activities continue, with Tai Chi, dance, and other mental & physical activities.

But they do so in a new home. By 1969, with the initial mortgage paid off, and the center – serving around three dozen of its 300 members a day under the leadership of Executive Director **Marjorie Vokes**, sought a new home. **Robert Gass**, a life-long Saratogian and Center Board President, spear-headed funding and building a new Senior Center at **5 Williams Street**. Today, the Center supports many activities and over 1200 members.

