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TV journalist Stone Phillips to serve as honorary chair at gala



Stone Phillips will be the honorary chair of the Saratoga Senior Center's 60th Diamond Anniversary Gala Nov. 12. Image provided.

By [Jennie Grey](#), The Saratogian

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SARATOGA SPRINGS >> Nov. 12, the Adult and Senior Center of Saratoga will celebrate its 60th Diamond Anniversary

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with a gala at the Canfield Casino. Stone Phillips, television journalist and former network news correspondent for “20/20,” “Good Morning, America” and “Dateline NBC” will serve as honorary chair for the event.

The Adult and Senior Center of Saratoga is a nonprofit, nonresidential community center located in the heart of downtown Saratoga Springs. Adults age 50 and older can join for only \$20 a year and participate in programs, trips and social activities tailored to adults and seniors. Those striving to maintain an independent lifestyle can make new friends, share in a meal, play a game, exercise, take a class or learn a new skill. The social interaction provided at the center is essential to physical and mental health.

The social interaction at the Nov. 12 gala event will feature a VIP “meet and greet” reception with Phillips, live music by the Accents, food by Old Daley Inn Catering and an open bar.

A special presentation will honor the three “Sensational Seniors” winners selected for their contributions to the community. Saratoga seniors Joe Almeida, Bob DeSio and Sheila O’Connell were chosen by a committee for being true leaders and for going above and beyond what’s expected by contributing to the quality of life in Saratoga Springs.

“Sixty years of connecting elders in a friendly, fun, supportive environment is community service at its best,” Phillips said. “I look forward to this milestone celebration to salute the Senior Center of Saratoga and its supporters for helping to meet the needs of our seniors and recognizing not only the challenges but the beauty of aging.”

Phillips made headlines last year with a documentary he created about his aging parents, “Moving with Grace.” The intimate film follows his parents as they move out of their family home in Missouri and adapt to life first in a retirement community and later in an assisted-living facility. This honest and poignant story highlights the common struggles associated with elder care and its consequences.

“We are thrilled to have Stone Phillips join us as we honor and celebrate the past, present and future of Saratoga’s Seniors on our 60th Anniversary,” said Lois Celeste, executive director of the Adult and Senior Center of Saratoga. “This is a time in our history where we pause to honor the important work that all our seniors are doing, especially Joe, Bob and Sheila. Our seniors are a vital part of our community, and we are celebrating their contributions as well as reflecting on how we can best support healthy aging in Saratoga County.”

Fingerpaint Marketing will present a video honoring the seniors, and students from the John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative program at Skidmore College will present the Saratoga Senior Center Archive Project, showing highlights from the center’s 60 years. Connelly’s Diamond Gallery will also be donating a spectacular 18-karat white gold diamond pave circle pendant with 1.27 carats of brilliant fine white diamonds to auction at the event.

All proceeds from the gala will support services provided by the center, including the Community Connections Program, which trains volunteers to help seniors age in place by providing assistance with home visits, respite, transportation and check-ins.

Tickets are \$150 by Nov. 6 or \$175 at the door. A special senior ticket for \$60 is available to members of the Saratoga Senior Center who are 60 years of age or older. For more information about the 60th Diamond Anniversary Gala or to buy tickets, contact the center at 584-1621 or visit www.saratogaseniorcenter.org.

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About the Author

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