

Meet Our Guest Speakers



Geoff Rogers, BA

Geoff Rogers has a BA in European history and English from Colby College, and has more than three decades of professional change management experience. His commitment to racial and social justice is the foundation of his transformative leadership in guiding organizations and staff as they learn to manage and navigate change and new opportunities.

He brings to his work an array of multifaceted experiences including working in advertising, publishing, and marketing, as well as time working in New York City Adult Protective Services serving in multiple roles such as the Director of Special Projects, Director of Training, and the Director of Operations. Geoff's diverse background, from public administration to management consulting, informs his work as he leads the development of expansive and inclusive

Prior to his most recent tenure at the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging of Hunter College in 2007 as the Director of Learning and Development, Geoff was the Director of Operations for the New York City Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). As of June 2020, Geoff and the Learning and Development team moved from Brookdale to the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, where he now serves as the Director of the Learning & Development Projects at the Silberman School of Social Work.



Jason Burnett, PhD

Jason Burnett, PhD is an Associate Professor with the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, Houston and Director of the Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute.

His work includes studying risk factors and designing and evaluating interventions and public health programs to facilitate community-based agencies with identification and long-term positive outcomes of elder mistreatment and self-neglect. Dr. Burnett is currently the Director of the UTHealth Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute and the Director of the Forensic Assessment Center Network (FACN).



Loren Ulrich, MSW

Loren Ulrich is the Prevention and Outreach Coordinator for the Abuse in Later Life Program at Vera House, Inc. In this role, she coordinates the Program's multiple education and prevention efforts. This includes providing training and outreach to community members and professionals, managing the Annual Syracuse-area Elder Abuse Conference, and launching the Program's original primary prevention curriculum.

Loren participates in the local Elder Justice Coalition and is a member of the Outreach and Anti-racism/Anti-oppression workgroups of this Coalition. Prior to her role at Vera House, Loren worked as a family caseworker in an urban school district. She received her BA in Psychology from Le Moyne College and her Master of Social Work from Syracuse University.

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Morgan R. Thurston, JD

Morgan R. Thurston is an Assistant Welfare Attorney with the Onondaga County Department of Law where he represents the Adult Protective Services Unit. He is also a partner of Moen & Thurston, a small general practice firm with a primary emphasis on estate planning, probate and income taxation.

He is a member of the Estate Planning Council of Central New York, New York State Bar Elder Law Section and co-chair of the Syracuse Elder Justice Coalition. He is an annual presenter at the NYS Adult Abuse Training Institute and the Syracuse Elder Justice Coalition Annual Elder Abuse Conference.

He also is a trainer for Guardianships and Adult Protective Workers in New York State and a participant in the Onondaga County Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team addressing Elder Abuse matters.



Elizabeth J. Santos, MD, MPH, DFAPA, DFAAGP

Elizabeth J. Santos, MD, MPH is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Santos is the Clinical Chief of the Division of Geriatric Mental Health and Memory Care.

Dr. Santos is the Director of Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Program, the Strong Behavioral Health Older Adults Clinic and Project ECHO – GeMH OMH. She also does nursing home consultation and is an attending physician at the Strong Memorial Hospital Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program. Her other work focuses on elder abuse and neglect, capacity evaluation, training evaluators, attorneys and law enforcement and advocacy for older adults.

She is the geriatric psychiatry consultant on the NYS funded Enhanced Multi-disciplinary Team (E-MDT) focused on financial exploitation, is a member of the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse and the Monroe County Elder Fatality Review Team. Nationally, she is very active with the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, the American Psychiatric Association, the American College of Psychiatrists and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

For More Information Visit our Website, or Contact:

**Loren Ulrich
Abuse in Later Life Prevention
& Outreach Coordinator**

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Meet Our Keynote Speakers



Juanita Davis, JD
Principal Consultant
Fire and Light Consulting

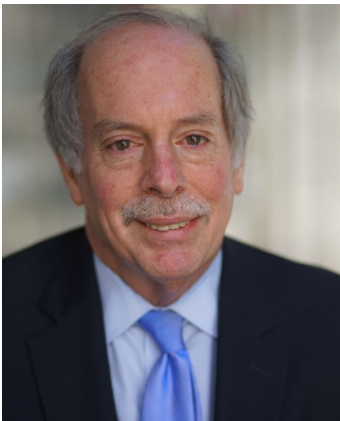
Founder and Principal Consultant of Fire and Light Consulting brings over 15 years of experience in helping mission-driven organizations and leaders to foster belonging and expand access to resources within their communities.

Her passion for equity and racial justice has led her to explore education, law, advocacy, and other systems as means of social change through the intersection and sharing of histories, lived experiences, radical dream-work, strategies, and theories. Her recent work experience over the past ten years includes the provision of nationwide leadership and training to professionals across the country on various topics related to aging and abuse in later life, including advancing equity principles and enhancing support and responses to older adults from marginalized communities.

She also was a technical assistance provider to various aging organizations across the US and territories, who had received federal Office on Violence Against Women funding to serve victims of abuse in later life.

She is the primary author of the Increasing Access to Healing Services and Just Outcomes for Older African American Survivors of Crime toolkit as a partner with the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims based at the VERA Institute for Justice and funded by the US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime.

Davis represented immigrant and low-income survivors in family law cases and provided civil legal assistance to clients and pro se litigants seeking safety from abuse. She also coordinated leadership development opportunities for survivors and advocates of color in Wisconsin. She has also assisted domestic violence programs in enhancing outreach services to marginalized populations. Juanita holds an M.A. in Special Education from San Francisco State University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School (cum laude).



Bob Blancato
National Coordinator
Elder Justice Coalition

Robert "Bob" Blancato is the Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs. He is also President of Matz, Blancato, and Associates, and the National Coordinator of the bipartisan 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition. Bob has long been recognized as a national advocate with policy expertise on behalf of older adults. In 2019, he was invited by both the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee to testify on a range of issues.

Bob's prior work history includes 17 years as a staffer in Congress and an appointment by President Clinton to be the Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, one of four he has participated in.

He is a member of the Senior Executive Service. As a volunteer, he currently serves on the National Board of AARP and the board of the National Hispanic Council on Aging.

In 2019, Bob began a four-year term on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services, appointed by HHS Secretary Azar. Bob holds a BA from Georgetown University and an MPA from American University. Bob has won numerous awards for advocacy, most recently the American Society for Aging's ASA Hall of Fame Award was awarded in April 2021.