



Caravan

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REFRAMING AGING INITIATIVE

Welcome to the latest edition of *Caravan*. This bi-monthly newsletter shares information, ideas, and inspiration to help our fellow travelers on our journey to improve the public's understanding of what aging means and the contributions older people bring to society.



News + Articles



Reframing Resolutions for 2022

Last year, we asked Caravan readers to choose one of five New Year's Resolutions to advance reframing aging in 2022. About 130 readers responded, and more than 40 shared resolutions—many inspiring, authentic, and thought-provoking. It's heartening to see our community understands how much it matters to choose words carefully.

Among five resolution choices, 36.4% of respondents chose: *Make the argument for a policy position based on the need to ensure that all of us can participate fully in the life of our families and communities, using language that evokes justice for all.*

And 33.33% of respondents chose: *Start using inclusive language and phrases when describing older people, for example, "all of us as we age."*

We also asked readers to share their own resolutions, and we got many marvelously inspiring resolutions that give us hope for our work together this year!

[Read more](#) reframed resolutions here.



RAI Membership Partner LiveOn NY Hosts Annual Conference January 25-27, 2022

LiveOn NY's Annual Conference on Aging and Vendor Show, the largest gathering of aging service professionals in New York, will take place virtually January 25-27, 2022. As a membership partner with RAI, LiveOn NY's framers and facilitators are disseminating well-framed language across the Big Apple. This year's conference features a workshop with Reframing Aging Facilitators Linda Schotthoefer and Donna Satterthwaite titled "Putting the Brakes on Ageism: A Way Forward by Framing Our Communications." You can view the full program [here](#) and can register [here](#).

What We're Reading

Age-Friendly Insights: Poll Reveals How Older Adults Feel About Nursing Homes

The John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF), an RAI funder, asked older adults how the COVID pandemic affected their perceptions of nursing homes, and one thing is clear: **Now is the time to redesign nursing home care.**

Key poll findings include:

- 71% of older adults say they are unwilling to live in a nursing home in the future
- 57% of older adults say COVID influenced whether they'd be willing to live in a nursing home
- Nearly 90% of older adults say changes are needed to make nursing homes appealing to them
- Black and Hispanic older adults are more likely to say nursing homes are unsafe

Visit JAHF's [main poll page](#) for more, including a [one-page overview](#) of the poll findings and [results](#).

Our colleagues at the [FrameWorks Institute](#), which conducts and shares original communications research to help reframe social issues, are also investigating public mindsets about nursing home care. This work is also supported by the JAHF, and the initial reports will be released early this year.

A U.S. State Index of Successful Aging: Differences Between States and Over Time

The Milbank Quarterly, which features peer-reviewed original research, policy review, and analysis from academics, clinicians, and policymakers, has published a study showing how the level of adaptation to successful aging varied substantially between states and over time. The highest-ranked states in 2017 were Vermont, Hawaii, Iowa, Colorado, and New Hampshire, and the lowest-ranked states were Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Mississippi. Mississippi, South Carolina, Iowa, Arizona, and Delaware had the greatest improvement in their ranking over the period of 2003 to 2017. [Read more](#) on the JAHF Dissemination Center.

Resources

Framing tip: Caring skills can be taught

The FrameWorks Institute recently conducted research gauging public perceptions of care work. While the work is ongoing, the first phase of research revealed effective framing practices when we talk about the workforce that care for older people.

People think that the quality of care work is determined by workers' capacity to care, and people understand "caring" as an inherent trait that cannot be learned. **When talking about care work, consistently highlight the skills that are involved and that care work skills can be learned.**

Responding to ageism in health care

Judith Graham, the Navigating Aging columnist for Kaiser Health News, talked with leading experts to cull specific, practical advice for how to respond when you encounter ageism by medical professionals.

From [How to Deal With Ageism From Doctors and Nurses](#):

A nurse asks you, "How are we today young lady?" Tracey Gendron, a Reframing Aging Facilitator and author of the forthcoming "Ageism Unmasked," offers a possible response: "You can tell the nurse 'I acknowledge you're trying to be kind to me but it makes me feel small and unimportant. Please call me this [insert a name] instead.'"



The [Reframing Aging Initiative](#) is led by [The Gerontological Society of America \(GSA\)](#) on behalf of the [Leaders of Aging Organizations](#) and is currently funded by [Archstone Foundation](#), [The John A. Hartford Foundation](#), [RRF Foundation for Aging](#), and [The SCAN Foundation](#), with additional support from [Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation](#), [New Hampshire Endowment for Health](#), [NextFifty Initiative](#), [Rose Community Foundation](#), [San Antonio Area Foundation](#), and [Tufts Health Plan Foundation](#).

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