



## Caravan

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REFRAMING AGING INITIATIVE

Welcome to the inaugural edition of **Caravan**. This bi-monthly newsletter, brought to you by the **Reframing Aging Initiative**, will share information, ideas, and inspiration to equip fellow travelers interested in improving the public's understanding of what aging means and the contributions older people bring to society. Ultimately, this greater understanding will counter ageism and guide our nation's approach to ensuring supportive policies and programs for us all as we move through the life course.

The 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 **New Hampshire Endowment for Health**, **NextFifty Initiative**, **Rose Community Foundation**, **San Antonio Area Foundation**, and **Tufts Health Plan Foundation**.

Join the Caravan! For the latest news and updates, follow us on [Twitter](#).



## News + Articles



### AGING IN STYLE: AMA, AP, APA GUIDES ADOPT BIAS-FREE LANGUAGE

Three of the leading style guides used by thousands of scholars, researchers, communications professionals, journalists, students, and others have been updated to incorporate the principles of reframing aging. The *American Medical Association (AMA) Manual of Style*, *Associated Press (AP) Stylebook*, and *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)* each recently adopted bias-free language advocated by **American Geriatrics Society (AGS)** leaders.

This represents a significant victory in ensuring that bias-free language regarding aging is adopted by publications ranging from major scholarly journals to national and local newspapers, websites, and other media outlets. [Read more.](#)

### AMPLIFYING AGEISM: COVID-19 AND OLDER ADULTS

The COVID-19 global pandemic has dragged the ugly truth about ageism into the spotlight for many. As Nat Kendall-Taylor, CEO of our Reframing Aging Initiative strategic partner **FrameWorks Institute**, put it in a recent article for the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*: “Today, the COVID-19 pandemic is pushing Americans’ cultural bias against older people to new heights.” Read the full article, [Advocating for Age in an Age of Uncertainty](#).



### AGE ALONE SHOULD NOT DETERMINE TREATMENT IN PANDEMICS, AGS POSITION STATEMENT SAYS

Thanks to Reframing Aging Initiative facilitator and AGS associate director of communications **Dan Trucil** for sharing the recent **AGS position statement** that age alone should not be a factor when making decisions to allocate scarce resources during pandemics like COVID-19. The position statement, “Resource Allocation Strategies and Age-Related Considerations in the Covid-19 Era And Beyond” (DOI: [10.1111/jgs.16537](#)), was published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

### REFRAMING LIKE A ROLLING STONE

*Rolling Stone*, the venerable magazine of popular music and culture, published two recent articles that smartly countered ageist messaging that has been widely seen in media reporting of late. One is lumping all older adults together—regardless of their actual health status—as being at “high risk” to COVID-19. Read [Why Older People Might Suffer Most, Post-Pandemic](#). The other false narrative is that older adults share more “fake news” through social media because they’re gullible or skew conservative. Read [New Research Explains Why Boomers Share So Much Fake News](#) (although points are deducted for the unfortunate use of the term “Boomers” in the headline).

### TAKING REFRAMING AGING ON THE ROAD

From Washington, D.C., to Denver to Boston to Concord, N.H., Reframing Aging Initiative staff hit the road over the winter to train a total of 72 new facilitators. The training team included initiative Project Director **Trish D’Antonio** and Project Manager **Laurie G. Lindberg**, along with **Moira O’Neil** of the **FrameWorks Institute**. Our facilitators learn about the research and fundamentals of reframing aging so they can play a key role in teaching others and changing the narrative around aging. For more, [read the full article](#) online.

Also read GSA CEO **James Appleby**’s blog post: [Equipping the ‘Reframing Travelers’](#).

## What We’re Reading

There have been a number of recent articles that exemplify effective ways that reframing aging advocates are pushing back against the demeaning ageism and false narratives exposed in public debates over the handling of the pandemic.

Among the most thought-provoking are:

[Age must not be used as primary criteria to deny treatment](#) (*The Hill*, co-authored by GSA CEO **James Appleby** and **Nora Super**, a senior director of the **Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging** and a former executive director of the **White House Conference on Aging**)

[Many parts of America have already decided to sacrifice the elderly](#) (*The Washington Post*, co-authored by GSA member **Joseph Coughlin**, founder and director of the **MIT AgeLab**)

[A Florida Gerontologist Shares Key Insights on Elder-Care Facilities During the COVID Pandemic](#) (AARP website, by GSA Board of Directors President **Kathryn Hyer**)

[Recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Focus on Older Adults](#) (*Journal of Aging and Social Policy* by Reframing Aging Initiative facilitator and Advisory Board member **Nancy Morrow-Howell**)

## Resources

### GSA PROVIDES USEFUL COVID-19 UPDATES AND RESOURCES

The GSA COVID-19 Task Force has created a **COVID-19 Updates** page with helpful **resources** and information about the pandemic. There are specific pages for **providers**, **educators**, and **researchers** and **policy discussions**. You can also find **journal articles**, information on **social isolation**, **mental health**, and **reframing aging**, and **news and webinars**.

### FRAMEWORKS INSTITUTE DELIVERS REFRAMING TIPS TO YOUR INBOX

In this unprecedented time, our work is even more important to shift the public’s understanding of aging. Our strategic partner, **FrameWorks Institute**, has developed a series of emails to help amplify the values of justice, inclusion, and interdependence. Feel free to **sign up directly** for these emails with **FrameWorks Institute**. Read [Deploying a common good frame](#) for an example of helpful email messages you’ll receive.



The Reframing Aging Initiative is a long-term social change endeavor designed to improve the public’s understanding of what aging means and the many ways that older people contribute to our society. This greater understanding will counter ageism and guide our nation’s approach to ensuring supportive policies and programs for us all as we move through the life course. The initiative is directed by **The Gerontological Society of America** on behalf of the **Leaders of Aging Organizations**.

Learn more at [www.reframingaging.org](#).



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