

# Silver Threads column now called Center Stage

Last Saturday we changed the name of our traditional Silver Threads newspaper column to Center Stage.

Since the column began quite a few years ago, it has evolved. I am told that initially it was established to provide space to communicate important information on elder-related issues.

Then it became a place for narratives on what life was like years ago. It has also been a place for older writers to share their work.

Having this print space is a tremendous opportunity! Recently a number of our columnists have retired, and in discussions here at the Senior Center about what direction to go, it seemed clear that the column needed to continue and remain as flexible as possible.

Why Center Stage? Center Stage is the name of the newsletter the Sheridan Senior Center publishes every two months. We see this column as an extension of the newsletter.

Center Stage is a reflection of where

we believe the elders of our families, neighborhoods and communities need to be ... upfront, in the spotlight and in the middle of things.

The term "center stage" is active, optimistic and vital — which today is synonymous with people in their 60s, 70s, 80's, 90s and beyond. The wonderful experiences, history and talents of the generations ahead of us need to be Center Stage and a resource for people of all ages.

Actually Center Stage is where the issues and challenges facing an increasing older population are heading and where they will be in the years to come. We will be making choices and decisions as individuals and family members about medical care, where we live and who will



**Center  
Stage**

Carmen  
Rideout



care for us.

Communities, states and our nation will be addressing these same choices on a much larger scale. Center Stage is where these issues need to be.

The scope and direction of this Sheridan Press column, Center Stage, will be broad.

Although we will be sharing important Senior Center information, we will also include news about elder-related topics bigger than our organization.

We will be inviting community members of all ages and from many perspectives to contribute, asking them to write about specific topics.

Storytelling, reminiscing and poetry will be included as well. We will continue to be proud and honored to share writings from older adults in the Sheridan

community.

Duane Portwood's stories and reflections will be shared. Joyce Rodell's satirical writings will be featured. Former columnist Mary Kraft is hinting that she may want to write some encore pieces in the months to come.

I'd like to thank The Sheridan Press for providing this space for us. In addition I would like to thank all of the columnists from the near and distant past who kept the column alive over the years.

A note of appreciation to Shelly Araas who coordinates the column, which includes scheduling writers, meeting deadlines and editing as needed.

I hope you enjoy this new phase of the Saturday Senior Center Column, Center Stage. If you would like to get a copy of our newsletter, please call us at 672-2240, or go to our Web site at [sheridanseniorcenter.org](http://sheridanseniorcenter.org).

*Carmen Rideout is executive director of the Sheridan Senior Center.*