



# AGING IN AMERICA

## THE YEARS AHEAD

Photographs by **Ed Kashi**

Foreword by **Doris Roberts**

Essays and Interviews by **Julie Winokur**

Preface by **Dr. Robert Butler**

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WILL OUTNUMBER PEOPLE UNDER  
18 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.**



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previous page: A reflective moment at Deerfield Beach, Florida; following pages, first spread: One of the original lindy hoppers, Frankie Manning, celebrates his 84th birthday by dancing with Carla Heiney, and 88 other women; second spread: Ila Swan (right), an advocate for nursing home reform, pays a visit to Dorothy Deamondo. Swan speculates that Deamondo is being over-medicated by the nursing home because her mental state has rapidly deteriorated in just a few months; third spread: Vance Mayle, 61, is losing a 10-year battle with esophageal cancer. His last wish is to die at home, surrounded by family and friends; fourth spread: Two Lakota Sioux elders passing time on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; fifth spread: An elegant couple takes a moment off the dance floor at the Gold Coast Ballroom in Coconut Creek, Florida; sixth spread: At the 30th annual Seniors Rally in Sacramento, California, a participant waits by one of three buses that traveled from San Francisco; seventh spread: Senior delegates show their colors at a Democratic National Convention.

# PREFACE

by Dr. Robert Butler, M.D.

We are taught to view old people as belonging to a homogenous group that has lived past its usefulness. Residing in a no-man's-land called "old age," their identities are blurred and their personalities reduced to stereotypes. Yet, discrimination against old people is profoundly ironic, because the very men and women who in their younger years discriminate against old people will, in all likelihood, eventually become old men and women themselves. It is clear that beneath the devaluation of old people lies a deep fear of aging and a reminder of our own mortality.

Fortunately, fine artists and writers throughout the ages have produced works that illustrate their fascination with all stages of life—from childhood to great old age. From Rembrandt's memorable self-portrait in old age to Simone de Beauvoir's entire body of work, which spans the whole life cycle, artists have continually demonstrated that as attractive as youth may be, it is in old age when character is truly revealed.

To depict the elderly without resorting to the clichés with which we have grown comfortable requires a sensitivity to nuance, and we need artists of all disciplines to help us see with a fresh eye the richness and variety of old people.

*Aging in America* gives the reader a rich panoply of what the later years have to offer. Both Ed Kashi and Julie Winokur have made a valuable contribution to our understanding of the culture and experience of growing old.

**President and CEO, International Longevity Center-USA  
Mount Sinai Medical Center  
New York City, 2003**













