The Aging of Aquarius

There is no group of individuals more iconic of 1960s counterculture than the hippies – the long-haired, colorfully dressed youth who rebelled against mainstream societal values, preached and practiced love and peace, and generally sought more meaningful and authentic lives. These “flower children” are now over sixty and comprise a significant part of the older population in the United States. While some hippies rejoined mainstream American society as they grew older, others still maintain the hippie ideology and lifestyle. This book is the first to explore the aging experience of older hippies by examining aspects related to identity, generativity, daily activities, spirituality, community, end-of-life care, and wellbeing. Based on forty in-depth interviews with lifelong, returning, and past residents of The Farm, an intentional community in Tennessee that was founded in 1971 and still exists today, insights into the subculture of aging hippies and their keys to wellbeing are shared.

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THE AGING OF AQUARIUS

The Hippies of the 60s in Their 60s and Beyond

Galit Nimrod

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Dedicated with love to all the people who were interviewed for this book and to their extraordinary generation that tried to change the world and, to some extent, did.
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Abbreviations

ACIM  A Course in Miracles
ACP  advance care planning
BPC  Book Publishing Company
CCRT  Community Conflict Resolution Team
DUP  Dance of Universal Peace
KSNP  Karen's Soy Nutrition Program
KTC  Kids to the Country
LSD  lysergic acid diethylamide
PSOC  psychological sense of community
STD  sexually transmitted disease
U.S.  United States
WELL  Whole Earth Lectronic Link