

Senior News

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From the Director's Desk

inally, it seems the "winter that wouldn't end" is coming to a close. For many older adults in southern Maine, it's been a tough winter. Harder still for those who are homebound and without the ways and means to



buy and prepare meals for themselves. For the first time ever, SMAA had to initiate a waiting list for people requesting

Meals on Wheels (MOW). As the over-60 population in Cumberland and York counties has grown, federal funding for critical programs like MOW has not kept up with the demand. Currently, there are 137 people waiting to receive meals with the average wait time around 10 weeks. SMAA is doing everything we can to eliminate the wait list or at least shorten the wait for meals. We have begun a special appeal to the southern Maine community to help us raise the \$88,000 needed to erase the wait list for Meals on Wheels. I am hopeful that with the continued support from our friends in the community, we will make good progress towards our goal of providing meals for all older adults when they need them. If you would like to help, you can make a gift on-line at our website, www.smaaa.org or you can send a check to SMAA, 136 US Route 1, Scarborough, ME 04074. Every gift makes a difference!

May is Older Americans Month



For 55 years, Older Americans Month (OAM) has been observed to recognize older Americans and their contributions to our communities. Led by the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging, every May offers the opportunity to hear from, support, and celebrate our nation's elders. This year's OAM theme,

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Hidden Treasures 2018

n Wednesday, May 30, SMAA is partnering with Verrill Dana, LLP and HM Payson to showcase their incredible corporate art collections in the second annual Hidden Treasures 2018



event. Patrons will tour the collections which include works by Stephen Etnier, Eric Hopkins, Neil Welliver, Pat Hardy, Tom Crotty and many more. Each host site will offer refreshments and details about

their collections. New this year, we are partnering with Thos. Moser highlighting handmade American furniture at each location.

Tickets are \$50 each to tour both sites which are located in One Portland Square. "Verrill Dana's roots go back to 1862 and HM Payson was founded in 1854. Both of these firms have beautiful art collections but they are also part of the fabric of Portland. We are grateful to have the support of Thos. Moser Furniture, an



MAY-JUNE 2018

iconic Maine company. The money raised at this event will support SMAA's programming to help vulnerable seniors during turbulent budget times," said Kate Putnam, Chief Advancement Officer for SMAA. Kate continued, "We are looking forward to a wonderful evening seeing the beautiful art and learning about the history of these hidden treasures."

For more information, contact Janet Bowne at 207-396-6533.

Girl Scouts of Maine Donate Cookies to Meals on Wheels

outhern Maine Agency on Aging would like to thank the Girl Scouts of Maine (GSME) for their recent donation of over 4,400 packages of cookies to our Meals on Wheels program. The cookies we received are a direct result of the GSME's Cookie Share Program.

The Cookie Share Program is a way for girls and their customers to help others in the community by purchasing cookies to donate to Meals on Wheels. For our Meals on Wheels clients being able to have these cookies is truly a treat! These cookies not only bring smiles to our client's faces but also bring so much

joy to the volunteers who are able to deliver them with the meals.

On behalf of our clients, our staff, and our volunteers, we would like to express a tremendous amount of gratitude to the Girl Scouts of Maine.





Have questions about Senior News?
Call 396-6594 or email seniornews@smaaa.org

Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 U.S. Route 1 Scarborough, ME 04074





Do You Know Someone With Dementia or Cognitive Loss?

hen someone you care about is diagnosed with cognitive loss it can be devastating. Your relationship changes fundamentally. It is so hard to know what to do to support him or her. No matter the cause of the cognitive loss, research shows that keeping that person socially active can be extremely beneficial to managing the loss of cognition. The afflicted person benefits from an appropriately busy schedule.

One of the best options for socializing appropriately is to take advantage of adult day services. The Southern Maine Agency on Aging runs two adult day centers, The Sam L. Cohen Center in Biddeford and the Stewart Center in Falmouth. Both offer socially appropriate and enriching activities. Members participate in all sorts of activities focusing on what brain power they've retained not what they've lost.

Often when people receive a diagnosis of cognitive loss, families and friends will circle the wagons

and design a schedule to support their family member with one to one involvement, including outings. Everyone resolves to provide support. Family members often divide up the week to ensure mom or dad has someone to help them. This will work for a time but when the family member's behavior changes or someone on the family care team has an emergency, the plan starts to unravel.

Frequently this is when a family will look into adult day programming. But it can be too late. Mom or dad is used to being alone and the idea of joining a

group can be intimidating. Dad or

mom may not be as accepting of the idea of an adult day center even though the family needs the respite.

Starting with an adult day center as soon as possible after the diag-Dad or mom nosis offers families fleximay not be as bility in supporting dad accepting of or mom. Ideally, members join us for 8-10 hours a the idea of an week spread over two days. Families often increase as needs arise durcenter even ing emergencies. For the member, our centers become "their place" so family needs adding hours to cover emergencies or respite is easy to do.

> If you want to know contact Janet SMAA, jbowne@

Bowne smaaa.org, 207-396-6533.

Better Day Society: Leave a Gift to Help Others

he Southern Maine Agency on Aging is lucky to receive bequests from loyal donors. These lovely donors supported our mission during their lifetime and it was important to them to continue to do so with a lasting legacy gift. The Better Day Society is made up of individuals who have shared with us that they are planning to make a bequest to SMAA. Some donors prefer to work with an advisor to plan a gift. Others like to include SMAA in the design process.

"I am always available to work with a donor and their attorney to design a gift that supports a favorite program," said Kate Putnam, Chief Advancement Officer for SMAA. "The gifts mean so much to us and come in all sizes. Some are directed for a specific program or are left to the Agency to determine the best use of the funds at the time we receive them."

Some of the ways your estate plan gift could help older, fragile Mainers:

- Support Meals on Wheels to ensure that our clients continue to receive life giving meals and regular visitors;
- Sustain our Member Access Fund for those who attend our two adult day centers.
- Provide funds for our Best Friend Fund which helps older people cover large expenses associated with their pets.
- Support our When In Need program. The WIN program helps ensure we can meet the emergent and basic needs of low income seniors which could include coordinating with other agencies to help seniors with housing, healthcare costs not covered by insurance and other basic expenses. These funds are often used to support low income people following an emergency like a fire, surgery or other catastrophic event. The WIN program also supports our most fragile clients with practical holiday gifts.

Joining the Better Day Society is easy. Let us know that you've made a plan to include SMAA in your estate planning. As a member of the Better Day Society, you'll be invited to a special lunch annually with our leadership with topics rotating on aging issues and SMAA's programming. You'll also be given advance notice for our Better Day Society estate planning workshops as well as other benefits. Call today to learn more about the benefits, Kate Putnam, 207-396-6590 or via email: kputnam@smaaa.org.

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Money Minders: Bringing Peace of Mind

ine and a half years ago, Terry read about Money Minders on a United Way volunteer page. "It was a really good fit for me," he says. Although he was still working full-time, Terry was able to set aside time to work with first one client and then a second. Over the vears, there have been a few different clients, and he's filled in for volunteers who were on vacation, but he still meets with his original client once a month.

"I love the relationships I've been able to build with my clients," Terry says. "I feel like I'm providing information that makes their lives easier, that brings them peace of mind."

Money Minders, a program offered by the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA), matches skilled and trained volunteers with low-to-mid income seniors who need help with check writing and checkbook balancing. One of the things that has helped his client the most, Terry says, has been finding a bank that would work with her and not charge fees for everything. "She is very low-income, and I was able to reach out for a referral to a bank that wouldn't charge for copies of statements, extra cards, things like that. It has made a huge difference."

Something Terry has learned during his time as a Money Minders volunteer is how challenging it is for

people to live on a fixed income. All aspects of their lives are a challenge, he says, transportation, health care, food—everything. "When I leave my client, I know that she is on an even keel; she knows exactly how much money she has available, and she doesn't have to worry about it."

Some clients express concern about giving volunteers access to financial information. "That is an unfounded concern," Terry says. Volunteers go through a rigorous process to work with a client's financial information and really have quite limited contact, he says. In addition, all the forms are monitored by other volunteers, so there are several layers of oversight to make sure that everything is done appropriately.

One piece of advice that Terry would give seniors is to create a budget. And, Terry says, he would definitely want a Money Minders volunteer to help him if he should need it. "It's a wonderful program, and I would love to have the same peace of mind that I bring to my clients."

For more information about the Money Minders Program, and to find a volunteer like Terry to help you keep your finances in order, please call the Southern Maine Agency on Aging at 1-800-427-7411 or 396-6500 and ask to speak to a Resource Specialist. For Money Minders like Terry, making a difference in your life is a good fit for his life.

Awaken the Sage Within

repare for the approach of summer with a daylong workshop on June 2, "Awakening the Sage Within."

Today, most people approaching elderhood can expect to live another twenty or thirty years. How do you want to live those years? Sage-ing® (also known as Spiritual Eldering or Conscious Aging) is a model for engaging the elder years more deliberately, joyfully and compassionately. Sage-ing can help us develop a balanced plan for eldering that is both personally fulfilling and beneficial to others.

During this highly interactive workshop we introduce Sage-ing concepts, including life review, forgiveness work and issues surrounding mortality. We explore images of aging and the role of spiritual development. We begin a personalized plan for our own eldering, including service to others and leaving a legacy.

Our materials are not specific to any religious denomination but serve to enhance spiritual maturity for persons who embrace any faith

or humanistic practice. Our work is based on the best-selling book From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older by Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi.

Anne Murray will lead this event on Saturday, June 2 from 9:30AM to 4:30PM at Southern Maine Agency on Aging, 136 U.S. Route One in Scarborough, Maine. Ample parking is available.

Anne is a Certified Sage-ing Leader with 69 years of life experience, over 30 of them spent working with elders. She has led many circles, groups, classes and events. She loves sharing her passion for living consciously and looks forward to helping you engage in Sage-ing.

The fee is \$75. Partial scholarships may be available. For more information, please contact Anne at 207-985-6577 or email her at mainesage@outlook.com. Snacks and beverage will be provided, but plan on bringing your own lunch.

Register for "Awakening the Sage Within" at http://sage-ing.org/ learning-opps/asw-programs.

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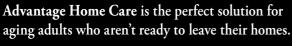


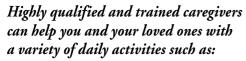
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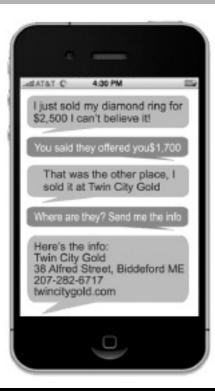
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Senior News

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For details on advertising in "Senior News," log on to www.smaaa.org and see Senior News on home page and/or send an e-mail to seniornews@ smaaa.org. You may also reach "Senior News" representative Janet Bowne at 396-6533.

Marketing options include, full color ads, advertorial columns and inserting pre-printed materials into the newspaper. Reach your potential customers with Maine's only newspaper specifically for people age 50 and older!

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Mission Statement

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging's mission is to improve the quality of life for older adults, adults with disabilities, and the people who care for them.

Commitment to Reasonable Accommodation:

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging will, with adequate notice and upon request, provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services to persons with disabilities, to assist in effective communication and to participate equally in programs, services and activities. Call 1-800-427-7411 x503 or from the Portland calling area call 207-396-6503 to make your request.

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) is a non-profit, charitable organization. Services of SMAA are supported in part by state and federal funds provided through the Office of Aging and Disability Services of the Maine Department of Human Services. Learn more at www.smaaa.org or by calling 207-396-6500 or 1-800-427-7411.

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for everyone regardless of his/her race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, faith tradition, veteran status or life situation.

Community Leaders Support Meals on Wheels

arch for Meals is an initiative by Meals on Wheels America and is a month-long celebration of Meals on Wheels designed to rally communities nationwide around the vulnerable seniors who rely on its vital safety net to remain healthier and independent in their own homes. Each year SMAA invites community leaders to visit their local Meals on Wheels site to meet the staff and volunteers who deliver meals every week and provide a vital lifeline and connection to the community which are sometimes all it takes to keep our senior neighbors at home, where they want to be. Community leaders are also encouraged to participate in delivery routes to meet some of the individuals whose lives are improved thanks to Meals on Wheels.

We want to express an incredible amount of thanks and appreciation for each and every community leader who participated in Community Leaders Day this year:

> Mike Ready, Biddeford Councilman

Brenda Harvey, Eliot Deputy Clerk

Jay Muzeroll, Eliot Fire Chief Melissa Albert, Eliot General Assistance Administrator

Elliot Moya, Eliot Police Chief Chris Cluff, Kennebunk Selectman

Kendra Amaral, Kittery Town Manager

Suzanne, Kittery Secretary to the Town Manager

George Kathios, Kittery Superintendent of Sewer Services

Eric Waddell, Kittery School Superintendent

James Soucy, Kittery Chief of Police

Patricia Moore, Kittery Finance Director

Lee Perkins, Kittery Library Director

David Rich, Kittery DPW Commissioner

Maryann Place, Kittery Town Clerk

Scott Lincoln, Kittery Facility Maintenance Supervisor

Pious Ali, Portland City Council Jean Marie Caterina,

Scarborough Town Council William Donovan, Scarborough Town Council

Maxine Beecher, South Portland Councilor

Adele Edelman, South Portland Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

Elizabeth Ross-Holmstrom, South Portland Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

John Howarth, Wells Councilman



Biddeford City Council, Mike Ready with Phil Roux.



Kittery Town Officials



Kennebunk selectman, Chris Cluff with Ed Karytko and Lyndsay Copeland.





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Community Leaders Day March 20, 2018

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SAVE THE DATE: Friday, September 28, 12-2PM

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harting the Future: Innovations in Dementia Research, Treatment and Care is an educational luncheon that brings together a panel of policy makers, researchers, and care providers to share developments in dementia research, treatment, and care.

Scheduled to speak are Senator Susan Collins, Gareth Howell Ph.D., a leading Alzheimer's researcher



www.smaaa.org

with The Jackson Laboratory, and Dorene Rentz, PsyD, Co-Director of the Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Jud Knox, President and CEO of York Hospital will serve as the moderator for the lunch discussion.

SMAA is teaming up with the Alzheimer's Association, Martins Point, Ocean View, WCSH6 and Tyler Technologies to offer this groundbreaking event. We hope you'll join us for the lunch on Friday, September 28, from 12-2 at the Doubletree Hotel in South Portland. Tickets are \$40/person and are available on SMAA's web site: www.smaaa.org or by calling Janet Bowne, 207-396-6533.

Making Space for Grief in Our Lives

By Carol Schoneberg, **End-of-Life Educator & Bereavement Services Manager Hospice of Southern Maine**

e live in a culture that largely denies death. Many think of it as something that happens to someone else but not to me or anyone I love. Even in our sixties, seventies, eighties and beyond, we still think we have lots of time.

My world is turned upside down overnight when a central person in my life dies. I come face to face with my own mortality—I become painfully aware that I, and everyone I love, will one day die. Little by little, rather than all at once, a profound sorrow will set in that is unlike anything I have ever experienced—the deeper the love and connection to the one who died, the deeper and longer-lasting the pain. I

am reminded of the words of Kahlil Gibran who speaks of Joy and Sorrow. "When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight."

Grief demands our attention. When our feelings are not allowed expression, healing becomes delayed, and ultimately even more painful and debilitating. It is important who we choose to share our grief with—those who will listen without judgment or unsolicited advice make up the best support system when we are grieving the death of a loved one. The last thing we need is someone who tells us, "You should be over it and moving on with your life by now."

People who have not known profound grief do not understand the overwhelming power and immensity of grief. Some still imagine they are in control of their lives, that mind over matter can solve everything. They have not yet learned that Grief is bigger than they are, and that it will not be dismissed without a very big price to pay—the price of living half a life. Grief deserves and demands my attention and expression. Doing so, I will eventually find healing, growth, and transformation.

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When in Need: The WIN Fund Helps our Most Fragile Clients

very day the Resource Specialist team at SMAA fields requests from older Mainers who are struggling with basic human needs. The When In Need (WIN) Fund is designed to support emergent and basic needs for older Mainers. In 2016-17, we served over 125 individuals. The WIN Fund offers financial support but central to this program is the coordination with other nonprofits to help these fragile seniors with the kind of needs most of us take for granted. Often these clients are suffering from extremely debilitating conditions limiting their ability to ask for help in a timely fashion.

One of our clients had to move from his apartment because of a fire. When the building renovations were dragging on, our client had to move to a hotel spending over \$100 an night and having to eat out for most meals. When he was able to move back, his landlord wanted a prorated rent but the client had depleted his small savings to pay for the hotel and extra food. Our staff helped him connect to other organizations like the Salvation Army and local churches to help rebuild his life. The WIN Fund gave him a large grocery gift card to help him rebuild his pantry and his life.

Another client developed a medical condition that required home based equipment to keep her healthy. Her electricity bill skyrocketed. She was unable to cover her utility bill on her meager income. Her doctor intervened with the electric company to avoid a shut off but she was forced to move several times. One of the moves was to a bed bug infested apartment. She had to throw out her belongings because of infestation. She was living without a phone because of the expense. The Resource Team worked to get her a Safelink phone, apply for heating assistance and the WIN Fund provided funds to cover her electricity bill.

The WIN Fund also helps at holiday time. Most of these clients do not have family nearby or at all. The

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holidays can be a sad time for them. Our staff works to assess their needs and finds useful gifts for them. Whenever possible, we partner with area businesses or organizations to buy much needed gifts like warm clothing, cleaning supplies, grocery gift cards and other gifts for them.

The WIN Fund is sustained by individual, corporate and foundation gifts. Despite a recovering economy, these seniors are living on very limited incomes and have no where else to turn when cascading events threaten their very existences. Many are very humble and won't ask for help until the need is extreme. Once our Resource Team establishes a relationship with the individual clients, they are able to pull them from the shadows and offer ongoing support.

If you're interested in learning more about the WIN Fund and would like to help with a donation, please contact Kate Putnam, 207-396-6590 or via email: kputnam@smaaa.org.

BEWARE: Scammers Targeting New Medicare Cards

Id you know that new Medicare Cards are on their way? If you said "no", you're not alone. According to a recent AARP study, more than 75% of Medicare beneficiaries know little to nothing about the new Medicare cards. This can make people susceptible to scammers.

The new Medicare cards will no longer display a social security number and instead will display a unique combination of 11 letters and numbers. The new Medicare cards are free. Medicare representatives will NOT call you prior to issuing a new card. All cards are being issued automatically by the Social Security Administration.

Be scam smart! Here are examples of some of the fraudulent claims made by scammers:

 You must pay for your new Medicare card now or else you'll lose your Medicare benefits.

- Medicare is updating its files and needs your bank and credit card numbers.
- Medicare is confirming your Social Security number before you can receive your new card.
- Medicare needs your bank information to send you a refund on your old card.

The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud says if you get a call from someone claiming to be from Medicare, just hang up immediately.



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Ten Real-life Strategies for Dementia Caregiving

s caregivers, we often use intuition to help us decide what to do. No one ever gave us lessons on how to relate to someone with memory loss. Unfortunately, dealing with dementia is counter-intuitive. Often the right thing to do is exactly opposite that which seems like the right thing to do. Here is some practical advice:

1. Being Reasonable, Rational and Logical Will Just Get You into Trouble. When someone is acting in ways that don't make sense, we tend to carefully explain the situation, calling on his or her sense of appropriateness to get compliance. However, the person with dementia doesn't have a "boss" in his brain any longer, so he does not respond to our arguments, no mat-

ter how logical. Straightforward, simple sentences about what is going to happen are usually the best.

2. People With Dementia Do Not Need to Be Grounded in Reality. When someone has memory loss, he often forgets important things, e.g., that his mother is deceased. When we remind him of this loss, we remind him about the pain of that loss also. When someone wants to go

home, reassuring him that he is at home often leads to an argument. Redirecting and asking someone to tell you about the person he has asked about or about his home are better ways to calm a person with dementia.

- **3. You Cannot Be a Perfect Caregiver.** Just as there is no such thing as a perfect parent, there is no such thing as a perfect caregiver. You have the right to the full range of human emotions, and sometimes you are going to be impatient or frustrated. Learning to forgive your person as well as yourself is essential in the caregiving journey.
- 4. Therapeutic Lying Reduces Stress. We tend to be meticulously honest with people. However, when someone has dementia, honesty can lead to distress for both ourselves and the one we are caring for. Does it really matter that your person thinks she is the volunteer at the day care center? Is it okay to tell her that the two of you are going out to lunch and then "coincidentally" stop by the doctor's office on the way home to pick something up as a way to get her to the doctor?
- 5. Making Agreements Doesn't Work. If you ask your person to remember to do something, or to not do something ever again, it will soon be forgotten. For people in early stage dementia, leaving notes as reminders can sometimes help, but as the disease progresses, this will not work. Taking action and rearranging the environment, rather than talking and discussing, is usually a more successful approach. For example, getting teakettle with an automatic "off" switch is better than warning someone of the dangers of leaving the stove on.
- 6. Doctors Often Need to Be Educated By You. Telling the doctor what you see at home is important. The doctor can't tell during an examination that your loved one has been up all night pacing. Sometimes doctors, too, need to deal with therapeutic lying; e.g., telling the patient that an antidepressant is for memory rather than depression.
- 7. You Can't Do It All. It's OK to Accept Help Before You Get Desperate. When people offer to help, the answer should always be "YES." Have a list of things people can do to help you, whether it is bringing a meal, picking up a prescription, helping trim the roses or staying with your person while you

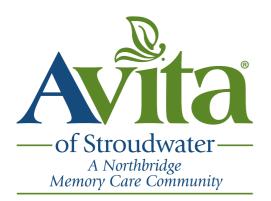




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run an errand. This will reinforce offers of help. It is harder to ask for help than to accept it when it is offered, so don't wait until you "really need it" to get support.

8. It Is Easy to Both Overestimate and Underestimate What Your Person Can Do. It is often easier to do something for the person with dementia than to let them do it for themselves. However, if we do it for them, they will lose the ability to be independent in that skill. On the other hand, if we insist individuals do something for themselves and they get frustrated, we just make them agitated and probably haven't increased their abilities to perform tasks. Not only is it a constant juggle to find the balance, but be aware that the balance may shift from day to day.

9. Tell, Don't Ask. Asking "What would you like for dinner?" may have been a perfectly normal question at another time. But now we are asking our person to come up

with an answer when he or she might not have the words for what they want, might not be hungry, and even if they answer, might not want the food when it is served after all. Saying "We are going to eat now" encourages the person to eat and doesn't put them in the dilemma of having failed to respond.

10. It Is Perfectly Normal to Question the Diagnosis When Someone Has Moments of Lucidity. One of the hardest things to do is to remember that we are responding to a disease, not the person who once was. Everyone with dementia has times when they make perfect sense and can respond appropriately. We often feel like that person has been faking it or that we have been exaggerating the problem when these moments occur. We are not imagining things—they are just having one of those moments, to be treasured when they occur.

Adapted from the Family Caregiver Alliance, http://www.caregiver.org

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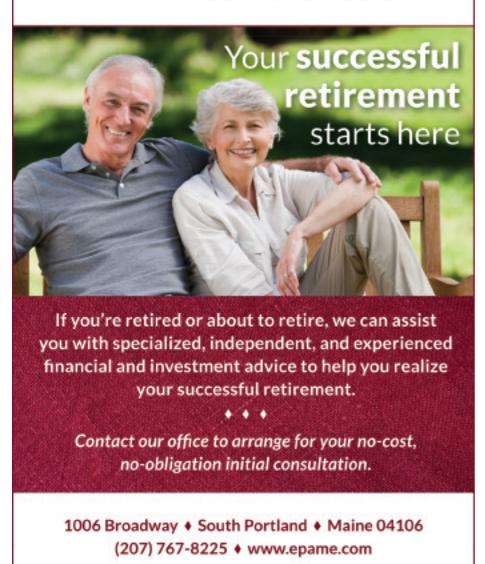
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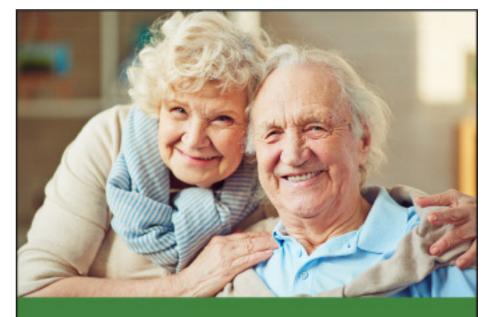
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Are you a family caregiver?

Join us at one of SMAA's upcoming caregiver classes sponsored by the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation.

Setting Limits: Healthy Personal Boundaries for Caregivers

June 11, 11am-12pm - JR Martin Community Center, Biddeford

Ideas to make setting limits and establishing boundaries easier and

more effective. Light snacks provided.

Join us for a Lobster Roll Luncheon with the SMAA Community Café immediately following. If you would like more information on joining us for lunch, please let us know when you register for this class.

Please call 207-283-2477 by 6/4/18 to register for this class only.

Stress Management for Family Caregivers

June 13, 2:30-3:30pm - Bridgton Community Center Recognize the sources of stress, understanding the impact of stress on your own health and wellbeing, and identifying some strategies to manage stress, so that you can take care of yourself and provide the best assistance possible. <u>Light snacks provided</u>.

Beginning Planning

July 11, 4:30-5:30pm - SMAA Main Office, Scarborough Where do you begin the process of helping an older family member plan for the future? What concerns need to be considered? How do you find out what resources are available when help is needed? All those issues will be discussed in this class — whether you are thinking ahead or find yourself needing to create a plan right away. Light snacks provided.

Aging: Myths and Realities

August 8, 12-1pm - The Center, Kennebunk

Exploring physical and cognitive changes associated with growing older and explaining common medical conditions that may affect older adults. Suggestions offered for preventative care and possible treatment options. <u>Lunch provided</u>.

Preregistration for these classes is required.

Call 207-396-6541 or visit www.smaaa.org

for more information.

This series of Family Caregiver Classes is sponsored by:



12 Things that Anyone Can Do to Prevent Elder Abuse

une is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. About one in ten Americans age 60+ have experienced one or more forms of elder abuse. Some studies estimate that as many as 5 million elders are abused each year—with an estimate that only 1 in 14 cases is ever reported to the proper authorities.

Here are 12 things that anyone can do to prevent elder abuse:

- 1. Learn the signs of abuse and neglect
- 2. Call or visit an elder loved one and ask how he or she is doing

- 3. Provide a respite break for a caregiver.
- 4. Ask your bank manager to train tellers on how to detect elder financial abuse.
- 5. Ask your doctor to ask you and all other senior patients about possible family violence in their lives.
- 6. Contact your local Adult Protective Services or Long-Term Care Ombudsman to learn how to support their work helping at-risk elder and adults with disabilities.
- 7. Organize a "Respect Your Elders" essay or poster contents in your child or grandchild's school.
 - 8. Ask your religious congrega-

tion's leader to give a talk about elder abuse at a service or to put a message about elder abuse in the bulletin.

- 9. Volunteer to be a friendly visitor to a nursing home resident or to a homebound senior in your neighborhood.
- 10. Send a letter to your local paper, radio, or TV station suggesting that they cover World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) or

Grandparents Day in September.

- 11. Dedicate your bikeathon/marathon/other event to elder mistreatment awareness and prevention
- 12. Join the Ageless Alliance. Ageless Alliance connects people of all ages, nationwide, who stand united for the dignity of older adults. www.agelessalliance.org

Adapted from the National Center on Elder Abuse. For more information: www.ncea.aoa.gov

From Jo Dill's Notebook

2018 Maine Senior Games Schedule

Celebration of Athletes: June 1, Friday, Fireside Inn

Pickleball: June 9, Men's/Women's Doubles, A-Copi Sports Center, Augusta, Saturday

Pickleball: June 10, Mixed/ Singles, A-Copi Sports Center, Augusta, Sunday

5K Road Race/Power Walk: June 14, Sanford Springvale YMCA, Thursday

10K Road Race: June 17, Scarborough High, Sunday **Golf:** June 25, 8:30, Willowdale,

Scarborough, Monday

Track & Field: July 22, Scar-

borough High, Sunday

Men's Softball: August 5, Wainwright Field, South Portland,

Cornhole: August 15, (rain 16) Sanford/Springvale Y, Wednes-

Sat/Sun

Archery: August 19 (rain 26) Lakeside Archery, Sunday

Horseshoes: August 22 (rain 23), Deering Oaks, Portland, Wednesday

Racquetball: August 25, Racket/Fitness Center, Portland, Saturday

Triathlon: Pumpkinman Tri, September 8, 8AM, South Berwick

Tennis: September 8, Women's Singles/Men's Dbls, Mixed, A-Copi Sports Center, Saturday

Tennis: September 9, Men's Singles, Women's Dbls, A-Copi Sports Center, Augusta, Sunday

Bowling Candlepin: September 13, Big 20, Scarborough, Thursday

Swimming: September 15, Kennebec Valley Y, Augusta, Saturday

Cycling: September 16, K'Port Bicycle Company, Sunday

Basketball (Men's): September 22, Cape Elizabeth High, Saturday

Hot Shot/Foul Shoot: Men's September 22, Women's September 23, Cape Elizabeth High

Basketball (Women's): September 23, Cape Elizabeth High, Sunday

> **Table Tennis:** September 29, Lewiston Armory, Lewiston, Saturday

> **Bowling 10 Pin:** September 30, Sparetime Bowling, Augusta

Darts: October 14, The Gold Room, Portland, Sunday

Registration

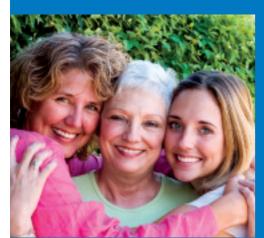
Registration is open for the Maine Senior Games. We have made some changes this year. Be sure to check the end registration date as there are a few sports that WILL have a deadline. Most sports allow onsite registration but a few will not. If you register online you must use a credit card or the registration will not be complete. Go to www.mainesrgames.org to register online or to download a printable version. Register early to be sure to get our athlete's bag and T-shirt!

Sponsors

Maine Senior Games depends on sponsorships to keep us going and bring you the best games possible. Thanks to the following: our lead sponsor is Martin's Point, platinum sponsor, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, our gold sponsors are Piper Shores and Aging Excellence and our silver sponsors are Cross Insurance, Bangor Savings Bank, Humana, Back in Motion, Ameriprise Financial and The Derry Rundlett Show CTN 5.

Explore Maine Senior Games Day

Explore Maine Senior Games Day is a chance to find out what we are all about. A chance to try some sports with coaches on hand. Track & Field, cornhole, power walk vs race walk, pickleball to name a few. Athletes will be on hand to explain their sport. Check out the new outdoor senior center. This all takes place on June 17 from 11:00-1:00 at Scarborough High track. No cost but please register by call 396-6915 or email Jo at: jdill@smaaa.org



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Therapeutic Recreation for All of Southern Maine will meet with your loved one or client in the home to develop a custom therapeutic leisure plan based on their interests and capabilities. Ideal to support people who have special physical or cognitive needs due to stroke, memory loss, and other health challenges.



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Therapeutic Recreation **Benefits Caregivers**

Every day, caregivers whether family or paid providers work hard in the home to create a fulfilling and enjoyable day for their loved one or client. Maintaining a creative approach that considers interests and abilities can be challenging, time-consuming and at times stressful. Bringing in a professional Recreational Therapist to conduct leisure, cognitive and physical assessments to design an individual leisure plan to be applied in the home can offer meaningful benefits for both the family member and caregiver.

According to the American Therapeutic Recreation Association, recreational therapy is used to "restore, remediate and rehabilitate a person's level of functioning and independence in life activities, to promote health and wellness as well as reduce or eliminate activity limitations and restrictions caused by illness or disabling conditions.

Recreational therapists connect goal-oriented leisure and health care to create an individualized leisure plan for their client. This plan considers where a client is in their care, their abilities and disabilities and very importantly their individual interests.

Most often recreational therapists provide services in residential facilities and hospitals but people receiving care at home can benefit as well by having an enriching leisure plan that focuses on their individual needs and interests.

People recovering from a stroke or dealing with memory loss or other cognitive and physical health challenges can experience a reduction in depression, stress and anxiety with an increase in physical and mental activity as well as emotional support. A therapeutic recreation plan can offer these benefits.

Therapeutic Recreation For All of Southern Maine is set to provide this service. Brian Connelly, Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist has 20 years experience in the field and has a background working with people with all types of healthcare needs. He is excited about the benefits of bringing this service to Southern Maine.

> This advertorial is paid for by Therapeutic Recreation For All of Southern Maine for the benefit of "Senior News" and its readers.

Mind your Mood: Brain Health at Every Age

Do you know how to keep your **Brain Healthy?**

rain health as defined by experts is the combination of cognitive (memory, attention, thinking) and mental (emotional well-being) health.

Dr. Nasreen Khatri, an awardwinning registered clinical psychologist, gerontologist and researcher will provide practical information and tips on how to age well, mentally, whether you're 30, 40, 50 or 90 years old.

Come and learn:

- The connection between cognitive and mental health
- The brain science underlying depression and anxiety prob-
- The positive impact of mindfulness on brain health
- Tips for a calmer future

Venue Details:

A Ted talk style presentation followed by a question and answer session. All are welcome.

May 17, 4-5:30PM Cloudport Co-Working Space, 63 Federal Street, Portland. Register for this free event at: https://goo.gl/CfSQ7q

Presenter Biography:

Dr. Nasreen Khatri is a graduate of McGill University. She completed her clinical internship and CIHR-funded post-doctorate at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). From 2004 to 2012, she led the Mood and Related Disorders Clinic and founded the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) service at Baycrest in Toronto.

In 2012, Dr. Khatri joined the Rotman Research Institute, a cognitive neuroscience institute affiliated with the University of Toronto. She is the first Scientist-in-Residence at The Challenge Factory, a career and

talent management company. She also blogs for The Huffington Post.

She has completed over 300 presentations. Dr. Khatri and her work have been cited in the media, including CBC - The National,

CTVNews, The Globe and Mail, The Vancouver Sun, Canadian Living, Chatelaine, The Wall Street Journal (US), The Daily Mail (UK) and 20 other media outlets.

Seasonal Allergy Advice for Seniors

pring means warmer weather and for many, seasonal allergies. Here are some tips to help get you through allergy

- Eating foods that fight inflammation can decrease allergy symptoms. (Apples, flax seed, leafy greens, and foods high in vitamin C)
- Use weather websites to monitor pollen levels and plan outdoor activities accordingly.
- When pollen levels are too high keep your windows closed.

- Avoid hanging your clothes to dry outside when pollen is high. Damp clothes can attract pollen. Stick with your dryer.
- Wash your hands after being outside and shower if you've been outside for an extended period of time. Pollen can linger in hair and on clothes.
- Wear sunglasses to help keep irritants out of your

If seasonal allergy symptoms are too disruptive or if new symptoms appear, contact your doctor.

Adapted from www.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov

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Agewell Schedule

Pre-registration is required for all Agewell Workshops. Please call: 207-396-6578

A Matter of Balance

June 14 – August 2 Thursdays, 1-3PM Falmouth Senior Center 190 Middle Road, Falmouth

Living Well for Better Health

May 29 – July 10 (no class 7/3)

Tuesdays, time TBA 425 Broadway, South Portland South Portland Housing Authority Please call 207-396-6578 for more info

Living Well with Chronic Pain

May 30 – July 11 (no class 7/4) Wednesdays, 10AM – 12:30PM Bartlett Circle Senior Housing 17 Bartlett Circle, Yarmouth

Beginning in June (schedule TBA) Tuesdays, 9:30AM – 12PM Cancer Community Center 778 Main Street, South Portland

The next Tai Chi class series begins in June.

Please call 207-396-6578 for more information.

A meal, and so much more.

"One of the largest volunteer networks in southern Maine delivers 800 meals to homebound seniors struggling with hunger. Along with those meals, they deliver dignity and compassion. Please join me in making a gift today for Meals on Wheels so that no senior goes hungry."

—Senator George Mitchell

Donate or Volunteer—Either Way, YOU Deliver!

Contact the Southern Maine Agency on Aging at www.smaaa.org or call 1-800-400-6325 or (207) 396-6583





Ineffective Treatment Often Prescribed for Lower Back Pain

ecent articles published by the medical journal, Lancet, talk about why alternative methods and not just medication, can help with pain. Specifically, the articles highlight back pain, the 540 million individuals worldwide who experience it, and the ever increasing number of those living with back pain due to our aging population.

What we are told is that doctors are often prescribing the wrong treatments for pain, even though there are other proven treatments to help with pain. The Lancet reports that methods such as better-breathing, gentle exercise and positive thinking, all work toward decreasing pain – topics all covered in our evidence-based Living Well with Chronic Pain class.

According to the articles, pain management providers would like to see more evidence-based treatments used and see less reliance on medication, which sometimes, is not even effective. You can read the full article from NPR News online at https://goo.gl/7JS2Ug

To learn more about our Living Well with Chronic Pain workshops, please call or email: sadams@smaaa.org 396-6578. In order to attend the workshops, you must pre-register.

Non-Invasive Pain Relief Techniques that Really Work

- Alternating cold and heat
- Gentile aerobic exercise such as walking, swimming, or cycling
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Mind-body techniques including meditation and breathing exercises
- Yoga and tai chi
- Biofeedback
- Music therapy
- Therapeutic massage

Adapted from www.health. harvard.edu

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help others take control of their health by becoming an Agewell volunteer instructor. Throughout the year we offer free trainings for volunteers to become leaders for A Matter of Balance, Tai Chi and Living Well. Please call 207-396-6578 for more information.

Worry Less. Live More. Say Yes to Living Well.



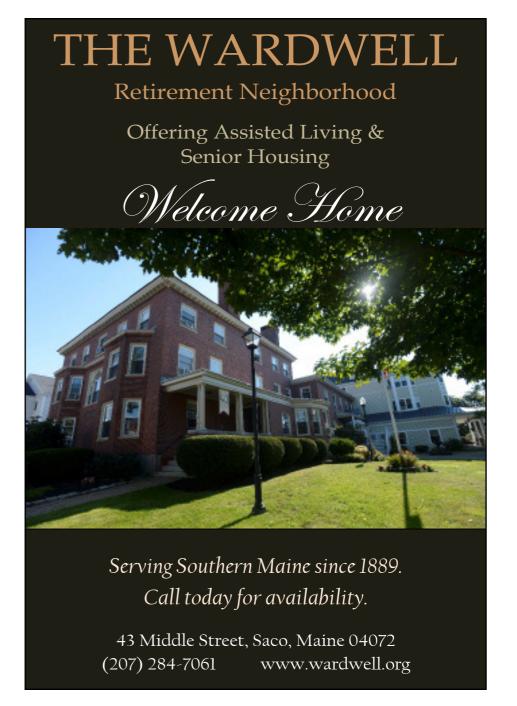
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From the Director's Desk continued from page 1

"Engage at Every Age," emphasizes the importance of being active and involved, no matter where or when you are in life. You are never too old (or too young) to participate in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

In Maine and across the country, older Americans are taking part in activities that promote wellness and social connection. They are sharing their wisdom and experience with future generations, and they are giving back to enrich their communities. They're working and volunteering, mentoring and learning, leading and engaging.

It is becoming more apparent that remaining socially engaged can improve the quality of life for older adults. During Older Americans Month, Southern Maine Agency on Aging will conduct activities and share information designed to highlight ways in which you can get involved by volunteering, participating in classes and workshops and staying physically active. We encourage you to check out the events calendar on our website, www.smaaa.org and start getting engaged!

Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Every year an esti-

mated five million older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. In Maine, more than 33,000 older adults are abused each year—90% of the time by close family members. It is one of the biggest issues facing older adults around the world. Katlyn Blackstone, SMAA's Chief Program Officer, will be representing SMAA at the 5th annual Elder Abuse Summit in Augusta on May 4th. The Summit, organized by the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine (EAIM) will bring together members of social service agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors and others to discuss ways of working together to effect positive outcomes to identify and prevent elder abuse. SMAA will also be represented at an event on June 5 to benefit Martha's Cottage, a resource sponsored by EAIM that provides safe and comfortable housing and support services to older victims of abuse from all over the state. There is NO Excuse for Elder Abuse!

Thanks to the spring rain and milder temperatures, I'm seeing some new life in the garden and some greening of the lawn. I'm hoping you will all get out of the house and enjoy!

Laurence W. Gross Chief Executive Officer



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LEARN HOW TO IMPROVE A SITUATION AND BETTER HANDLE AGING ISSUES.

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"An Invitation to Make a Difference"

Jones, Rich & Barnes Funeral Home Fundraiser Nets \$4,000 for Vet to Vet

pproximately 100 people gathered for a Wine & Beer Tasting Event on April 7 that netted more than \$4,000 for SMAA's Vet to Vet program. The event took place at the Jones, Rich & Barnes Funeral Home, 199 Woodford St., Portland. An enthusiastic team of Jones, Rich & Barnes staff members organized and hosted the event, and Shipyard Brewing Co. provided the beer.

The local funeral home has pledged to help the Vet to Vet pro-



Jones, Rich & Barnes staff with Vet to Vet coordinator Susan Gold.

Photo credit: Jill Cournoyer

gram "soar" by raising money for the organization's efforts to expand its services to veterans. All proceeds of the event went to Vet to Vet's operations.

The event featured Shipyard beer and a variety of wines, soft drinks, an array of appetizers, door prizes, and music provided by Westbrook singer and guitar player Andrew McCarthy. Little touches, including a row of miniature American flags leading up to the door, added to the evening's enjoyment.



From left: Priscilla Miller, Vet to Vet volunteer Sam Kelley, Marilyn Gugliucci, and Vet to Vet volunteers Andrea Tolbert and Shirley Weaver.

Photo credit: Jill Cournoyer

Erik Tiner of Jones, Rich & Barnes presents Vet to Vet coordinator Susan Gold with a facsimile check for \$3,500 at the Wine & Beer Tasting Event. Further contributions boosted the donation to more than \$4,000.

Photo Credit: Gail Merritt

Swapping Sea Stories and Other **Acts of Kindness**

By Sue Gold

hen a staff member of Hospice of Southern Maine called to see if Vet to Vet could find a volunteer to visit a Korean War veteran who was dying, she seemed not at all sure we could get anyone at such short notice.

minute of posting the request for a Navy veteran to make the visit, I had a phone call from a volunteer. Within the next 2-1/2 hours, I had received e-mails from another six volunteers, and by the end of the day three more had been in touch. A few Army veterans offered to make the visit if I couldn't find a Navy vet.

The exceptional caring demonstrated by Vet to Vet volunteers and the willingness to be of service to other veterans are what makes Vet to Vet such a deeply satisfying and worthwhile program. We all feel the loving vibes that emanate from the relationships developed and acts of kindness taken—they bring smiles to Vet to Vet volunteers, the veterans they visit, families and friends of both, staff members, and anyone who hears of Vet to Vet.

Gary O'Connell, a U.S. Navy submariner and the Vet to Vet veteran who was first to volunteer, visited the 86-year-old Navy veteran at his home the following day. Dressed in full uniform, Gary met the entire family, who had gathered to witness the event. They greeted him like an arriving king and listened raptly as the Navy veterans swapped sea stories for the next two hours. Both thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did the family members in the room.

"It was a good time all around," said Gary.

Still smiling, the men bid each other farewell. The Korean War veteran died two days later.

Thank you, Gary and the other nine veterans who volunteered for this act of kindness. And thank you. all, for the countless other acts of kindness you do to make the lives of fellow veterans better.

"TO STAY INDEPENDENT, I had no such doubts. Within a I NEED A LITTLE HELP ALONG THE WAY."



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- thecedarsportland.org

New Volunteers in February and March

Stephen Beaudoin **Nancy Craig Janet Gleason Jean Haves Connie Hollowell** Leelaine Picker Lisa Sanborn

Welcome all of you!



Volunteer Help Wanted

Phone Pals

Volunteers are needed for SMAA's Phone Pal program. As you may know, fund restrictions have reduced the number of days per week Meals on Wheels are delivered. Although people still receive 5 meals per week they are delivered only two days per week. The other three days many of our homebound clients neither have visitors nor phone calls to check on their wellbeing. We are recruiting a team of Phone Pals on the days they do not receive a meal delivery. We will be having a volunteer training in late spring/early summer for Phone Pal Volunteers.

Sight Facilitators

Volunteers are needed to assist people with sight impairments to be able to embrace activities such as shopping, attending meetings, and other activities outside the home. The volunteers will act as sight facilitators for clients to be able to participate in community activities.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities please call 396-6595 and speak to Judie or email to volunteer@smaaa.org.

Celebrating Volunteers and Older Americans!

ay is Older American's month and in April we celebrated National Volunteer Month. These two months represent a significant truth - volunteers bring brains and hands to challenges that must be met in every community while older people bring the skills, training and experience of a life time to those same community needs. Put the two together "older and volunteer" and you have an unbeatable combination - which is exactly what Senior-Corps volunteers do.

RSVP of Southern Maine volunteers make a very real impact on the needs of our local community. In our last fiscal year, we had 98 new volunteers join us for a total of 702 registered volunteers. Of those 702, 408 reported 23,513 hours of hours of service to their communities. That averages about 58 hours of volunteer service per volunteer. SMAA thanks you for your service to those in need in our community.

Please mark your calendar for our annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, June 20th. Look for your invitation in mail!

Southern Maine Agency On Aging Receives \$16,000 Grant From Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation For Caregiver Support Classes

outhern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) has received a \$16,000 grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation to provide monthly caregiver support classes over the next 12-months throughout Cumberland and York Counties. These programs will be-

All caregiver programs will be presented by an experienced caregiver specialist, often a licensed social worker and will cover such topics as establishing boundaries, stress management, planning, and myths and realities. In some instances respite care will be offered so that caregivers will be able to participate without worrying about caring for the needs of their loved one. The programs will include refreshments and opportunities to socialize with other caregivers facing similar situations.

SMAA's Chief Executive Officer, Lawrence Gross said "I am excited about our ability to reach so many caregivers within the communities we serve with quality educational programs. We are thankful to the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation for recognizing our expertise in supporting caregivers and for making such an impactful gift."

SMAA has a long history of supporting caregivers including the provision of information and resources on adult day care, home care, long term care and respite care as well as providing caregiver education programs including SAVVY Caregiver. SMAA also owns and operates two beautifully appointed Adult Day Centers (The Stewart Center in Falmouth and Sam L. Cohen Center in Biddeford) which are well-known for providing "State of the Heart" person-centered pro-

gramming for adults with memory loss.

"By providing these educational programs, we hope to empower caregivers to get the emotional support and encouragement they so desperately need as they care for their loved ones," said Eugene Scanzera, Director of Medicare Products for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. "Harvard Pilgrim is proud to partner with SMAA to bring these opportunities to Maine residents."

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- Patient caregiver relief
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Assist with grief support groups
- Helping with health fairs/ community education





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CLASS SCHEDULE

MAY 14 & 16

68 Marginal Way Portland, ME*

MAY 16

746 Daniel Webster Highway #3 Merrimack, NH

MAY 17

68 Marginal Way Portland, ME

452 High Street Somersworth, NH

JUNE 5

Hilton Garden Inn 14 Great Falls Plaza Auburn, ME

JUNE 13

Hampton Inn, 140 Commercial St Bath, ME

JUNE 20

68 Marginal Way Portland, ME

Classes are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. unless specified.