Driving and dementia: Balancing safety and independence

One of the difficult decisions that caregivers need to make at some point for the person with dementia if they don't make it for themselves at the appropriate time is when it's time to stop driving. Often an emotionally charged issue, it can be tricky to negotiate, because for most people it represents freedom, control, and a sense of pride and independence. As one person with dementia puts it, “It's difficult being in the passenger seat after years of driving.”

It also involves any number of family dynamics; whatever long-established patterns a family tends to follow usually remain or intensify when dealing with a difficult issue such as driving safety. However, being prepared, having factual information and communicating openly and frequently with all family members may help lessen any differences that may exist and encourage everyone to focus on the key issues at hand – the self-respect of the person with dementia and the safety of everyone on the road.

A diagnosis of mild dementia alone is not an automatic reason to stop driving. According to The Hartford, making observations and taking notes on certain warning signs can help you make an informed decision. (See sidebar on page seven for list.)

It may help you to think about these four basic principles as you make decisions regarding driving:

**There is no easy answer, no right way.** You will need to consider the personality of the person with dementia and the unique relationships and roles within the family.

**Begin early and include the person with dementia.** Ideally, the person with dementia should make the transition from driver to passenger over a period of time. Open and early communications can help the family agree on what ac-
Dear Friends,

What's in a name? Everything – depending on what you want your contributions to accomplish.

Our name change continues to confuse some people, and understandably so. Please remember that if it doesn't say Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin on North Segoe Road in Madison (or our Lancaster or Portage address), it isn't us! If it says, “South Central Alzheimer's Association,” or the mailing address is Washington, D.C., Chicago, Illinois or Big Sky Drive in Madison, that is not us!

We disaffiliated from the national association in December 2009 so we could continue serving persons with dementia and their families as we have for the past twenty-five years. We have a local, independent board of directors with ultimate fiduciary responsibility for all of our funds who guide our work (not an advisory board). Every year we undergo an annual audit. Since our disaffiliation, every dollar we raise stays in Wisconsin either to assist people or to promote research at UW-Madison. We have low administrative costs, so you can rest assured your dollars are being used wisely by a trusted organization that partners with those who have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementia as well as their families.

We are also advocates in matters of policy and legislation as the only Alzheimer's organization in Wisconsin with a dedicated public policy director who is a registered lobbyist. We advocate to preserve and enhance resources in south central Wisconsin – and throughout the state – so those facing a diagnosis of Alzheimer's will have knowledge of and access to what they need to create the best quality of life for themselves and their families. Our local partnership with the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and our work as professional trainers for local caregivers and residential care facilities provide us with unique knowledge about how to best help people here in our community.

We understand that each person and family facing a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementia will need support throughout the course of the disease, from the earliest to the most advanced stages. Our expert staff understands the unique needs of those affected by dementia and, using best practices and innovative programs, guides them with compassionate, professional services.

In summary, we're here to partner with you along the journey.

Sincerely,

Paul Rusk

Special note: See page five for our tribute to Gail Petersen, PhD, who worked for over thirty years with her loving husband, Kim Petersen, MD, caring for and advocating on behalf of persons with dementia. Gail and Kim formed their own consulting company, Elder Advocates, Inc., enabled communities throughout the country to establish their own Memory Diagnostic Centers, and most recently worked with the Alliance on our Dane County Dementia Support Team and Education and Services Committee. She will be deeply missed.
Some registration fees may apply. Donations are critical to continued programming and very much appreciated.

**Family Caregiver Education Series**

**West-side Madison**
Second Monday of each month
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance
517 N. Segoe Rd., Madison

**July 11**
Is your home really safe for someone with dementia? What you may not know

Home safety is more than disabling the stove and removing throw rugs. Discover ways to look at the home with new eyes and be proactive about potential hazards.

**August 8**
Introduction to Alzheimer’s and dementia: Getting started

Learn about dementia and its warning signs, what to do if you are concerned about yourself or someone you know, and how the ADWA can help.

**September 12**
Communication tips and strategies

Learn ways to effectively and compassionately communicate with someone who has dementia.

**East-side Madison**
First Monday of every other month
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Hawthorne Library
2707 East Washington Ave., Madison

**August 1**
Keeping active: Helping the person with dementia stay involved

Discover ways to plan for and adapt household routines and to support continued involvement in pleasurable pastimes.

No registration necessary for any of the Family Caregiver programs, just drop in.

**Crossing Bridges**

**Summer 2011**
Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance
517 N. Segoe Rd., Madison

**Please contact us if you are interested in this program.** This education and support series is for people with mild memory impairment and their families. The overall focus is to promote positive well-being while living with cognitive change. Potential participants need to schedule an in-person interview as part of the registration process before the classes start. Call Pat Wilson at 608.232.3406.

**We all forget: Is it normal aging or should I be concerned?**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2011**
1 - 2 p.m.
Health and Human Services Center
Conference Room 1001
(enter at the front of the building by the flag pole)
303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville

**Tuesday, July 12, 2011**
1 - 2 p.m.
First Banking Center Community Room
15815 State Rd. 81, Darlington

We all forget names occasionally and misplace keys and wallets. But not all memory glitches signify the start of a progressive disease like Alzheimer’s. Learn how our memories work, what’s “normal” as we age and what to do if we’re concerned for ourselves or others. Presented by Deanna Truedson, Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance. Please contact Deanna at 608.843.3402 with any questions.

**Keeping active: Helping the person with dementia stay involved**

**Wednesday, July 27, 2011**
1 - 2 p.m.
Aging & Disability Resource Center
8820 Hwy 35/61 S, Lancaster

Discover ways to plan for and adapt household routines and to support continued involvement in pleasurable pastimes. Presented by Becky DeBuhr, Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance. RSVPs appreciated: 608.723.4288.

**Is your home really safe for someone with dementia? What you may not know**

Tuesday, August 30, 2011
1 - 2 p.m.
Community Services Building
221 W. Seminary St., Richland Center

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
1 - 2 p.m.
Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
1800 Bronson Blvd., Fennimore

Home safety is more than disabling the stove and removing throw rugs. Discover ways to look at the home with new eyes and be proactive about potential hazards. Presented by Becky DeBuhr. RSVPs appreciated: 608.723.4288.

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**Time for Us Summer Camp**

Sunday, July 31 - Friday, August 5, 2011
Lutherdale Adventure Camp
N7891 US Highway 12
Elkhorn, WI

TIME FOR US is a great camping opportunity for teens from 11 to 17 years of age who have a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or a similar diagnosis. While most of each day is spent on fun camp activities — ropes challenge, tower climbing, canoeing, water sports, field sports, etc. — a portion of the time focuses on an understanding of Alzheimer’s and memory challenges.

Campers will gain knowledge, coping skills, peer support and relationships that may assist them for years to come. The innovative curriculum allows campers to experience nature up close, eat healthy meals and learn about toxins and the connection between healthy food and their health. The camp is sponsored by the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and forMemory, a network of persons affected by early memory challenges, with support from Wheat Ridge Ministries. We welcome persons of all faiths and world views.

For more information, contact forMemory, Chris Van Ryzin, Appleton, WI, 920.734.9638.
Local research opportunities

Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (W-ADRC)

SHARP Study [Statins in Healthy, At-Risk Adults: Impact on Amyloid and Regional Perfusion]

The SHARP Study is looking for men and women aged 40-70 who have a parent with Alzheimer’s disease. This study is examining cholesterol-lowering medication, called simvastatin, to see if it affects blood flow to the brain, blood vessel function and a substance in the spinal fluid called amyloid. Studies show that some cholesterol-lowering medications may reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease, but this has not yet been proven in humans.

The SHARP Study requires nine visits over the course of 18 months. Each visit typically runs between 30 minutes to five hours, depending on the visit. Upon completion of the study, participants are paid $375 to compensate for the time donated to the study.

Study requirements:
- Taking a pill every day for 18 months
- Paper and pencil tests to examine memory and thinking abilities
- Blood tests to monitor medication side effects
- Three lumbar punctures to collect spinal fluid
- Four MRI scans to observe blood flow in the brain
- Four brachial artery ultrasounds to monitor blood vessel function

One Day Study: Mechanistic Examination of Falls in Mild Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer’s Disease

This new, currently enrolling research study is looking at the connection between the risk of falling and certain memory diseases. The study is looking for men and women with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s disease.

Participation in the study includes one visit at the study clinic, lasting between three to four hours. This visit will include:
- A brief exam by the study physician
- Health, mood and behavior questionnaires
- A walking task (walking while performing a thinking task)
- Paper and pencil tests to examine memory and thinking
- MRI scan

Fight Alzheimer’s disease by joining our research project!

The Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center is currently recruiting volunteers to be a part of an exciting new memory research study.

The study will enroll individuals who:
- Have a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease or mild cognitive impairment
- Are 45-65 years old with a parental history of Alzheimer’s disease
- Are healthy adults aged 45-65 without a parental history of dementia
- Are healthy adults over the age of 65 without a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia

Participants will meet with study personnel annually in Madison. The initial and annual follow-up visits will include paper and pencil memory testing, a physical exam and fasting blood tests. An option to complete two additional substudies, an MRI and/or a lumbar puncture, is also available.

Call 608.265.0407 or visit wcmp.wisc.edu to learn more about these and other study opportunities.

Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute (WAI)

As a center within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the mission of the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute is to create a public health environment in which Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias are widely recognized, well understood, aggressively and appropriately treated, and in which those who are afflicted and those who care for them receive the education, quality services and support they need to effectively cope with this devastating chronic disease. For updates on the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer’s Prevention (WRAP) study, contact Janet Rowley: 608.829.3306; 800.417.4169; jsrowley@wisc.edu.

Research in brief

Alzheimer’s diagnostic guidelines updated for first time in decades

Source: ScienceDaily - For the first time in 27 years, clinical diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer’s disease dementia have been revised, and research guidelines for earlier stages of the disease have been characterized to reflect a deeper understanding of the disorder. The original criteria were the first to address the disease and described only later
Gail Petersen, PhD, was the embodiment of who we all strive to be. All of us at the Alliance are deeply feeling the impact of the untimely loss of Gail Petersen from our world. Considering the tremendous impact she made here, one can only imagine how the whole of her life has significantly changed everyone who knew her.

Gail worked tirelessly on behalf of those affected by dementia. Her innate respect for all people created a genuine personal relationship of trust and cooperation with everyone around her. She was able to share her knowledge and insight with everyone from doctors to people with dementia, and embraced the wisdom those with dementia and their care partners offered her. Her ability to put complex concepts into understandable terms meant that her teaching and counsel could be used in a practical way by those she was working with. Gail’s understanding of how people learn, combined with her keen sense of people’s needs, allowed her to be an incredible advocate for people with dementia and those who care for them. Her genuine love for those around her has changed lives. She is irreplaceable and will be dearly missed.

We express our deep condolences to Dr. Kim Petersen and all members of Gail’s family. Gail brought such enrichment to our lives. Thank you for sharing her with us.

What moves through us is a silence, a quite sadness, a longing for one more day, one more word, one more touch. We may not understand why you left this earth so soon, or why you left before we were ready to say goodbye, but little by little we begin to remember not just the loss but that you lived and that life gave us memories too beautiful to forget.

Vast gene study yields insights on Alzheimer’s

Source: New York Times - The two largest studies of Alzheimer’s disease have led to the discovery of no fewer than five genes that provide intriguing new clues to why the disease strikes and how it progresses.

By themselves, the genes are not nearly as important a factor as APOE, a gene discovered in 1995 that greatly increases risk for the disease: by 400 percent if a person inherits a copy from one parent, by 1,000 percent if from both parents.

In contrast, each of the new genes increases risk by no more than 10 to 15 percent; for that reason, they will not be used to decide if a person is likely to develop Alzheimer’s.

However, some of the newly discovered genes are involved with cholesterol and others are linked to inflammation or the transport of molecules inside cells. People with high cholesterol are more likely to get Alzheimer’s disease. Strokes and head injuries, which make Alzheimer’s more likely, also cause brain inflammation.

The discoveries double the number of genes known to be involved in Alzheimer’s, to ten from five, giving scientists many new avenues to explore.

The panels purposefully left the guidelines flexible to allow for changes that could come from emerging technologies and advances in understanding of biomarkers and the disease process itself.

The updated guidelines cover the full spectrum of the disease as it gradually changes over many years. Importantly, the guidelines now address the use of imaging and biomarkers in blood and spinal fluid that may help determine whether changes in the brain and those in body fluids are due to Alzheimer’s disease.

To reflect what has been learned, guidelines cover three distinct stages of Alzheimer’s disease:

- Preclinical: A phase in which brain changes, including amyloid buildup and other early nerve cell changes, may already be in process. At this point, significant clinical symptoms are not yet evident.

- Mild cognitive impairment (MCI): This stage is marked by symptoms of memory problems, enough to be noticed and measured, but not compromising a person’s independence. People with MCI may or may not progress to Alzheimer’s dementia.

- Alzheimer’s dementia: The guidelines also expand the concept of Alzheimer’s dementia beyond memory loss as its most central characteristic. A decline in other aspects of cognition, such as word-finding, vision/spatial issues, and impaired reasoning or judgment may be the first symptom to be noticed. At this stage, biomarker test results may be used.

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Public policy issues

Appeals court ruling affects dementia patients

The 2nd District Court of Appeals has issued a ruling that could have a significant impact on people with dementia. The case involves a woman named Helen, an 85 year old with Alzheimer’s disease who resides in Fond du Lac County. The county sought to involuntarily commit Helen for treatment under Chapter 51 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

A Chapter 51 proceeding refers to Chapter 51 of the Wisconsin Statutes, also known as the Mental Health Act. The legislature enacted this law to assure the provision of a full range of treatment and rehabilitation services in the state for all mental disorders and developmental disabilities and for mental illness, alcoholism and drug abuse.

In most situations, law enforcement is alerted to the potential Chapter 51 subject by an emergency phone call to authorities. Law enforcement is dispatched to the scene and assesses the situation. If the law enforcement officer believes that the person fits the criteria under Chapter 51 and is dangerous or resistive enough to not be a proper candidate for voluntary services in the community, the law enforcement officer initiates an Emergency Detention. The patient then must be evaluated at a local hospital. If the patient is “cleared” they are sent to a local mental health facility. At the facility, a licensed psychiatrist evaluates the person to determine if they meet the criteria for a continued commitment under Chapter 51 and to determine if the person needs voluntary services, a short term commitment for stabilization and treatment or if the person has more intense needs and should be committed for a longer period of time. A probable cause court hearing must be held within 72 hours. The person committed has the opportunity at the hearing to contest the placement. If the court finds that the individual needs to be involuntarily committed, the initial commitment period cannot exceed six months; however, it can be extended after the initial period at the recommendation of the doctor.

At any point during the proceedings a doctor can request an order for involuntary medication and treatment for the subject. The doctor must have or attempt to have a conversation with the subject and try to explain the advantages and disadvantages of accepting medication and treatment. The doctor then makes the determination if the individual is competent or if the subject is substantially incapable of applying an understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and alternatives.

In Helen’s case, a protective placement and guardianship had already been obtained under Chapter 55 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, but the county sought to have her committed under Chapter 51 which allows for longer term commitments.

In the decision issued by the District II Court of Appeals, the court determined that Helen was not a proper subject for detainment or treatment under Chapter 51 because Alzheimer’s disease is not a qualifying mental condition under that Chapter. The court found that Chapter 51’s definition of the term “degenerative brain disorder” is included only to specifically exclude it from the Chapter’s authority, whereas Chapter 55’s definition is used to specifically include it in the scope of authority granted under Chapter 55’s protective placement and services laws.

We will have more on Chapter 55 by Attorney Barbara Zabawa, JD, in our next newsletter.

The case will likely be appealed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, but in the meantime, the court’s decision means that protective placements under Chapter 51 can’t be made solely upon behavior attributed to a degenerative brain disorder.

As this is a public policy issue that could potentially impact people with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia, the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin has begun discussions with county corporation councils to determine how they will proceed given the decision by the court.

The corporation councils have told us that they will continue to use Chapter 51 for placements when necessary. Our Dane County corporation council has explained it to us this way: “Dementia, by its definition, is a degenerative brain disorder which causes memory loss in every case. However, in some cases it also causes psychosis, depression or other mood disorder, or hallucinations, etc., which fall within the legal definition of mental illness for commitment. So dementia is the “etiology” of the mental illness, but dementia is not the illness for commitment purposes.”

We will be following this closely and working with the relevant parties and decision makers as this issue moves forward. We will continue to update you via our newsletter and if necessary through our advocacy network. If you are not part of the advocacy network and would like to be alerted when important policy issues arise, please email Rob Gundermann at gundermann@alzwisc.org.
Driving and dementia...

Continued from page 1

tions to take before a crisis occurs.

Base your decisions on driving behavior that takes place over a period of time. Regular monitoring can prevent a loved one from driving longer than is safe.

Get support. No one should shoulder all the responsibility for these difficult decisions. Caregivers should turn to others for help—from family and friends to doctors, care managers, financial planners, support groups and organizations such as the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance. Specifically reporting the results of the monitoring you have done to the person’s physician can be helpful in engaging the physician’s help. Ask if the physician will either tell the person to stop driving or write to the motor vehicle department to request a retest of person’s driving.

There are several ways to help ease the transition. Using alternative transportation is one option. You may find that the person with dementia will begin limiting their driving on their own, such as driving shorter distances, staying on familiar routes, and avoiding driving at night, in heavy traffic or during bad weather. You can also look for ways that reduce the need to drive by having some necessities delivered, scheduling people to visit, or arranging for friends to help out.

Remember, it’s usually better to have frequent, short conversations than a long, one-time conversation. If you need guidance, call us at the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance and we can discuss your unique issues and help you strategize. Call us at 608.232.3400 or 888.308.6251.

—Excerpted in part from “At The Crossroads: Family Conversations About Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia and Driving”, The Hartford Financial Services Group, 2010

Warning signs for drivers with dementia

Signs are ranked from minor to serious. Those marked with a * mean the person should stop driving immediately:

1. Decrease in confidence while driving
2. Difficulty turning to see when backing up
3. Riding the brake
4. Easily distracted while driving
5. Other drivers often honk horns
6. Incorrect signaling
7. Difficulty parking within a defined space
8. Hitting curbs
9. Scrapes or dents on the car, mailbox or garage
10. Increased agitation or irritation when driving
11. Failure to notice important activity on the side of the road
12. Failure to notice traffic signs
13. Trouble navigating turns
14. Driving at inappropriate speeds
15. Not anticipating potential dangerous situations
16. Uses a “copilot”
17. Bad judgment on making left hand turns
18. Near misses
19. Delayed response to unexpected situations
20. Moving into wrong lane
21. Difficulty maintaining lane position
22. Confusion at exits
23. Ticketed moving violations or warnings
24. Getting lost in familiar places
25. Car accident
26. Failure to stop at stop sign or red light
27. Confusing the gas and brake pedals*
28. Stopping in traffic for no apparent reason*

Web resources

• The Hartford Advance 50 Team
  www.safedrivingforalifetime.com

• AARP
  www.aarp.org/home-garden/transportation/driver_safety

• Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center
  www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications/drivers.htm

• National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
  www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/olddrive/Alzheimers

• Wisconsin Department of Transportation: Medically impaired driver information
  www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/aging/impaired.htm

The programs we have attended and our support group are of great value. The Alliance is professional and well-run. Kudos to all who make this happen.

—R & M
Coming soon: Team Captain Breakfasts

Team Captain Breakfasts are a good way to learn about the walks in all seven of the counties where our organization sponsors Alzheimer’s Walks. Why not attend and bring a friend! Please note that you don’t need to commit to being a Team Captain to attend these events. Dates for the July events will be announced soon on our website at www.alzwis.org.

Don’t miss the fun while supporting a good cause

The Memory Makers Walk Team – Holly Beighley, Team Captain – is hosting a day of fun activities on June 4, 2011 at Joe’s in Richland Center, 28018 US Highway 14, beginning at noon. 100% of the proceeds will support the 2011 Richland County Alzheimer’s Walk on Sunday, September 25.

The fun day includes a volleyball tournament, bean bag tournament, dunk tank, hot dogs/brats and drawings for prizes such as a Harley Davidson Can Cooler, red stainless hot/cold mugs, a Chocolate Indulgence Collection plus other items. There will be karaoke at 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Annual Wine & Roses Festival™ a smashing success!

We are thrilled that the Wine & Roses Festival is now a spring tradition in Madison. This year we welcomed four new vineyards to our line-up on April 9: Basel Cellars Estate Winery, Walla Walla, WA; Casa Ventura Imports featuring distinguished Spanish wines, Bellingham, WA; Reininger Winery, Walla Walla, WA; and Schug Winery, Sonoma, CA.

Returning wineries were Laetitia Vineyard and Winery, Arroyo Grande, CA; Ledgestone Vineyards, Greenleaf, WI; Peterson Winery, Healdsburg, CA; Sokol Blosser Winery, Dundee, OR; and Wollersheim Winery, Prairie du Sac, WI. We express deep appreciation to the winemakers and special representatives who took the time to be part of this event.

The courageous comments by Judy Klahn were a special part of the evening. Judy shared her journey with Alzheimer’s, beginning when she was 58, and her participation in the Alzheimer’s Alliance’s Meeting of Minds program. Judy’s husband and two children attended the event as did several special friends. We were all reminded that while we were at a lovely party, there also was a serious side to the evening in the effort to raise dollars to support much-needed programs and services for people who live in southern Wisconsin.

Extra excitement was part of the live auction as a barrel of wine from Algodon Wine Estates in Argentina was again auctioned as well as a trip to the vineyard including stops in Buenos Aires and San Rafael. These two auction items generated the most our organization has ever raised for paired auction items: $11,200. We sincerely thank the people who won the items and those who gave the items – Dave and Sue Schutz, Scott Mathis, Diversified Private Equity Corporation and Algodon Wine Estates.

“Even though we are in still in challenging economic times, people supported the Festival,” said Paul Rusk, Executive Director of the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance. “I can’t thank everyone enough, and especially our sponsors, for their continued show of support for our organization.”

We look forward to seeing you next year for our Fifth Annual Wine & Roses Festival. The April date will be announced soon on our website. Tickets will be on sale late this year.

A special thank you to our major sponsors:

Pinot Noir Sponsor: Oak Park Place
Sauvignon Blanc Sponsors: Anderson’s Insurance Associates of America with West Bend Insurance, Dean & St. Mary’s and Whyte Hirschbock Dudek S.C.
Cabernet Sponsors: Capitol Lakes Retirement Community, Stevens Construction Corp. and UW Health
Media Sponsors: Madison Magazine, Mid-West Family Broadcasting and Clear Channel Radio Madison
Welcome to our new professional training specialist

Lana Phelps recently joined the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance as Training Specialist. She is involved with professional training and works closely with Mary Salzieder, our Training Coordinator. Lana has been busy sharing the Alliance’s innovative dementia training with the Madison community and throughout the surrounding area.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Lana worked at the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County for the National Family Caregiver Support Program. She has also worked at the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center of Central Wisconsin for the ADDLife Program. Lana holds a degree in Health Promotion/Wellness and Human Development.

Originally from central Wisconsin, Lana is happy to be living in Madison with her fiancé and daughter. If you see her, she is probably enjoying kayaking on one of the beautiful lakes or walking at the dog park with her four-legged family member.

For information on upcoming professional training opportunities, contact Lana at 608.661.0463 or lana.phelps@alzwisc.org.

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For the person with memory loss

One valuable way people with early memory loss or early dementia can feel more empowered to live a more positive, involved life for as long as possible is to learn from and share with others who are also dealing with early dementia. As the number of people receiving a diagnosis in the very early stages of dementia is increasing, more and more resources are emerging to enable these individuals to connect with, share and learn from one another in a variety of ways.

At the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance, we offer several program opportunities for people to meet and share with others in a similar situation. These include our Crossing Bridges, Learning Among Friends and Meeting of Minds programs. We encourage you to call us for more information about these programs.

In addition, we have a listing of some print, chat room and other web-based resources that we would be glad to mail to you by request – contact us at 888.308.6251 or support@alzwisc.org.

Two newer print options we suggest are the series of *By Us for Us* guides and the book *Living Your Best with Early-Stage Alzheimer’s* by Lisa Snyder, 2010, Sun Rise River Press, is a book written for people diagnosed with early dementia and their friends and family. The book combines invaluable wisdom and insight from people with early dementia with straightforward professional advice. It is a working guide to help the person with early dementia move forward in life in light of this diagnosis. It’s a great resource for the person with early dementia and her caregiver to read and use as a guide together. We have a copy in our library or it can be purchased through Amazon books.

- The *By Us for Us* guides were created by a group of people with dementia and their family caregivers, developed to share wisdom and insight to help others enhance well-being and manage daily challenges. The following guides are currently included in the series: *Living and Celebrating Life Through Leisure, Before/Early Diagnosis, Living and Transforming with Loss and Grief, Memory Workout, Managing Triggers; Enhancing Communication; Enhancing Wellness; and Tips and Strategies*. All eight guides are available in a PDF format and can be downloaded through the Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program at www.marep.uwaterloo.ca/products or through a link on the Dementia Advocacy and Support Network International website at www.dasninternational.org.

- *Living Your Best with Early-Stage Alzheimer’s* by Lisa Snyder, 2010, Sun Rise River Press, is a book written for people diagnosed with early dementia and their friends and family. The book combines invaluable wisdom and insight from people with early dementia with straightforward professional advice. It is a working guide to help the person with early dementia move forward in life in light of this diagnosis. It’s a great resource for the person with early dementia and her caregiver to read and use as a guide together. We have a copy in our library or it can be purchased through Amazon books.

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We encourage you to “recycle” this newsletter with a friend, doctor’s office, place of worship, or club. Pass it on!
Thank you to all of you who do so much to keep our agency running smoothly and to help us expand our services to reach more families. As a way to recognize all of the wonderful things that volunteers do for the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance, we “spotlight” a different volunteer in each newsletter.

In March of 2011, Jan Karst, Community Connections Coordinator for RSVP of Dane County, contacted us regarding a volunteer candidate. That candidate was Barbara Skolaski and we’re thankful to Jan for bringing us together. Barbara has committed her time and talents to us for the long haul, doing data entry for a very large donor database consolidation project. She comes in two days a week and works three hour shifts. She always has a smile and a bit of conversation, but then it’s down to business! In addition to her work here, Barbara is a long-term volunteer for the Red Cross.

The work that Barbara is doing increases the efficiency of the fundraising efforts that are so critical to supporting our programs and services. Volunteers like her are a vital part of our continued success. So, thank you, Barbara!

Diversity update
—Charlie Daniel, Diversity Coordinator

Working at the Alliance as the Diversity Coordinator is one of the most rewarding positions I have ever had. I have the opportunity to outreach and educate the African American community in Dane and Rock counties on this silent epidemic: Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Thanks goes out to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Black Firefighters of Madison for inviting me out to their annual event to outreach to the African American community. I was the only agency representative invited to both events, which showed me how much both groups want this information to be shared with our community.

Also, thanks to a wonderful group of women who invited me to lunch with them and to be introduced to Dr. Anne Owiti Awor. Dr. Anne is the Executive Director of Kibera Integrated Community Self-Help Programme (KICOSHEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. KICOSHEP an organization founded by Dr. Anne within the shanty settlement of Kibera, where a majority of patients have been diagnosed with a HIV/AIDS related ailment.

Dr. Anne did not want to talk about HIV/AIDS, however; she wanted to talk about Alzheimer’s and dementia in her country. Like the subject of HIV/AIDS was in years past, Alzheimer’s is not a subject her country men and women want to talk about.

I have never met a more respectable and caring woman. The information that I gathered for her will help her go back to her country and start a conversation with her health minister. She was also given information on medications by our wonderful program director, Mary Reines. After finishing our tea and giving each other tearful hugs and kisses, I felt I was losing a sister friend that I might not be able to see again. Dr. Anne evidently felt the same way, because between our hugs and tears, she said, “Charlie, I want to invite you to Kibera and spread the word in my city. My people need to hear this information and I don’t want them to wait as long as they did when it came to HIV/AIDS.”

Looking back now I know that I was not losing a friend, but was gaining a sister. We here at the Alliance wish her Godspeed.

Left to right: Dianne Hopkins, Dr. Anne, Jill Thomas, Glorita Hawkins and Kay Simmons
Area benefits for the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance

The Sauk County Health Care Center is hosting the Second Annual Alzheimer’s Awareness Benefit Walk on Saturday, July 17 at the Jaycee Building in Reedsburg. This fun event for all ages includes a memory/honor walk, musical entertainment, games for kids, food sales, prizes and more. For more information, contact Margaret Burggraf at 608.524.7540.

Join us for another winning day on Saturday, August 27 at the Dump Bar & Grill, 105 Edgewater St. in Cambria for the Eighth Annual Dump Poker Run. Your nominal registration fee includes a poker run (11:30 to 5:30), pig roast (starts at 4:30), live auction (5:00) and live music and street dance (7:00 to 11:00). Transportation will be provided for the poker run – or provide your own. Motorcycles welcome!

Register at the Dump Bar and Grill: 920.348.5733.

LEEPS exercise and social program

LEEPS (Language Enhanced Exercise Plus Socialization) is a free exercise and social outing program for people with Alzheimer’s disease. The program also allows the person’s caregiver some respite time. To be eligible to participate, you must have memory loss issues, live with your caregiver, be able to engage in exercise, and reside in Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Juneau, Lafayette, Richland, Rock or Sauk counties.

The program is looking for volunteers to assist with exercises, provide mental stimulation and offer regular outings. For more information, contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin at 877.794.2372 (Rock county residents call the Alzheimer’s Support Center, 608.314.8500).

Everyone is invited to attend the community planning meetings for the Alzheimer’s Poetry Day events:

- Wednesday, June 29, 1:00 p.m., the Village Booksmith, 526 Oak St., Baraboo.
- Thursday, June 30, 2:00 p.m., Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance, 517 North Segoe Rd., second floor.

Please RSVP Gary Glazner at 505.577.2250 or gary@alzpoetry.com.

Diagnosis, Drugs, and Depression: Little Discussed Dementia Issues

This educational seminar is designed to provide knowledge and insight to physicians, nurses, social workers, case managers, administrators, and other professionals in the health care field regarding not often discussed dementia topics such as drugs, differentiation of dementia diagnoses, mild cognitive impairment, delirium, depression, and end-of-life issues.

Deanna Truedson, Outreach Specialist, Alzheimer’s and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin will be discussing “When Someone with Dementia is Hospitalized” at the 3:00 p.m. session.

The seminar is Thursday, June 23, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at The Heights Event Center, Stoughton Wellness Center, 2300 US Highway 51 and 138. Cost is $30.00 per person, please add an additional $10 for CEU Certificate. Contact Jasmine Vlassek, Community Relations Director, Harbor House at 608.712.1617 or jasminevlassek@harborassisted.com.

Alzheimer’s Poetry Day comes to Wisconsin

The Alzheimer’s Poetry Project performs and creates poetry with people living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia. The event is designed for everyone from activity directors to caregivers to persons living with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia. Poems to be featured at the Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Poetry Day were written by members attending workshops and held at local agencies throughout the year including Oakwood Village East, Attic Angel Place, Kindred Hearts, Oak Park Place (Cottage Grove) and Oak Park Place (Middleton).

Both days are free and open to the public. The Poetry Project will take place in two locations:

- Alzheimer’s Poetry Day, Baraboo: Saturday, July 30, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. UW-Baraboo cafeteria, 1006 Connie Rd., as part of the Summerset Festival of the Arts. Contact Annie Randall at the Village Booksmith, 608.355.1001 or go to www.alzpoetry.com.

- Alzheimer’s Poetry Day, Madison: Tuesday, August 2, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St. featuring Fabu Carter Brisco, Madison Poet Laureate and Wisconsin APP Director, Lisa Auter. Contact Gary Glazner at 505.577.2250 or go to www.alzpoetry.com.
Contributions

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Please contact the Alliance office at
608.232.3400 to make any additions
or corrections to this listing. We are
deply grateful to everyone who has
supported the programs and services
of the ADAW.
Words about wills

Please remember our new name

The Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc. continues to be named in wills to receive a bequest. In the event that you might be planning to include our organization in your will as part of your legacy to the community, we’d like to offer a few suggestions.

First, consult a legal advisor. Even the simplest will should have the proper legal language and the cost is actually small considering the confusion it may save.

Second, remember that gifts of property are welcome. Real estate, stocks and bonds, or insurance policies may all be included in a bequest. In fact, a legal or tax advisor may be able to advise you on how certain taxes may be avoided by giving property directly.

And third, our organization would like to be informed about your plans. If you have a special interest in helping to provide for a particular program or service, it may be helpful to consult with us on planning a bequest to ensure that your wishes will be fulfilled.

And, if you have included our organization in your legacy to the community, please be sure that your language reflects our new name.

Here is sample language you can take to your advisor:

“I give, devise and bequeath (insert amount of gift or percentage of estate, or residuary of estate) to the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc., or its successor organization, located in Madison, Wisconsin, to support programs and services in south central Wisconsin.”

The Employer Identification Number for our organization has not changed: EIN: 39-1679333. For further information, contact Miriam Boegel, miriam.boegel@alzwisc.org or 608.232.3409. Thank you for considering a bequest gift to the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance.

Please remember the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance during your workplace’s fall giving campaign

When the United Way/Community Health Charities campaign comes to your workplace this fall, consider a gift to the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin (#370). Our professionally trained and personally experienced staff offer compassionate understanding to those affected by Alzheimer’s or other dementia, and help guide people along the journey with direct services, support, information and resources.

Ninety percent of our operating income comes from private donations like yours, as well as from special events, fees for service and grants from private organizations.

In the optional box on the form you receive, you can specify our agency code, #370, the amount you wish to give and our name and address. You can contribute to us through any United Way in the United States.

Also be sure to check the box that authorizes the release of your name so we can send you our thanks!

Be a savvy donor!

Unless you see the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin’s name and logo with donations being sent to Madison, Wisconsin, your donation is NOT going to the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance.

Every dollar we raise stays in Wisconsin. We ARE NOT AFFILIATED with any of the following organizations you might be solicited from:

- Alzheimer’s Association
- Alzheimer’s Society
- American Health Assistance Foundation
- Alzheimer’s Disease Research
- National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center
- Leeza’s Place

Questions: 608.232.3400 or 888.308.6251.
Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance
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Green County
Saturday, September 10
Behring Senior Center, Monroe

Columbia County
Sunday, September 11
Riverside Park, Portage

Dane County
Saturday, September 17
Warner Park, Madison

Grant County
Sunday, September 18
Lancaster Congregational Church

Sauk County
Saturday, September 24
Ochsner Park & Riverwalk, Baraboo

Richland County
Sunday, September 25
UW-Richland, Richland Center

Iowa County
Saturday, October 1
Grace Lutheran Church, Dodgeville

SAVE THE DATE!

www.alzwisc.org

Sign up for our email newsletters!