

Caregiver Communiqué

Supporting Arkansas Families since 1984

Volume 31 Issue 1

January 2016

My Third Husband **Karen Hayes**

My first marriage was so long ago, it's hard to remember BOB HAYES my first husband's middle name. Lee.

He grew up to be an anesthesiologist, an unsurprising outcome. He put me to sleep. I married him because I had loved him once and was sure I would again. I didn't.

My second husband was the love of my life. A very surprising husband, he announced early in our relationship he would never, ever marry again.

In 1985, we were in Houston, enjoying the un-honeymoon Monday-Tuesday of a couple who has been together for a few years, but were now sharing a house hold for the first time. We went

to markets and festivals, took overnight motorbike trips, cooked elaborate food, had furniture and a bathroom in common.

One evening, a few days before his 48th birthday, we went out for dinner. We rode home on his bike, me on the back holding tight.

"Do you want to get married on my birthday?" he said.

"Pull over," I said.

We had planned a birthday camping trip to Mustang Island near Galveston. It seemed unlikely we could navigate the legalities of getting married in only a few days, but Texas isn't fussy about ceremony. I bought a lavender Mexican dress and bought a bottle of Cordon Rouge. The wedding was on. My second husband was an unromantic musician who bought me jewelry, cooked Chinese for me, and loved my cats. He took me to New Orleans and Brazil.

I could tell him anything.

I met my third husband when I was still married to my second husband.

To be Continued in February 2016 Caregiver Communique



My husbond

January Wednesday Thursday Sunday Monday Tuesday Friday Saturday **Alz Ark Offices** 1 Alz Ark 2 Closed Offices Closed 3 4 5 6 7 2016 Program Dates 1st Monday S/G 3/4 @ Alzheimer's AR Offices Little Rock Hope for the Future at The Crowne Plaza, 10 11 12 13 14 200 S Shackleford Road, Jacksonville S/G Parkinson's S/G LR 72212 @ Ester D. @ Alzheimer's 4/1 **AR Offices** Nixon Library Hope for the Future, 703 W Main at 7 Russellville AR 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 Art Together at Memory Café S/G "Is That Ethical? Arkansas Arts @ Alzheimer's AR Ethics and Center, 501 E Dementia" at 10 am 9th St, @ 10 am Time Out Alz Ark Offices Workshop, LR Closed 24 25 27 28 29 26 30 4th Tues S/G @ Alzheimer's AR Offices 31

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wish list

Every Gift is appreciated!

- Installation of a chair lift to utilize the upstairs room.
- New "Memory Wall" for health exhibits and booths.
- Video Projector for educational training and your time!

We are here for you 24/7! After hours, weekends and holidays caregiver help line Toll Free: (800) 689-6090

ADVOCATE



Sue Griffin, PhD, the head of the Alzheimer's disease research team at the Reynolds Institute on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, says, "In our new work, we are aiming toward the development of strategies, including therapeutics, for stalling the progression of Alzheimer's disease, which, interestingly, starts decades before memory loss is apparent. These strategies include development of specific drugs aimed at the brain's immune response. This is important in laying down the tangles of proteins within the neurons and the poisonous plaques between the neurons these are the two features responsible for the memory loss in Alzheimer's. Therefore, we are developing compounds that

have beneficial effects when used in animal models of Alzheimer's disease which could prevent the formation of plaques and tangles. If these or similar compounds are also effective in humans, then the age of onset could be delayed, or in the best case, prevented."



Obesity and its companion type II diabetes are preventable risk factors for development of Alzheimer's disease. One of the things we could do right now is to put the brakes on this obesity epidemic that we have here in Arkansas. You know that we here in Arkansas are #1 in obesity and #5 in type II diabetes.

The changes in the brain leading to Alzheimer's start decades before memory loss. It is particularly important that we change our eating habits, and at the same time increase our physical activity. Toward this connection between obesity, type II diabetes and the risk of Alzheimer, our research group is working to discover the reasons for this increased risk and the role that the brain's immune response plays. We are also studying the development of therapeutic strategies to help prevent the onset of memory loss.

Image Source: http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/03/blood-test-ALZHEIMERS-disease



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SUPPORT



PHYLLIS WATKINS FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT

Phyllis established this program to provide respite care services, home care supplies, home modification, legal services and mental health counseling for those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, family members and caregivers.

REQUIREMENTS for receiving the Phyllis Watkins FAP Grant:

• The "Care Recipient" (patient), of any age, must be certified by his/her physician as having been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia

- Reside in Arkansas
- Live at home with family
- Not be receiving the <u>same type of service</u> funded by any other source including, but not limited to, private insurance, Medicaid, ElderChoices, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare or Hospice
- One grant per Care Recipient per Fiscal Year

Volunteer of the month



Left: Program Director Priscilla Pittman and right: Volunteer of the Month, Martha Maguire

January Martha Maguire

Started Volunteering: December 27, 2013

Favorite Things: Her Grandchildren Mason (4) & Morgan (2)

From: Pine Bluff, AR

Bet ya' didn't know: Retired from Entergy in 1993

"Martha is an amazing, hardworking, and devoted volunteer. She is always willing to stay late and do the jobs no one else wants to do. We could not do what we do with out volunteers like her," said Alzheimer's Arkansas Executive Director, Elise Siegler.

5 CARE

The Nitty-Gritty on



Medicare is an insurance program. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human services, Medical bills are paid from two types of funds, Hospital Insurance (HI), commonly referred to as Part A and Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI), commonly referred to a Part B and D. It primarily serves people over 65, whatever their income. It also serves younger disabled people and dialysis patients. Patients pay the part of the costs through deductibles for hospital and other expenses. Small monthly premiums are required for non-hospital coverage.

Medicaid is an assistance program for low-income people of every age. Patients usually pay no part of costs for covered medical expenses. A small co-payment is sometimes required. Medicaid is run by the state and local governments within federal guidelines so it varies from state to state.

The Arkansas Division of Human Services hired The Stephens Group, an outside consultant, to take an in-depth look at the Arkansas Medicaid System. They were to advise the Governor's Health Reform Legislative Task Force about options for the future. Key findings from The Stephens Group include:

- Arkansas' program is not sustainable in its current form.
- Compared with other states, Arkansas provides more care in institutional settings (nursing homes and Human Development Centers) than in home or community settings.
- About **34%** of Arkansas' Medicaid spending in 2013 was on long-term care, compared with **28%** of Medicaid spending nationally.
- Almost **70%** of the state's long-term care spending is on nursing homes.
- Arkansas has a striking lack of affordable assisted living.
- Nursing home per-person costs are over 3 times the cost for home and in community-based services.

Nursing home staff members conduct assessments that are used to determine the type and level of care a Medicaid recipient needs. "Your front door can't be driven and controlled and directed by providers, Your front door has to be accountable to taxpayers as well as the program. It is not today," said the Stephens group.

6 ACTIVE

These legs were made for Walkin'!



We frequently read or hear about the positive effects of exercise. Now a study researched at King's College London suggests our aging brains are positively impacted by our leg strength. The study included 324 healthy female twins with an average age of 55, studied over a ten year period.

A measurement of thinking, learning and memory was recorded before and after the study was completed. Researchers compared the brain of the twin with the greatest leg strength in the beginning, and at the end of the study; the strong legged

twin had fewer brain changes associated with aging. This study links strong leg muscles to fewer changes in cognitive capabilities in normal people, exceeding comparative rat based studies.

Future studies will focus on the benefits associated with the older population, men, as well as those living with Alzheimer's disease.

This study may be offering us a way to protect our brain from the effects of aging, so go for a walk every day. By the way, regular physical exercise will offer positive benefits for the rest of your body as well!

Adapted by Priscilla Pittman, MSW, MA

www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords/2015/November/Filter-legs-linked-to-a-fitter-brain.aspx

HELP! How do I Know When I Need Help?

Priscilla Pittman, MSW, MA

How do we know when it is no longer feasible for us to maintain our role as the caregiver for someone with dementia without the assistance of others? The needs will increase as the disease progresses and even with the support of family and friends the needs may exceed the resources.

Most caregivers have no idea how much they are doing and are amazed when they list their responsibilities. Their role may entail:

- Home care-laundry, cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping
- Transportation-appointments, shopping
- Personal care-bathing, toileting, shampooing and hair care
- Medical care-appointments, monitoring medications, dressing wounds
- Friendship-reminisce, photos, personal history
- Safety management-doors, chemicals, tools, guns, knives
- Banking and business management-checking, savings, investments, bills
- Case management-PLAN B, planning ahead

Pay attention to the changes in your capabilities and be honest with yourself.

Continued on next page

Continued from pg 6 HELP!

Measure frequently and answer your list with:

- 1. I can do this on my own
- 2. I need help to do this
- 3. I am no longer able to do this

Some people really want to help; they just don't know what to do. Tell them!

Accepting assistance is often misconstrued as weakness or debt. But caregiving requires courage. Use your courage to ask for help. We are reluctant to ask for help, but think of how many times you have rushed to help someone else. Don't allow fear to keep you from asking for assistance.

Safety is a primary concern. As a long-distance caregiver assessing the person's capabilities is difficult. Depending on a telephone conversation can lead to erroneous decisions. Confabulation is frequently spoken in dementia conversations, but embroidered answers to questions aren't useful.

A personal visit is the best way to measure status. Determining safety can be difficult if the person lives alone, but at Alzheimer's Arkansas we have a check list that might help. Activities of daily living provide a good measure of capabilities. A face to face conversation may reveal identifiable changes in a person's communication skills, their mental function, mood changes, unusual behaviors, their ability to walk and navigate in their home, medication management, their ability to shop and prepare meals, the use of alcohol, their ability to manage their housekeeping and financial obligations, transportation, good hygiene, toileting, grooming, laundry and telephone communication skills. Only a personal visit or hiring an eldercare case manager will provide an accurate assessment.

Helping the person with dementia maintain an active social life is vital to their quality of life. Senior centers, adult day programs, church activities and community resources are useful, but many communities lack most of these advantages. Depending on their disease stage, persons at home alone are apt to sleep, or stay in front of the television set, and just deteriorate.

Occasionally, the personality changes that occur and other aspects of these degenerative diseases result in dangerous situations. What will you do if the person you are assisting becomes aggressive? What do you need to know to maintain your safety and theirs?

Attending a support group can provide fresh insight. Frequently, someone in the group is facing or has faced a similar situation, but the sharing and listening can help improve the quality of life for each person.

It is frustrating and heart-breaking for our life plans to be dramatically altered. We are often resolute and not willing to incorporate the help we need. We are determined to manage care on our own. It is this independence that can harm our health and consequently the care recipient. Where do we draw the line? Call Alzheimer's Arkansas for checklists and support during unsettled times.



Call us at 800-689-6090, 501-224-0021 or 24/7 after-hours emergency number, 501-913-1878.





CARE



Dementia isn't a specific disease. Instead, dementia describes a where the severely enough to interfere with daily functioning. Dementia indicates problems with at least two brain functions, such as memory loss and impaired judgment or language.

memory loss and impaired judgment or language, and the inability to perform some daily activities such as paying bills or becoming lost

Though memory loss generally occurs in dementia, memory loss alone doesn't mean you have dementia. There is a certain extent of memory loss that is a normal part of aging.

Many causes of dementia symptoms exist. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of a progressive dementia. Some causes of dementia may be reversible.

http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/dementia/basics/definition/con-20034399

What is Lewy Body Dementia (LBD)?

As the world mourned the death of the beloved actor and comedian Robin Williams, it is important to remember that there are still 1.3 million Americans who are suffering the daily effects of Lewy Body Dementia (LBD). LBD is the second most common form of dementia after Alzheimer's. Unlike Alzheimer's Disease, LBD presents symptoms similar to Parkinson's Disease, which is why Lewy Body is often misdiagnosed as Parkinson's disease.

Symptoms of LBD that are also found in Alzheimer's sufferers include:

- Progressive memory loss
- Visual hallucinations
- Fluctuations in cognition
- Changes in attention, alertness and mental clarity
- Impaired problem-solving skills

LBD sufferers may experience symptoms that resemble Parkinson's, such as:

- Slowness of movement
- A shuffling gait
- Tremor
- Drooling
- Stooped posture
- Frequent falls
- An expressionless face

Autonomic nervous symptoms including blood pressure fluctuations, excessive sweating, urinary incontinence or sexual dysfunction are also symptoms of LBD.

Misdiagnosis can not only delay proper treatment but can also lead to the prescription of medications used to treat Alzheimer's or Parkinson's that can prompt a negative reaction in LBD patients. For example, traditional anti-psychotic drugs are often prescribed to Alzheimer's patients, to treat hallucinations and delusions. But for unknown reasons, the use of anti-psychotic drugs by LBD sufferers can actually worsen symptoms and in some cases, can even be life-threatening, according to the LBDA.

Sources:

2016 ALZHEIMER'S ARKANSAS ADVOCATES OF THE YEAR



2016 ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR Sissy Clinton is an icon at Alzheimer's Arkansas Programs and Services. She served as President of the Board of Directors for 12 years. She is also a board member at the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging, the Arkansas Aesthetic Club, and the Mount Holly Cemetery Association. Sissy was a diligent, compassionate and loving caregiver for her mother, father and mother-in- law and knows the challenges and heartaches associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Sissy retired her kick boxing shoes in 2014 but is an avid walker and philanthropist in Arkansas.

2016 VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Mark Pippenger, M.D., Behavioral Neurologist and, Associate Professor at UAMS. Dr. Pippenger is a native of Arkansas, born in Jonesboro and graduated from Brookland High School. Most of his education has been in Arkansas, graduating with a degree in Zoology from Arkansas State University (where he developed an interest in dragonflies), then going on to medical school and a residency in Neurology at UAMS. He has a special interest in neurological diseases affecting memory, thinking and behavior. These includes Alzheimer disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Fronto-Temporal Dementia.

Dr. Pippenger is a member of the International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART), a founding member of the Arkansas Celtic Music Society, and a member of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas.





2016 SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Amy Thomason is with Arkansas Hospice and is passionate about people. She devotes not just her time and talents, but her heart and soul to helping others. She has a special affection for caregivers those selfless husbands, wives, parents, children, friends and family who find themselves in the position of caring for a loved one with a serious terminal illness. Her passion is to lighten the caregivers' burden through education, self-care and emotional, social and spiritual support, making sure they know they are not alone and to help them connect to each other in a network of caring.

The English novelist E.M. Forster once said "One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested." That describes Amy perfectly.

Past Advocate Recipients: 2013 - Phyllis K. Watkins 2014 - Bob Shell 2015 - Advocate of the Year - Sharon Heflin Volunteer Advocate of the Year - Melissa Longing Support Group Facilitator of the Year - Jana Wineland If you would like to be a sponsor or attend Advocate of the Year Dinner, please visit our website at www.alzark.org/advocacy/ advocates-of-the-year/



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

2016 Save The Dates

2/20 - Chilirhea Chili Cook-off in Fayetteville www.chilirhea.net or www.facebook.com/ChilirheaCharity

3/24 - Advocate of the Year Awards and Dinner www.alzark.org or www.facebook.com/AdvocateOfTheYear

4/9 - AMP OUT ALZ 5 in Little Rock steph@anurturingtouch.com or www.facebook.com/AMP.OUT.ALZ

TBD - River Valley Alzheimer's Walk www.alzark.org or www.facebook.com/alzarkwalks

9/10 - Faulkner County Alzheimer's Walk www.facebook.com/AlzArkConway

9/17 - Hot Springs Alzheimer's Walk www.alzark.org or www.facebook.com/alzarkwalks

9/24 - Little Rock Alzheimer's Walk at the Zoo www.alzark.org or www.facebook.com/alzarkwalks

10/8 - Van Buren County Alzheimer's Walk www.memorystroll.com or www.facebook.com/alzarkwalks

We are always looking for ways to partner with local communities. If you are interested in hosting a Walk or another fundraising activity, please download our **"Fundraising Policies and Guidelines"** from our website or contact Barbara Jensen at barbara.jensen@alzark.org or 501-224-0021.

Rosemary R

The Rosemary Society celebrates a new legacy! We recently received an unexpected and generous gift from the late Jane Kinney. She and her husband left several gifts

to nonprofits in and outside of Arkansas. The legacy they left us will provide 40 family and friend caregivers with grants of \$250 each to be used for respite care, safety home improvements and much needed non-prescription medical supplies. Our family and friend caregivers are overwhelmed with what the daily challenges of taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's, entail. These grants are truly a Godsend. If you are interested in establishing your own legacy, please call our office at 501-224-0021 and ask for Elise or Barbara. Thank you Jane and John!

The Fitbit Challenge

In keeping with the theme of a new year, a new you and with several people receiving Fitbits for Christmas, Alzheimer's Arkansas has started a challenge. This is to get you motivated for the

upcoming walks and have fun competing with friends, family and team members. Go to our website at www.alzark.org to find the instructions and forms you will need to start your challenge.



Where is your donation going?

The majority of the donations and funds raised from events like our walks will help grow the Phyllis Watkins Family Assistance Program which provides financial assistance to caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer's disease or another type of dementia. These grants have helped 52 caregivers since July 1st, 2015. We are also planning 12 Hope for the Future educational workshops for family and friends of caregivers for 2016!

On behalf of the caregivers that benefit from your gifts - Thank You!

QR Codes are computer generated images that are used with your smart phones to connect customers directly with the website or online resources without having to type in the URL/website. Alzheimer's Arkansas will be using them for special events and activities to make it easier for you to register on line. This QR Code will take you to our website at www.alzark.org.



SUPPORT GROUPS AND CONTACT PERSONS THROUGHOUT ARKANSAS

Support groups are free to attend and confidential. Financial Assistance is available if needed.

Cappor	e groups are nee to a	ccc.
***BATESVILLE - Ken Harper Deanna Greene	2nd Thurs. @ 5:30 pm (870) 751-9002	**
***BEEBE - Sandra Garrett	3rd Thurs. @ 3:00 pm (501) 882-3969	*]((
*** BENTON - Richard Mills	3rd Tues. @ 7:00 pm (501) 315-0087	*∐ ⊦
** BENTON - Azy Crabb Diana Ferrell	3rd Thurs. @ 2:00 pm 501) 778-6260 (501) 315-0160	ا ۲۱*۲
**BERRYVILLE - Rebecca Davis Renee Gonzales	3rd Thurs. @ 10:00 am (870) 423-6114 (870) 423-6114	** [*[]
***CAMDEN - Nancy Bailey	3rd Wed. @ 1:00 pm (870) 234-7410	: [*U
*CHEROKEE VILLA Misty French	GE -3rd Wed. @ 1:30 pm (870) 994-2341	E *U
*CLARKSVILLE - Nicholle Dorn	4th Thurs. @ 5:30 pm (479) 264-5833	ے۔ : **
*CLINTON - DK Olmstead	1st Wed. @ 2:00 pm (501) 745-9495	F
**CONWAY - Kathy Jette	1st Tues. @ 7:00 pm (501) 450-7528	** [
**CONWAY - Kenneth Priest	2nd Thurs. @ 7:00 pm (501) 730-3582	**
***DARDENELLE - Billie Holsombac Lori Kamerling	3rd Thurs. @ 2:00 pm k (501) 321-2811 (501) 321-2811	۲ ۱ **:
***EL DORADO - Nancy Bailey	3rd Thurs. @ 12:00 pm (870) 234-7410	ן ק און
*FAIRFIELD BAY - Ron Henson Lise Neave	3rd Wed. @ 2:00 pm (501) 745-7004 X2 (501) 253-4698	*L]] **:
** FORREST CITY Felisa Stewart Janis Waddy	- 2nd Thurs. @ 12:00 pm (870) 270-6219 (494) 870-3300	** [
***HARRISON - Michelle Byler	1st Wed. @ 11:30 am (870) 743-1623	**
***HEBER SPRING Nicki Stacy	S - 4th Tues. @ 3:30 pm (501) 362-3185	** (
**HENSLEY - Tereasa Holmes	1st Thurs. @ 7:00 pm (501) 626-4529	** /
*HOT SPRINGS - Dian Masingill	2nd Mon. @ 2:00 pm (501) 623-2881	**: (
*HOT SPRINGS - Amy Thomason	3rd Tues. @ 4:00 pm (501) 209-1950	*S ⊦
**H.S.V 4th Thu Amy Thomason	rs. @ 3:00 pm (501) 209-1950	**

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**JACKSONVILLE - 2nd Mon. @ Priscilla Pittman (501) 22	24-0021	OULD -3rd Thurs. @ 2:00 pmCaregiver Support GroupVineland(870) 565-5033
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January 2016



Making Life Easier*

What is a Hope for the Future??

Hope for the Future are annual caregiver workshops held in Central Arkansas, NW Arkansas, SW Arkansas, and in the Delta through which Alzheimer's Arkansas reaches out to caregivers. These educational workshops provide family, friends, and professional caregivers with general information regarding Alzheimer's disease and it's progression, caregiver tools, knowledge and techniques to improve caregiving skills, It also provides information concerning resources available to caregivers and Alzheimer's patients through vendor exhibits. With the assistance of local community partners and the support of Alzheimer's Arkansas Walks, we provide Hope for the Future workshops in communities like Jonesboro and Helena/West Helena.

Through programs like **Hope for the Future**, we are able to fulfill our mission statement *which is to provide education and resources so that all Arkansans affected by Alzheimer's are able to live with comfort and dignity until a cure is found.*

Caregivers, both family and professionals, attend from across Arkansas. Family caregivers attend free of charge, unless requesting continuing education credits. Respite grants are available. Continuing education credits (CEU's) are available for nurses, nursing home administrators, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, physical therapists, pharmacists, psychologists, emergency medical services, social workers, and certified nursing assistants.