

CAREGIVER CHRONICLES

BULLETIN

Dane County Caregiver Program

Jane De Broux
Caregiver Specialist

608-381-5733

Debroux.Jane@countyofdane.com

June is Pride Month: Caregiving in the LGBTQ+ Community



There are 2.7 million older adults in the LGBTQ+ community nationwide. Supporting caregivers who are part of the community or allies of the community requires an understanding that many LGBTQ+ older adults have experienced a lifetime of discrimination and social stigma along with institutionalized discrimination in health care, employment, and social services. Because of this history, LGBTQ+ older adults as a group

experience social, financial, physical and mental health disparities, and are at higher risk for developing chronic diseases, being diagnosed with depression and anxiety, living in poverty, and experiencing social isolation. While the provision of social services and quality medical care can help to alleviate some of these challenges, research shows that older LGBTQ+ adults are significantly less likely to access medical and social services than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. This can lead to a delay in care, premature institutionalization, and even premature death.

Though the statistics seem troubling the older LGBTQ+ population is in fact a vibrant and resilient community who have persevered by coming together and caring for their own.

LGBTQ+ Caregivers

Because LGBTQ+ older adults are 4 times less likely to have children and 2 times as likely to be single as their peers, and may be estranged from members of their family of origin if they are not accepted for their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, they have a long history of creating families of choice. Because their chosen family members of partners, close friends, former partners, and community members are likely to be older adults themselves, many older LGBTQ+ people rely on one another for caregiving and many find themselves becoming caregivers. As a result, they become caregivers at a higher rate than non-LGBTQ+ people.

There are three types of LGBTQ+ Caregivers:

Older LGBTQ+ Adults Caring for Other Older LGBTQ+ Adults

When the caregiver and the care recipient are both older adults, the caregiver may experience diminished capacity to provide some types of assistance and are more likely to be caring for one another in isolation without others to share the burden.

Caregivers Who Identify as LGBTQ+

Primarily young or middle-aged adults caring for their aging parents, LGBTQ+ caregivers may seek out affirming services or facilities for their loved ones so they will feel welcomed and respected themselves but depend on the attitudes of their care recipient.

Others Caring for LGBTQ+ Older Adults

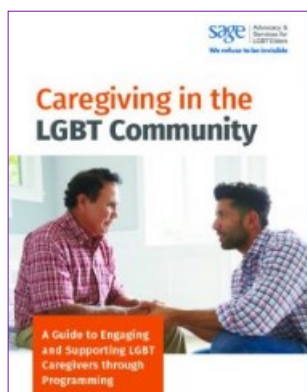
Non-LGBTQ+ people caring for LGBTQ+ older adults may be surprised to learn that while they personally feel welcomed in a wide variety of organizations and other supportive resources for their own wellbeing, when they seek resources (*continued on page 2*)

(LGBTQ Caregivers continued from page 1)

for their care recipient they find limited LGBTQ+ specific or openly affirming services.

The most vulnerable of these caregivers are LGBTQ+ adults caring for their LGBTQ+ peers. These caregivers experience compounded health disparities, and many have the added stress of knowing that there is no one else to care for their loved one should they need to relinquish their caregiving duties. They may be reluctant to access services for either themselves or their loved ones, and require particular attention to engage and support.

Article excerpted and adapted from: *Caregiving in the LGBT Community*, SAGE|Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders. To read the full report go to: <https://www.sageusa.org/resource-posts/caregiving-in-the-lgbt-community/> or click on the photo below:



RESOURCES



Dane County Caring for Caregivers Program

Caring for Caregivers Grants for Caregiver respite and supplement services, referrals to caregiver resources, and outreach. Contact Jane De Broux, Caregiver Specialist, debroux.jane@countyofdane.com.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Dane County

In addition to the [Caregiver Program](#), AAA has community-based services including [congregate and home-delivered meals](#), [case management](#), and help with benefit questions through the [Elder Benefits Specialists Program](#).

ADRC of Dane County

[Information about resources and support on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability.](#)

Call 608-240-7400 Monday—Friday, 7:45 am—4:30 pm.

OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center

OutReach LGBT Elder Advocate, *Am I Welcome Here* project, LGBT 50 Plus Alliance, and comprehensive resource contacts in the community.

<https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org/lgbtelthersresourceлист>



A LEADING VOICE FOR CAREGIVERS



The Pride of Caring: Issues for LGBTQ Caregivers & Professionals with Elliot Montgomery Sklar, PhD and Lucy Barylak, MSW

How is Caregiving Different for LGBTQ+ Caregivers? It's been a while since we asked this question and learned from the experiences of our diverse caregiver community. Join us for an informative and educational discussion!

Wednesday June 7, 2023	11:00 am Eastern 10:00 am Central 9:00 am Mountain 8:00 am Pacific	Register Here
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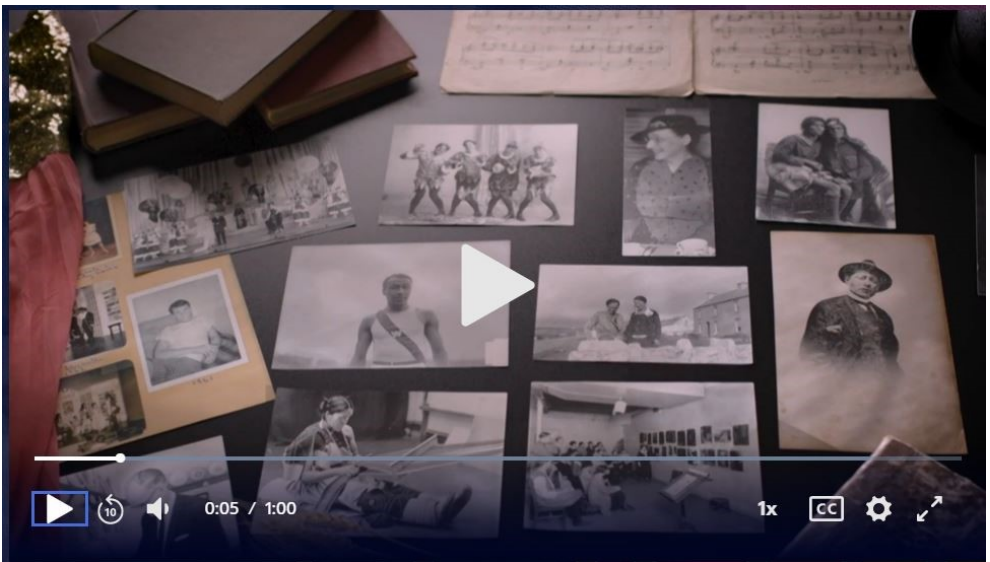
The Pride of Caring: Mental Health Among LGBTQ+ Caregivers Issues for LGBTQ Caregivers & Professionals with Elliot Montgomery Sklar, PhD and Lucy Barylak, MSW

Mental Health Among LGBTQ+ Caregivers LGBTQ+ adults more commonly experience mental health concerns than their non-LGBTQ peers. The stress of caregiving, and isolation that caregivers experience can further these concerns. We'll address this important health issue during this interactive session.

Wednesday June 28, 2023	11:00 am Eastern 10:00 am Central 9:00 am Mountain 8:00 am Pacific	Register Here
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Knowing their stories is a way to better understand LGBTQ older adults. Wisconsin has a long history of contributions from the LGBTQ+ community, and the community's leaders fight for equality during the '70s and '80s earned Wisconsin the nickname "The Gay Rights State."

The documentary *Wisconsin Pride* premieres on Wisconsin Public Television on June 1. Click the photo below for a preview.



LGBT people are some of the bravest and most potent change agents and leaders I have encountered, and the most forceful defenders of the vulnerable and voiceless, because they know what it's like to be there.

—Ronan Farrow, American Journalist



Monthly MIPPA Moment: June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Over 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. As we age, the number of people living with the disease doubles every 5 years beyond age 65 and it is estimated that one in every three older adult dies from Alzheimer's or another dementia. The cost to the US for Alzheimer's and other dementia is \$355 billion and is estimated to be as high as \$1.1 trillion by the year 2050.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. It is a progressive disorder that causes the affected individual to lose mental functioning. Alzheimer's affects a person's ability to remember, learn information, and eventually perform daily activities needed to function in everyday living. However, it can begin even 20 years before symptoms of memory loss or other signs appear. Basic cognitive testing is part of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. Medicare covers the Annual Wellness Visit once every 12 months. The patient pays no out-of-pocket costs and no deductible, copayment, or coinsurance should apply for eligible visits.

If you haven't yet this year, schedule your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit and make sure you are up to date on your preventive screenings!

To find more information about Medicaid and the various programs in Wisconsin you can look at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website at <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/index.htm>.

To determine if you qualify for Medicaid coverage, apply at access.wisconsin.gov or call your local Medicaid Agency. In Dane County that is the Capitol Consortium 1-888-794-5556.

For more MIPPA Program information, call **MIPPA Program Specialist, Leilani Amundson, at 608-240-7458.**

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CAREGIVER TELECONNECTION
www.caregiverteleconnection.org
WELLMED
A LEADING VOICE FOR CAREGIVERS



The Pride of Caring: Issues for LGBTQ Caregivers & Professionals with Elliot Montgomery Sklar, PhD and Lucy Barylak, MSW

Alzheimer's, Dementia, and the LGBTQ+ Community Did you know that LGBTQ+ older adults exhibit several health disparities which increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's and other dementias? Join us to discuss this important topic.

Wednesday
June 21, 2023

11:00 am Eastern | 10:00 am Central
9:00 am Mountain | 8:00 am Pacific

[Register Here](#)



Two Dementia Friendly Events at the Wisconsin Executive Residence



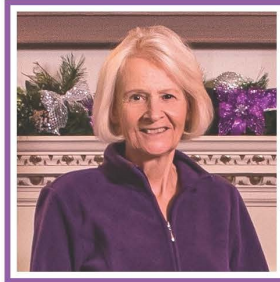
Thursday, June 8, 2023

Book Reading, Caregiver Information Session and Art Display - 10:00am to 12:00pm
Dementia Friendly Tours and Art Display - 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Hosted By:



Special Guest
Marty Schreiber
Caregiver, Author and
Former Wisconsin Governor



Wisconsin First Lady
Kathy Evers



Special Guest
Doctor Cynthia Carlsson
Director, Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Thursday, June 8, 2023

10:00am to 12:00pm - Individuals with dementia and family caregivers: First Lady Kathy Evers invites you to a book reading, information session and time to tour the Executive Residence. Former Governor Marty Schreiber will discuss his book *My Two Elaines: Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*, and dementia experts, including Dr. Cynthia Carlsson will be on hand to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served and there will be time to enjoy a special art display created by individuals in the dementia community. In order to make this an enjoyable experience for all, attendance will be limited, so please register early by scanning the QR code below.

1:00pm to 3:00pm - Individuals with dementia, caregivers and dementia community supporters: First Lady Kathy Evers invites you to attend a dementia-friendly tour and art show at the Wisconsin Executive Residence. Come meet the First Lady and enjoy a relaxed tour of the Residence. Join us for music, snacks, a special art display created by individuals in the dementia community, and explore the beautiful house and gardens. In order to make this an enjoyable experience for all, attendance will be limited, so please register early by scanning the QR code below.



Questions: Please email Stephanie Weix at: stephanie.weix@wisconsin.gov

As part of First Lady Evers' dementia initiative, the Wisconsin Executive Residence was designated "dementia friendly" in 2019.

Join the cause during Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month



Worldwide, more than 55 million people are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. You can join the fight against the disease during June, Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, by going purple and sharing your story. The more people that know about Alzheimer's, the more action we inspire.

[MORE](#) ▶

RESOURCES

Caregiver Center
Online resources, tools
and support.

Visit alz.org/care

[Wisconsin Chapter Alzheimer's Association](#)

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse refers to intentional or negligent acts by a "trusted" individual that causes (or potentially causes) harm to an older person.



Why does elder abuse occur?

Elder abuse is more common than we think. The risk of elder abuse increases in communities that lack awareness, trainings and social services to prevent the abuse. By strengthening these activities, we can prevent elder abuse and make sure all of us have the opportunity to thrive as we age.

What should we do if we suspect elder abuse?

Report concerns.

Reporting elder abuse can be intimidating, but it is the right thing to do. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent and address elder abuse. In cases of immediate danger, call 911. Otherwise, you can call the Dane County Adult Protective Services Helpline at (608) 261-9933. For more information on agencies that can help, visit <https://ncea.acl.gov> or call 1-855-500-3537 (ELDR).

PLAN!

Talk to your bank or credit union before opening a joint account.

INFORM EACH OTHER!

Speak up about the supports and awareness needed to protect us from abuse as we age.

STAY CONNECTED!

Keep in touch with others regularly; isolation can increase the risk of abuse.

REPORT!

Making a report in instances of abuse or neglect is the right thing to do, and it's easy. A reporter's identity is protected by law. Don't be afraid! We all have the right to feel safe!



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Building Strong Support for Elders
June 15, 2023

We can take action to protect each other from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The Dane County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response team is sponsoring the following events to prevent and protect against elder abuse.

472 Purple Pinwheels representing the number of elder abuse and/or neglect cases investigated in 2022 will be displayed at the Lake Edge Lutheran Church 4032 Monona Dr., Madison



Shredfest Event to help seniors safely destroy confidential documents. Northside Town Center Parking Lot 6/16 11 am-1 pm
Farmers Market off the square on Martin Luther King Blvd. Wed 6/14 8:30 to 1:45pm

No Excuse for Elder Abuse

A widow invests her late husband's insurance proceeds with the helpful insurance lady who picks up her prescriptions and drives her to doctors' appointments. A widower allows the gentleman who drives him to church and mows his lawn to move into his house. An elderly couple's tax preparer convinces them to invest in a bill-paying business started by his friend. What do these three people have in common? They were all victims of investment fraud in cases investigated by the Division of Securities in the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI).

These scenarios are real, and unfortunately, most victims are unlikely to recover any money, even if after the successful prosecution of the deception. Investors must cautiously watch for red flags of fraud in any investment.

Red Flags of Investment Fraud

- High pressure sales tactics, such as asking you to make an investment decision right away, without time to read the documentation (if they even offer you any) or get a second opinion.
- The person offering the investment is promising high returns with little or no risk.
- There is no written information, or what is provided is riddled with misspellings and grammatical errors.
- The person asking you to invest tells you to keep the opportunity quiet, since it is only being offered to a few carefully chosen people, or they ask you to misrepresent your assets and income on a form.
- The opportunity is unsolicited and you are told to invest by wiring money overseas, using prepaid gift cards, or bitcoin.
- **The most significant red flag is that the person selling the investment is not registered with Department of Financial Institutions to offer securities.**

Please check out the salesperson by using BrokerCheck.FINRA.org or IARD.sec.gov, or call the **Examiner of the Day** at (608) 266-2139. Staff can help explain the information in BrokerCheck or IARD. Choosing to work with a registered financial professional can decrease the risk of fraud, but you should be aware that red flags may also exist in transactions involving registered professionals.

If you believe you are a victim of investment fraud, please report it right away to the Division of Securities. Do not be embarrassed—many intelligent, wealthy and famous people have been victimized (just think of the Madoff case), and scam artists are good at what they do. The sooner a scam is reported, the better the chances are that it can be shut down while there is still money to repay victims and prevent the scammer from defrauding others. They work closely with local law enforcement and other state and federal agencies, including the Office of the Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), the FBI and U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. If they cannot handle a matter, they take steps to direct you to the appropriate agency to review your case.

During this challenging time, honor victims by becoming informed about elder abuse as well as the many resources that are available in this time of need and uncertainty.

- Call 9-1-1 if someone you know is in immediate danger**
- Report suspected abuse or exploitation to the Dane County Adult Protective Services Helpline at (608) 261-9933**
- Learn about resources and service options at the Dane County Aging & Disability Resource Center: www.daneadc.org/**
- Experts in financial abuse are available at the Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov/ or the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau www.consumerfinance.gov/**
- Follow health and wellness guidelines issues by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](http://Center for Disease Control): www.cdc.gov/**
- And please get your COVID-19 vaccine—<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine>**

To learn more about elder abuse, go to www.ncea.acl.gov or find ways to take action at www.eldermistreatment.usc.edu/weaad-home.



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Building Strong Support for Elders

SENIOR SHREDFEST

JUNE 16, 2023 11:00AM -1:00PM

Northside Town Center Parking Lot—1865 Northport Drive, Madison

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC— Come and safely shred your confidential documents at a Shredfest hosted by Dane County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Team, Northside Town Center, & Pellitteri Waste Systems.



Pellitteri
WASTE SYSTEMS

