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Meet the Class of 2017 Women's Champions
FUNdraisers
Action in Advocacy
Events
Youth Alliance

MORE THAN
5 MILLION
AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S



ELEONORA TORNATORE-MIKESH

Dear Friends and Community Partners,

Reflecting on the past six months we have had so many successes and surpassed many milestones thanks to your continued support.

As the leader of dementia education in the state, we celebrated our 20th Dementia Education Conference this past April. The event was attended by professionals and caregivers, uniting experts worldwide to present the latest information on dementia care practices. Celebrating Hope, our premier event in Greenwich celebrated a milestone year with the fifth annual event, which took place in May at L'escale at the Delamar Hotel in Greenwich. On June 10th as we observed Alzheimer's Brain Awareness Month with the Brain Ball at the CT Science Center in Hartford. We wrapped up the month with the Longest Day activities on June 21st.

In March, we had the largest group ever join the Connecticut Chapter at the Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum in Washington DC. This group turned Capitol Hill purple, along with 1300 other advocates from across the country as they advocated for more funding for Alzheimer's research and co-sponsorship of the Palliative Care and Hospice Education Training Act (PCHETA).

As our organization continues to grow, we look for new opportunities to enhance our care and support and increase our fundraising efforts. This year we will increase from six to seven walks throughout the state. Our New Milford Walk will be moved to Danbury and Litchfield to accommodate the growing need to reach diverse populations and geographic areas of the state.

Our progress and ability to advance our mission are made possible with your support and we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your commitment to our vision of a World Without Alzheimer's.

ELEONORA TORNATORE-MIKESH
President and CEO

BETTY BRENNAN
Chair, Board of Directors



BETTY BRENNAN

EVERY
66 SECONDS
SOMEONE IN THE UNITED STATES
DEVELOPS THE DISEASE

alzheimer's association®

Connecticut Chapter

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20TH ANNUAL DEMENTIA EDUCATION CONFERENCE



In April we celebrated an exciting milestone **20th Annual Dementia Education Conference**. Throughout the years, the Alzheimer's Association has united experts worldwide to present the latest information in dementia care practices to professionals, family members and persons living with the disease in Connecticut. On this special occasion, President of the national Alzheimer's Association, **Harry Johns**, welcomed over 650 attendees to this milestone event. He was followed by opening remarks by special appearance via video by **Actress, Kimberly Williams-Paisley**, the author of the best-selling *Where the Light Gets In: Losing My Mother Only to Find Her Again* and **Gurney Williams III**, writer, editor and advocate for caregivers struggling with the legion demands of dementia.

We were honored to have the presenters from the first Dementia Education Conference, **Dr. Stephen G. Post** and **Dr. Zavan Khachaturian** join us to participate in this milestone. *Dr. Stephen Post, Director, Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics Professor of*

Family, Population and Preventative Medicine at Stony Brook University presented the Morning Keynote "Hope in Caring for Deeply Forgetful People: Enduring Selfhood and Being Open to Surprises."

Dr. Zavan Khachaturian, President, Campaign to Prevent Alzheimer's disease by 2020 (PAS2020) Inc. Senior Science Advisor to the Alzheimer's Association; Editor-in-Chief of Alzheimer's & Dementia: Journal of Alzheimer's Association participated as a presenter in the morning breakout session with review of the history of Alzheimer's disease research, current research findings and futures potential in finding a successful treatment and cure with his presentation "Perspectives on Past, Present and Future of Alzheimer's Research and Care."

During the lunchtime break the Board of Directors recognized the dedication and loyalty to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter. The **2017 Leader in Enhancing Care and Support** award was presented to **Blanche Agostinelli, MSN** and

Nancy V. Leonard, MSW, LCSW, MBA. The 2017 Leader in Advancing Research award was presented to **Dr. Chris VanDyke, Yale University** in recognition for outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising awareness of the care and support initiative of the Alzheimer's Association.

National Early Stage Advisory Group member **Geri Taylor, RN MPH** and her husband and care partner, **Jim Taylor** discussed strategies to live by, eliminating stigma and participating in clinical trials during the lunchtime remarks. Geri and Jim were featured in the *New York Times* in May 2016 with a feature story "Fraying at the Edges" by N.R. Kleinfeld in May 2016 and have been active advocates for the Alzheimer's Association to raise awareness.

Throughout the day attendees were able to visit vendor booths and learn more about the Alzheimer's Associations' programs.

21ST DEMENTIA EDUCATION CONFERENCE MOVES TO A NEW LOCATION

The Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter is excited to announce the **new location** for our 21st Annual Dementia Education Conference.

The conference will take place
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018
— at the **Mohegan Sun Convention Center** —
in **Uncasville, CT**

2018 KEYNOTE SPEAKER **Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D.**

Dr. Kenneth J. Doka is a Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America. A prolific author, Dr. Doka has authored or edited over 30 books and over 100 articles and book chapters. Dr. Doka is editor of both Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying and Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement.

This new venue will enhance the conference experience for our guests, sponsors and exhibitors and allow for future growth!

A sincere THANK YOU to our 2018 supporters **Mohegan Tribe** and **KÔTA** a Mohegan LDI Enterprise for their continued partnership.

Visit alz.org/ct to submit a Request for Proposal or for sponsorship information.



Roy Friedman, Board Member, Dr. Zaven Khachaturian Harry Johns, President of the national Alzheimer's Association, Dr. Stephen Post, Eleonora Tornatore-Mikesh



Gurney Williams III, writer, editor, and advocate for caregivers



Dr. Chris van Dyck, Carolyn DeRocco, Eleonora Tornatore-Mikesh, Betty Brennan

“ I LEARNED A LOT AND WILL CARRY THE KNOWLEDGE WITH ME TO MY RESIDENTS. ”



“ IT GETS BETTER EVERY YEAR. GREAT TO HEAR THE VOICES OF THE EARLY STAGE INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA. ”

FUNdraising

have fun do Good end alzheimer's benefiting the alzheimer's association

#ENDALZ

The Alzheimer's Association is gearing up for our seven Walks to End Alzheimer's taking place this September and October throughout Connecticut. While Walk Season is a busy time at our chapter, it also brings with it so much excitement as our teams and individuals start hosting all their creative and fun, **FUNdraising** events to support the walk. These supporter events are the main driver raising funds for the Walk to End Alzheimer's which funds research, care and support, education and advocacy so we can fulfill our vision of A World Without Alzheimer's.

**4HIKE
HOPE**
Together we can make a difference



THIS YEAR OUR WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS HAVE BEEN BUSY CHALLENGING EACH OTHER TO FUNDRAISING COMPETITIONS AND HOSTING SUPPORTER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

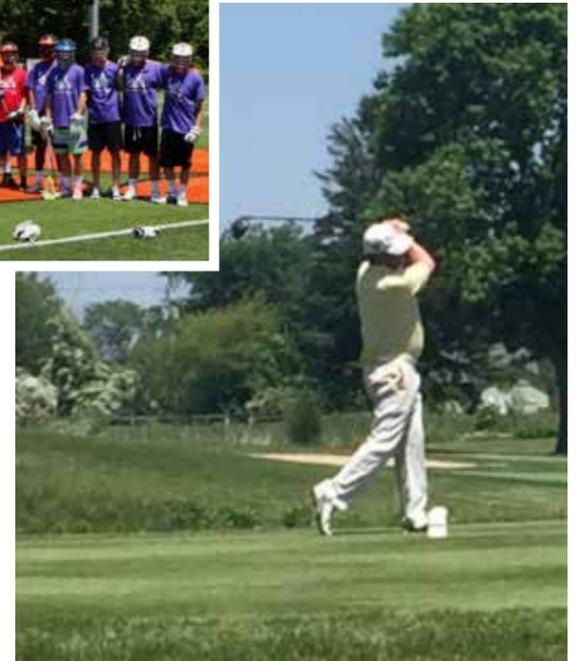
ALZHikeforHope is holding their Fourth Annual Hike this upcoming September 9th. The AlzHike4Hope was a collaborative vision to bring more awareness to the Middletown/East Hampton area. *Women's Champions Laura Wirtz and Peggy Poresky* started the Hike which has been well received by the local community and each year the participation and monies raised, seems to grow! Their total fundraising efforts over the past three years has grown to \$44,000 and 125 attendees. "The easiest way to do a **FUNdraiser**, is find an idea that you and a couple of your friends agree on and get them to commit to the date and let it grow from there! Maybe a favorite restaurant, ask the owner to donate 10% of the evening's sales" says Laura Wirtz.

The Quirky Bunch, did just that when they hosted another spectacular event at **the Bull & Barrel Brewery/Restaurant**. From bull riding, raffles, tarot card reading, face painting and design your own glassware, to delicious food provided by the Bull & Barrel team, everyone had a great time at this wonderful **FUNdraiser** to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. *Women's Champion Angela Kelly* turned up the sweet factor and hosted a family-friendly **FUNdraising** event at **Sweet Frog's** in Guilford. Sweet Frogs donated 25% of all sales to the Alzheimer's Association. In addition to delicious treats, Mr. Sweet Frog himself made an appearance. Olivia held a **lemonade stand** and served up delicious lemonade to raise funds and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of her great Aunt Kathleen.

If creativity is your specialty, you can host a paint night fundraiser like *Women's Champions Mary Underwood and Heather Hitchcock* recently held. Mary and her team at Artis Senior Living helped create beautiful memories with their **Angel painting fundraiser**. Heather held a **Paint and Sip** night at Raymour and Flannigan, her biggest fundraiser to date where attendees painted beautiful peacock portraits. The Masonicare team lead by organizers, *Audrey Grove and Amy Foreman* created individual masterpieces at **Board and Brush** for their fundraiser.



alz.org/walk



Getting active is another way to feel great and **FUNdraise**. It was a beautiful morning in Walnut Hill Park in New Britain for **Skate for the Cure**, an inline skating race fundraiser for *Marvin Bowe's* mom, Pat is living with Alzheimer's disease. Thank you to **Mayor Erin Stewart** for kicking off the race with over 50 skaters who came out to honor Marvin's mom. *Mike Myszkowski, Golf Pro at the Stonington Country Club* and *Jason Monk* raised \$6,000 for the New London Walk to End Alzheimer's by playing golf from 8 am until dusk on June 12th. Their goal was over 100 holes of golf and they surpassed that when they played 144. They accepted donations all day and members of the club purchased Forget Me Not Flowers and sponsored Mike and Jason. *Women's Champion Patty O'Brian* turned up the heat and sweat it out to raise funds at an event held a fitness event at **Anytime Fitness** in Cromwell. Michael Dobson and Dawson Muller held their 3rd annual **"Let's Stick it to Alzheimer's" Mini-Lax tournament** and raised over \$1,300 for their walk team.

Lastly we can't forget our furry friends... *Women's Champion Bobbi Tar* has been selling **"Bark to End Alzheimer's"** bandanas and treats as one of her **FUNdraisers**.

THERE ARE SO MANY GREAT WAYS TO HAVE FUN AND RAISE MONEY TO HELP END ALZHEIMER'S.

If you are interested in holding an event but don't know where to get started, email us for more information at ctwalkhelp@alz.org. If you are hosting an event, don't forget to email us the information so we can add it to our event calendar.

If you haven't already...join or start a walk team at alz.org/walk.



ALZHEIMER'S and BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH and THE LONGEST DAY

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and throughout the month the community showed their support and raised awareness about Alzheimer's disease by "going purple." Each year, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month provides the opportunity for communities and businesses to share their commitment to bring awareness to Alzheimer's disease throughout the month and on **The Longest Day**, held in on the **Summer Solstice on June 21st**.

PURPLE LOOKS GOOD ON YOU

Our media partners, **WFSB Channel 3** and **WTNH Channel 8** got into the spirit of the Longest Day by wearing purple on air all day to raise awareness. **National Health Care Associates** supported the Longest Day by turning their buildings purple and hosting fundraisers. **Water's Edge Center for Health & Rehabilitation** and **Riverside Health & Rehab Center** both look beautiful as they are lit up purple. Community Partner, **Morneault's Stackpole Moore Tryon** collaborated with businesses on **Pratt Street** in Hartford to turn their shops purple the first week of June and held a special event on June 8th during lunch time to support the Brain Ball and awareness month.

Employees at **Masonicare** decked themselves out in purple to raise awareness and support the cause. **Rometta Pinckney**, a member of the **Hebrew HealthCare, Inc. Senior Day Center** dressed up for The Longest Day and spent all her waken moments doing word searches as her Longest Day event.... **Brandywine Living at Litchfield** did a coin drop to fundraise for the cause. **The Hearth** had a fun day participating in The Longest Day activities as staff and residents sold baked goods, purple bracelets and flowers and adorned themselves in the latest in purple fashion, all to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.



The Hearth



Masonicare employees



Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), a long-time and valued supporter of the Alzheimer's Association celebrated the Longest Day with their fun bowling event that raised over \$800. It was out on the clear waters of Lake McDonough in Barkhamsted for "**Kayaking for a Cause**" and at the **Wilton Farmer's Market** where **Robin Roscillo, Women's Champion** raised awareness at her information table. Sisters and **Women's Champions Eileen Cleary and Janet Discepolo** were joined by friends to create purple origami flowers on The Longest Day in honor of their mother. **Sweet Cupcasions** in Milford raised funds and awareness by offering the limited edition, "**Isn't She Lovely**" cupcake. Trainers and members of **Sculpt Fitness** in Farmington were decked out in their purple on The Longest Day. All week long they held a check in event and donated a dollar for every check in, and doubled that for anyone wearing purple. **Darrell's Dugout** held another successful family day of softball games this year.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all those who participated in Longest Day events and raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease throughout the month of June.



This past May, the Class of 2017 Women's Champions joined together with members from the Class of 2015 and Class of 2016 Women's Champions for a breakfast at the Pond House in West Hartford to learn about their new role. The new class joins a group of inspirational women who have made a commitment to make Alzheimer's a priority in their lives, work and philanthropy moving us closer to a world without Alzheimer's. The Women's Champions Initiative grows each year as new champions are nominated and join that year's respective class.

The Women's Champions are nominated by their peers each year and the mission is that the Women's Champions are empowered to use their unique experience, passion and influence to advance the mission of the Alzheimer's Association through advocacy, education, outreach and philanthropy.

The morning of the breakfast over 100 women learned about the pillars of the Alzheimer's Association and how they can participate in activities within each role. They heard from other Women's Champions on the way they fulfill their mission and were challenged to fundraising activities for the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's.

"We are so proud of this group of women who have become an extension of our organization and are always willing to go above and beyond, exceeding our expectations of their roles", says Jennifer Walker, VP of Communications and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association.

Visit our website at alz.org/ct and learn more about each of our Women's Champions. Watch for our Walk to End Alzheimer's billboards on the highway, our ads and our social media platforms and see if you recognize our Women's Champions.

Nominations for the Class of 2018 will begin in February.

Amanda Gordon Schreiber
Amber Nicole Price
Amber Orvis
Angela Kelly
Arianna Paone Mullin
Bobbi Tar
Carol Burns
Carolina Mendez
Carriann I. Kumor
Cary Carpino
Charmaine Emond
Danielle Ancona Ramos
Denise Lebrocquy
Erin Mahoney

Erin Mahoney
Gina Saunders
Heather Cappabianca
Heather Hitchcock
Irene Bassock
Jeanne DiMuzio
Jennifer Rosenberg
Joan Weisman
Joyce Woodward
Karen Cornell
Kate Bartelmo
Kelly Smith Papa
Kimberly Meucci
Lee Morgan

Marcie Giuliano
Mary Carroll Root
Nancy Chaput
Nancy Ozizmir
Nichole Sylvester
Nisha Honnaya
Patty O'Brian
Sally Kirtley
Sara Linskey
Stephanie Evans-Ariker
Susan Shultz
Toni Dileone O'Connell
Vicki Bourque



WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS

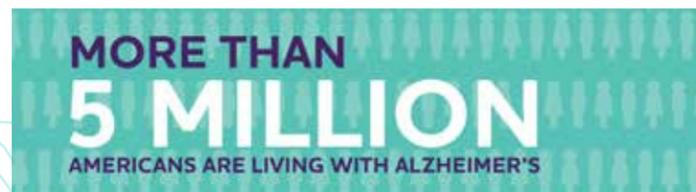


It was another fun night at the CT Science Center for the third annual Brain Ball. The event took place on June 10th in recognition of Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month. The evenings' program, with Master of Ceremony, Renee DiNino from iHeartMedia Communities highlighted public policy and research advances. Sarah Smith, Associate Director of Federal Affairs for the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) spoke about the incredible movement on the scale of advocacy and increase to funding for Alzheimer's research on the National Institutes of Health. These advancements have taken place in part due to the tremendous work done by our advocates. Dr. Dean Hartley, Director of Science Initiatives at the Alzheimer's Association presented research findings that are helping get us closer to answers as we seek a treatment or cure. Senator Chris Murphy, who was unable to attend the event, sent a video message of his commitment to help those who are living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

The program concluded with a moving presentation by Toni O'Connell, a 48 year old mother, wife, sister, daughter and friend who has younger onset Alzheimer's. She spoke of her diagnosis, her family and her outlook on the future. Following the presentation attendees were treated to dinner, dancing, silent auction items and the signature "Sparkle and Shine" purple Champagne cocktail.



FUNDS RAISED FROM THE EVENT GO TO SUPPORT RESEARCH, CARE AND SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS.



YOUTH OUTREACH

Our youth are at the forefront of change and innovation. The Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter is working to engage youth throughout the state as part of our Youth Services Outreach empowering our youth to volunteer, fundraise and advocate.



ALZHEIMER'S YOUTH ALLIANCE

The Alzheimer's Youth Alliance (AYA) is a youth volunteer organization made up of approximately 15 students from throughout Fairfield County. The group was formed in 2015 by four students from Sacred Heart Greenwich, Greenwich Academy, and Greenwich High School. Although this disease affects an older population, many adolescents have a connection, therefore, the AYA's mission is to get their peers involved in the fight against Alzheimer's and to raise awareness about the disease. Members of the AYA plan fundraisers such as student dances and ice skating socials to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's research and patient care. They also volunteer directly with individuals at nursing homes and adult day care centers. The AYA works closely with the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter through events such as Celebrating Hope and the Walk to End Alzheimer's. High school or middle school students are welcome to join the team; parent involvement is also welcome! **If you know of youth interested in participating in or starting a youth alliance in your area, contact Adrianna Foreman at 860.828.2828 or afoorman@alz.org**

MATH FOR THE AGES CLUB

Nisha Honnaya, a Class of 2017 Women's Champion, started the Math For The Ages Club at her high school, aimed towards raising dementia and Alzheimer's awareness. They use simple math exercises and activities for the residents in an effort to provide mental stimulation and foster meaningful relationships across generations. Saturday mornings have come to be a hallmark her weekends, through spending time with memory care patients and learning from their strength and resilience against this debilitating disease. She hopes to expand to more schools around CT so that we can spread the impact of this project and raise further awareness for the disease. The Math For The Ages has set its goal to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association through fundraising and walks!

There is something very powerful when youth get involved in advocacy. They stand out to our elected representatives and have their ear. This has certainly been the case with **Max Rosenberg**. Max became involved with the Alzheimer's Association and started his walk team the Memory Makers when he saw a flyer at his grandmother's facility for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. He knew getting involved and telling his grandmother's story was important. Max has been outspoken about his desire to end this disease and has addressed this as a speaker at the past two State of CT lobby days. This year, State Senator Tony Hwang took Max on the Senate floor where he was able to talk to legislators about those living with Alzheimer's in our state. Max became the Junior Ambassador to Senator Richard Blumenthal last year and has been active part of the chapter's Public Policy team. Senator Blumenthal and Max have forged a great relationship and Max certainly has the Senator's ear and time. This year, Max and his mother Jennifer, the Ambassador to Senator Blumenthal traveled to Washington D.C. as part of the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum where Max kicked off the first night by representing the state of Connecticut in the Roll Call of the States. Max was able to share his story when the group turned Capitol Hill purple and ask our federal legislators to increase research funding for Alzheimer's disease. Max traveled back to Washington DC this summer to attend Connecticut at the Capitol hosted by Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy. Here he was able to learn more about how advocacy works and meet with the Connecticut Delegation. **Any youth who are interested in joining our advocates and ambassadors on the State or Federal level can contact Jennifer Walker at jenwalker@alz.org or 860.828.2828.**



Advocacy in Action...

2017 ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION ADVOCACY FORUM

Thirteen hundred Alzheimer's advocates washed Capitol Hill in purple on March 29, sharing their personal experiences with the disease and speaking up for increased research funding and improved access to care and support. On Hill Day, part of the **2017 Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum**, advocates from all 50 states, including 17 from Connecticut met with elected officials to urge them to make Alzheimer's a national priority.

Alzheimer's is the **most expensive disease in the country**, costing the nation an estimated **\$259 billion** in 2017. As the population ages, these costs will only increase — and a method of treatment must be uncovered in order to slow the financial and emotional toll the disease takes on people living with it and their families. Congress has recently provided additional funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but the commitment continues to fall far short of the amount experts say is needed. The Alzheimer's Association and its advocates are asking Congress to increase funding for Alzheimer's research by at least an additional \$414 million in fiscal year 2018.

With that goal in mind, **Erin Mahoney**, along with other advocates met with the Connecticut Federal Legislative Delegation. Erin was able to share her story... Erin's mom has early onset Alzheimer's, and her father is her caregiver. "How could my young, vivacious, and otherwise healthy 58-year-old mother — who had a career as a Therapeutic Recreation Director for almost 30 years — have the same horrible disease as those in their 80s and 90s at the nursing home in which she worked?" questions Erin.

According to Erin, "early last fall, I decided to get involved with the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. I had previously utilized their 24/7 Helpline for caregiving help, and thought getting involved would be a positive and productive way to channel the pain and hopelessness I was experiencing over what was happening to my mother. "When I first learned about the Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum in Washington DC last year, I knew it was something I had to attend, and I am so happy I did," says Erin.

"Look for the sunshine Cole! That's why I'm involved," says **Nichole Sylvester**. My nana said this to me about a year ago. I was having breakfast with my grandparents as I did many days while I was in grad school. My nana at the time had been diagnosed with dementia for 4 years now. I was complaining to my papa about the thesis I was writing and the data I had to collect that day on the children I was working with. I had one foot in the car when apparently my miniature nana scuffled out onto the porch and yelled my name. When she finally got the words out she said "look for the sunshine Cole"... it was raining that day, she meant it literally I'm assuming. But since then I have tried to find the sunshine for this horrible disease.

"It was extremely important for me to attend the forum because I knew I had to do something besides just take care of my nana. I had to get involved and this seems like the best thing I could do. I walked away from the forum feeling like **I wasn't the only one having these thoughts or emotions. PLEASE YOU GOT TO TALK PEOPLE!** This conference helped me with that.

IT ALSO GAVE ME HOPE; HOPE THAT WE WILL FIND WHAT IS CAUSING THIS DISEASE WITH EVERY PASSING DAY.

There are so many people out there that are so dedicated and passionate about finding this."

While it was Nicole and Erin's first experience at the forum, it was **Michael Tobin's** seventh consecutive Alzheimer's Association Forum. Michael explains, "My connection to the Association began in 2004, with their assistance coming in the form of respite grants when my wife was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's at age 50 and she passed away in 2008 at the age of 54." Mike has been an active member of the Association since that time, participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's since 2005, (then called the Memory Walk), he is now the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) Committee Chair for the New Haven Walk to End Alzheimer's, the Ambassador to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and an avid volunteer and advocate. Mike's passion and drive continue as his wife's dementia was genetic with the presence of the presenilin-1 gene. "My two sons will have a 50% chance of pre-disposition to the gene defect" states Tobin.

Mike shares that "It is important for me to attend Forum so I can reconnect with other Ambassadors and Advocates, who also have their own stories to share as well as acquire new data and information as to the legislative piece of finding a cure."



"My takeaway from attending Forum is that **THE BATTLE IS CONSTANT, AND THERE WILL BE SOME KIND OF LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. AND THAT WE AS ADVOCATES AND AMBASSADORS MUST CARRY ON THE FIGHT FOR THE CURE.**"

Erin, Mike and Nichole, were joined at the forum and on Capitol Hill by other Connecticut advocates and Ambassadors including veteran attendees, Scott and Amy Russell and Mary-Kay Harrity, co-Ambassadors to Congressman Jim Himes; first time attendees Max and Jennifer Rosenberg, Jr. Ambassador and Ambassador to Senator Richard Blumethal; Betty Domer, Ambassador to Congressman Courtney; Ariana Mullin, Ambassador to Senator Chris Murphy and AnneMarie Paone-Mullin; Beth and Mara DeLuco, Ed Bryan and National Early Stage advisor Geri and Jim Taylor.

The Advocates explained to the delegation that Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America — it's estimated to cost \$259 billion this year, and is expected to quadruple to \$1.1 trillion, as the number of people with the disease is expected to triple by mid-century. They also explained to them that today, for every \$100 spent on Alzheimer's research funding, \$16,000 is spent by Medicaid and Medicare to care for those with the disease. So we urged them to request for the chair and ranking member of the appropriations committee to support an additional \$414 million increase in Alzheimer's research funding to the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2018. (currently passed \$400 million by the House and up for vote by Senate and Committee as this is written)

We also requested that they cosponsor the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), which was recently re-introduced into Congress. This bill would increase palliative care and hospice training for health care professionals, launch a national campaign to inform patients and families about the benefits of palliative care, and enhance research on improving the delivery of palliative care.

Many Association advocates concluded their day by attending a Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing, "The Arc of Alzheimer's: From Preventing Cognitive Decline in Americans to Assuring Quality Care for those Living with the Disease."

The 2018 Alzheimer's Advocacy Forum will take place in Washington DC on April 29-May 1st. If you are interested in more information visit alz.org/forum.



Hill Day is about action and honor for Alzheimer's advocates

STATE OF CT LOBBY DAY



State of CT Lobby Day took place Wednesday, April 19th at the Connecticut State Capitol. Advocates from across the state joined to let their legislators know the issues important to those affected by Alzheimer's disease. **John Shulansky of Elders Choice of CT, LLC** spoke about the issues facing the aging population and those with Alzheimer's disease in our state. Advocate Erin Mahoney shared her mother's story of early onset and the programs her family has been able to utilize in the state such as the statewide Respite Program. Erin spoke of the importance of these programs and services to her family and others in the state and appealed to the legislators to consider these important programs that were part of the state budget cuts. **Max Rosenberg** shared his story about his grandmother and his advocacy efforts on the state and federal level. **Evelyn Farbman** who has Alzheimer's disease spoke about the disease, the effects it has had on her life and her participation in the Alzheimer's Association's early stage group, GAP (Giving Alzheimer's Purpose).

Our last special guest was **Toni O'Connell** who shared that she had early stage Alzheimer's at the age of 48 and the issues that affect someone so young with the disease, including having young children. It is always a pleasure to have Representative **Mitch Bolinsky** join us. Representative Bolinsky shares his caregiving story and the impact it has on his life as he faces this disease with his family members. **Senator Tony Hwang, Senator Kevin Kelly and State Representative Jonathan Steinberg** completed the program with their support of the those living with Alzheimer's and their loved ones in our State. Our advocates put on their Alzheimer's sashes and turned the capitol purple as they met with their representatives to advocate and share their personal stories. Some of the group even got the special treat of meeting the **UCONN Women's Basketball** team and **Coach Geno Auriemma** as we shared Husky Day at the State Capitol. A special thank you to all who came out to support our State Lobby Day efforts and the representatives who joined us that day to meet their constituents.

Interested in attending lobby day and having your voice heard. Contact Jennifer Walker at jenwalker@alz.org to learn more about how you can participate in advocacy efforts on many different levels.

CURRENT ADVOCACY OPENINGS

Ambassador to Congressman Joe Courtney

Ambassador to Congresswomen Elizabeth Esty

Congressional Team Members and Advocates throughout the State

Contact Jennifer Walker at jenwalker@alz.org for more information



FIFTH ANNUAL CELEBRATING HOPE

The Fifth Annual **Celebrating Hope** took place during a historic week in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

A \$400 MILLION INCREASE IN ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FUNDING WAS SIGNED INTO LAW PUSHING FEDERAL FUNDING AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH TO NEARLY \$1.4 BILLION.

Just hours after the news broke, guests gathered at L'escale at the Delamar Greenwich Harbor in Greenwich, CT to celebrate and support the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter. The event raised nearly \$450,000 to benefit research and support for the 75,000 Connecticut residents who live with the disease and their 177,000 caregivers.

Dressed in the Alzheimer's signature purple, attendees were treated to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the waterfront terrace, a special dinner menu created by Chef Frederic Kieffer and entertainment by The What Up Funk Band. Amid the stunning flowering dogwood branches and purple dahlias from Winston Flowers, bidding was brisk for the silent and live auction items such as a year of shoes from Richards and luxury vacations from Getaway2Give.

Award-winning actor and best-selling author Hill Harper (Homeland, CSI: NY) poignantly described how he has been touched by Alzheimer's through his close friend, Gene Wilder, and the comedian's secret battle with the disease. Following the debut of a moving video, Grace and Bill Martin were recognized for their courage as they face Bill's diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's at the age of fifty-six. For event co-chairmen Ginge Cabrera, Cristin Marandino and Nancy Ozizmir, the night was very personal as all of their mother's are victims of the disease. The trio agrees that "it's amazing what can happen when you turn anger and sadness into impassioned determination."

THE EVENT RAISED NEARLY \$450,000 TO BENEFIT RESEARCH AND SUPPORT FOR 75,000 CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS



Corporate Spotlight

Cigna Foundation



Mary Engvall, Corporate Responsibility Manager, Cigna accepts 2017 Corporate Community Leadership Award from Eleonora Tornatore-Mikesh, Alzheimer's Association President and Board Members Ed Mercadante and Al Gatti

Every 66 seconds, someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's disease, with 11 million Baby Boomers currently at risk of developing the disease. More than five million Americans currently live with this progressive and ultimately fatal disease. To help those living in the early stage of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and those who will be diagnosed in the future, the Cigna Foundation provided \$196,000 through a World of Difference grant to the Alzheimer's Association®. The grant was utilized to create The Alzheimer's Association LiveWell Online Resources (alz.org/livewell) which offers free interactive tools for individuals living in the early stage of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Developed with funding from the Cigna Foundation World of Difference Grant, the LiveWell resources include five interactive tools that provide information and empower users to live well with dementia. All activities were designed with input from people living with the disease.

"We're providing a fresh approach to improving quality of life for those living with Alzheimer's. The new learning program uses a multimedia strategy, including video of people living with the disease, motion graphics and activity, to engage people and further amplify the education and support the Alzheimer's Association offers 24/7," said Monica Moreno, national director of early stage initiatives, Alzheimer's Association. "Our goal with the program is to help people remain active participants in their communities, maximize independence and well-being, and gain a sense of control over living with the disease."

"It's an honor and an inspiration for the Cigna Foundation to be able to help people with Alzheimer's find ways to live a meaningful life despite the challenges of such a diagnosis,"

said David Figliuzzi, executive director of the Cigna Foundation. "We're excited to support an innovative program that will help people find ways to live their best life with the disease for as long as possible."

Additionally, Cigna's seniors' business, Cigna HealthSpring, created a Facebook awareness campaign during November for Alzheimer's disease Awareness Month. "We are committed to helping our senior customers live life to the fullest, and part of that is providing the right resources to remain active and healthy as they age," says Dr. Dirk Wales, chief medical officer for Cigna-HealthSpring. "For example, Hazel Minnick, a remarkable Cigna-HealthSpring customer who has been living with Alzheimer's since age 53, uses her Cigna-HealthSpring gym membership to stay mentally and physically fit. Hazel is an avid ballroom dancer and says the methodical movements of ballroom dance help keep her Alzheimer's symptoms in check. We honor Hazel and all those living with Alzheimer's."

The Cigna Foundation has also been a sponsor of the Alzheimer's Association's Brain Ball the past three years and has provided staff participation on the committee.

Mary Engvall has been an integral part of the Brain Ball committee and accepted the award for the 2017 Corporate Community Leadership Award for Cigna Foundation's dedication to the Alzheimer's Association at this year's Brain Ball VIP event.



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

alzheimer's  association®

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Western Connecticut State University,
Westside Campus, Danbury, CT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Ocean Beach Park, New London, CT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Enfield Senior Center, Enfield, CT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield, CT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven, CT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field, East Hartford, CT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017

Calf Pasture Beach, Norwalk, CT

alz.org/walk | 800.272.3900

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