

Dementia Friendly Massachusetts (DFM) is a statewide effort to spark and support dementia friendly systems and grassroots programs across Massachusetts. A “dementia friendly community” is informed, safe, and respectful and enables people living with Alzheimer’s or a related neurocognitive disorder, and those who care about them, to live full, engaged lives. The Massachusetts Council on Aging serves as the backbone organization for DFM movement, responsible for coordinating access to information and resources that can help you advance Dementia Friendly activities in your organization and/or community. The DFM goal is to help all communities in the Commonwealth to become more dementia friendly.

The Connection Newsletter

Welcome to *The Connection*, Dementia Friendly Massachusetts’ (DFM) quarterly newsletter, celebrating your dementia friendly efforts and sharing resources to help you further grow more inclusive dementia friendly communities. We are grateful to Tufts Health Plan Foundation for its continued support of the Dementia Friendly Massachusetts.

June 2018 Edition

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June 2018 Edition

Spotlight on Quarterly Regional Dementia Friendly Massachusetts' Meetings – Join Us!

The second round of Dementia Friendly Massachusetts quarterly meetings were held in May 2018 with 165 individuals in total attending with an average of approximately 30 participants per meeting. DFM and MCOA continue to receive very positive responses from meeting participants who are expressing appreciation in two major areas: their introductions to resources and key contacts for starting and sustaining local initiatives; and the impactful program component, *Keeping it Real*, that provided substantive information about the day in the life of living with dementia and visions for what dementia friendly communities look like – along with advice for how to make the vision a reality.



Locations included the West Springfield, Acushnet, Danvers, Westborough Councils on Aging and Boston City Hall. If you missed the first round of meetings, don't worry, you can find a meeting summary and materials also, at www.dfmassachusetts.com.

Upcoming Quarterly DFM Regional Meetings – August 20 – 24, 2018: We hope you can join us for the next round of quarterly meetings focused on learning from the experts about dementia research updates and opportunities for exploring clinical trials. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Jackson, from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University. Panelists represent research centers at Boston University, Brigham and Women's, and the Alzheimer's Association. Individuals participating in trials as well as those living with dementia who have considered trials will also be speaking. Go to www.dfmassachusetts.org to register online. All regional meetings are FREE!

Spotlight on Faith Communities

How is your Black American faith community affected by Alzheimer's disease? Through spiritual nurturing, fellowship, and compassion, faith communities are uniquely positioned to enrich the lives of families affected by dementia. Please consider hosting a facilitated "Dementia Conversation" within your Black American faith community. For more information, please contact Pam MacLeod at pam.macleod@state.ma.us.

Addressing Alzheimer's disease from the pulpit. The City of Boston, the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Alzheimer's Association of MA/NH and numerous other organizations, sponsored the first "Memory Sunday" event in the Northeast on Sunday, 6/10/18 at Berea Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Dorchester. Memory Sunday is recognized every year on the second Sunday in June when churches across the country raise awareness and support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Over 80 people participated in the event in Dorchester and we look forward to more places of worship hosting a similar event in the future. To learn more, please contact Pam MacLeod at pam.macleod@state.ma.us.

Spotlight on Events



May and June were particularly busy months for Dementia Friendly Massachusetts (DFM) as its core leadership team co-presented at the invigorating Alzheimer's Association's Conference for Alzheimer and Dementia Care Providers, A Map Thru the Maze, sharing the spotlight with representatives from the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School's dementia friendly curriculum project, including two student speakers.

In June, Teepa Snow presented a one-day workshop, *Reframing Dementia: Inclusive Communities*. The impactful event was attended by 120 participants, the majority from DFM. Exhibitors included DFM, Dementia Friends, among others. DFM/MCOA was pleased to be a key sponsor, furthering its capacity to raise awareness and increase skills for growing more inclusive communities.

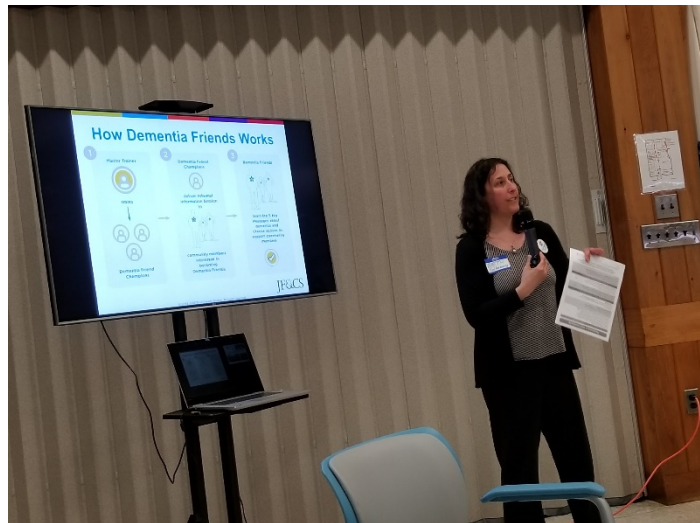
Spotlight Memory Cafes

There are now 84 Memory Cafés in Massachusetts! For information and locations, please visit the online directory at www.jfcsboston.org/MemoryCafeDirectory. If you are interested in starting a Memory Café, please download the free toolkit at www.jfcsboston.org/MemoryCafeToolkit (English) or www.jfcsboston.org/GuiaCafeDeMemoria (Spanish). A webinar in Spanish is also available at that link. Contact Beth Soltzberg at

bsoltzberg@jfcsboston.org for information about the JF&CS Percolator Memory Café Network, a resource for those starting and sustaining Memory Cafés in Massachusetts.

Spotlight on Dementia Friends

Dementia Friends has come to Massachusetts. Dementia Friends is a global initiative to change the way people talk, act and think about dementia through brief, friendly public Information Sessions. Almost 600 people in Massachusetts have participated so far – and you could be next! To learn about attending an Information Session or to be trained as a Champion to lead Information Sessions, please visit



www.dementiafriendsma.org or contact Beth Soltzberg at bsoltzberg@jfcsboston.org

Spotlight on Age- and Dementia Friendly Alignment

The Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative deserves kudos for its efforts in securing Governor Baker’s endorsement of age- and dementia- friendly community efforts as best practices included in the state-wide Community Compact Program.

According to the MHAC website’s announcement, “The [Community Compact program](#), according to the Governor’s website, is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement at least one best practice that they select from across a variety of areas. The community’s chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. Once approved, the written agreement will be generated and signed by both the municipality and the Commonwealth. The Compact also articulates the commitments the Commonwealth will make on behalf of all communities.

[Age and Dementia Friendly options](#) are the first best practices related to “Health and Human Services.” Other options for communities range from financial planning, citizen engagement and water resource management, among many others.”

Visit <https://mahealthyagingcollaborative.org/baker-administration-adds-age-and-dementia-friendly-to-community-compact-program/> for more information.

News from Dementia Friendly America (DFA)

Considering raising awareness and providing training for your local banks and financial services providers? Dementia Friendly America (DFA) has just the resource for you!

DFA’s May webinar focused on this sector will soon be available online at <http://www.dfamerica.org/news-archives/>

Webinar Description: In a dementia friendly community, banks and financial services are aware of dementia and responsive to the individual needs of persons living with dementia and their caregivers. Financial services professionals can use dementia friendly practices to help maintain clients’ independence while protecting them from problems such as unpaid expenses, squandered resources, avoidable guardianship, and financial abuse, neglect, or exploitation. This webinar, co-hosted by NCRC and Dementia-Friendly America, explores dementia friendly banking research, tools and resources for fostering communities that effectively serve people living dementia and their family and friend care partners.

Webinar Objectives:

Learn how banks are becoming age-friendly, as well as specific dementia friendly tools and resources.

Hear about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s work with banks to protect older people from financial exploitation—including people with cognitive impairments—as well as other resources for older adults, their caregivers and key practitioners.

Access the latest research and resources that will support dementia friendly community efforts focused on banking.

Articles and News from around the World

The UK continues to lead the way with innovation! Explore this program making museums and the arts more accessible:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/11/arts/dementia-national-museums-liverpool.html>

Even more from the UK. See this article for interesting research indicating the need for increased social engagement:

<https://consumer.healthday.com/senior-citizen-information-31/dementia-news-738/making-life-with-dementia-more-bearable-733726.html>

For comments or suggestions about the DFM newsletter, please contact the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Dementia Friendly Massachusetts at www.dfmassachusetts.org.