

WJCS Ramps Up Support for Individuals with Alzheimer's Dementias

With nearly 40,000 people in the Hudson Valley affected by Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) is launching several initiatives to support them, including a series of educational programs for caregivers in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, support groups for people in the early stage and family members, and has joined an alliance to provide ongoing specialty dementia-related training to its home health aides.

Living in the Moment is a support group for individuals in the early stage of Alzheimer's and You Are Not Alone for fam-

ily members of those with the disease or related dementia. For information or register, contact Heidi Weiss, LMSW, MHA, at hweiss@wjcs.com or 914.761.0600 x144.

The workshops for caregivers include:

At 10am, "Healthy living for your brain and body: Tips from the latest research" held September 29, at Sinai Free Synagogue, 550 N. Columbus Ave., Mount Vernon. This program provides information from the latest research on diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engaging and offers hands-on tools to form a plan for healthy aging.

On October 6, at 6:30pm,

"Effective Communication Strategies", at The Ambassador of Scarsdale, 9 Saxon Wood Road, White Plains. This program looks at how communication works when someone has dementia and offers strategies to connect and communicate at any stage of the disease.

"Understanding and responding to dementia-related behavior", held at 6:30 p.m., October 13 at The Ambassador of Scarsdale, offering tips on how to decode and react to common behaviors in people who have dementia.

On October 20, "Legal & financial planning for Alzheimer's disease", held at 6:30 p.m., at The Ambassador of Scars-

dale, providing an overview of legal and financial issues to consider following a dementia diagnosis.

"Dementia Conversations", held at 7:30 p.m., November 15, at Temple Shaaray Tefila, 89 Baldwin Road, Bedford Corners, offers tips and strategies for how to approach difficult conversations when someone has dementia. Call 800.272.3900 with questions or to preregister.

Through NYS DOH Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Initiative, WJCS Pathways to Care program provides professional assistance to individuals and families caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. The agency's compassionate and highly trained staff offer: care

consultation and clinical assessment, individualized care planning, resource referral, individual and group counseling, discussion/completion of advanced directives, referral to home care and respite services.

Home Health Services of WJCS has recently been accepted for membership in Dementia Care Alliance, a resource for families seeking home care services for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia. Home Health Services of WJCS, a New York State-licensed agency, currently provides home health care aides trained to work with people with cognitive impairment and as a member of the alliance commits to ongoing training of its aides.

WJCS is one of the largest non-sectarian, non-for-profit

human services agencies in Westchester County. It supports 20,000 Westchester residents annually in meeting challenges and achieving personal success. Services include mental health treatment, a network of literacy, learning and youth development initiatives, residential and non-residential programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism, homecare, geriatric care management and programs and services for older adults, and privately funded programs for the Jewish community. Visit www.wjcs.com or call 914.761.0600.

To learn more about the Alzheimer's Association programs visit alz.org/hudsonvalley or www.alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

Real Estate Matters: Not All Real Estate Agents Are Professionally Equal

BY JOHN BAER, SRES, SAS

Like most professionals, not all real estate agents are professionally equal. It is your responsibility to weed out the dabblers and to find the best.

Choosing the wrong real estate agent can have consequences you won't realize until much later. This could include delayed closings, missing certificates of occupancy, paying too

honest truth and problem solves for them proactively; and consider you as part of his/her family. A professional agent wants each client to be happy and will work tirelessly to ensure a client's satisfaction....if for no other reason than to have a client refer him/her to someone else.

As a real estate agent, I have observed that not all agents devote the time or provide the feedback his/her client deserves.

bound to uphold the duties of a fiduciary. The consumer is legally bound, through the judicial system, to abide by certain state and federal laws when buying or selling real estate. The consumer may not know about these laws unless the real estate agent or an attorney explains them. Having such a conversation eliminates assumptions from both parties that could result in damages to either or both parties.

ARTS & TALKS

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Jewish Education for the Twenty-First Century

Hear from a panel of Jewish education experts and advocates on striking the appropriate balance between secular and religious education. What should be the approach to instilling Jewish values and nurturing pro-Israel advocacy among school-aged students, college students and beyond?



Rabbi Rick Jacobs



Dr. Michael Kay



Michael Steinhardt



Tikvah Wiener



Joseph Berger

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, is President of the Union for Reform Judaism, leading the largest and