



NYSAAAA & Dignity Memorial™ present

SmartNews



January/February/March 2002

EVENTS

March 15: Caregiving Teleconference

April 9: NYSAAAA General Association Meeting, Cayuga County Natural Resource Center, Auburn, NY

April 24: Hospice Foundation of America "Living with Grief: Loss in Later Life" Teleconference

June 4-5: "Aging Concerns Unite Us" Conference, Holiday Inn, Syracuse/ Liverpool

SmartNews is the publication of the proud partnership between Dignity Memorial™ Funeral Providers and the New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

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Dignity Memorial™ & NYSAAAA Celebrate Partnership

It may be hard to believe, but NYSAAAA and Dignity Memorial™ are about to celebrate the two year anniversary of a partnership we officially kicked off that the 2000 Aging Concerns Unite Us™ Conference at the Desmond Hotel when nationally renowned safety expert Bob Stuber first introduced us to the Smart & Safe Seniors® program. This collaboration between NYSAAAA and Dignity Memorial™ was formed to bring Smart and Safe Seniors® to a widespread audience throughout New York State.

Dignity Memorial™'s perspective

"The reason that we wanted to partner with the New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging is because we feel that we have common services and common interests with respect to the aging population," said Frank Rinaudo, Regional President, Eastern Region, Dignity Memorial™. "Dignity Memorial™ is a network of funeral cemetery and cremation providers throughout the United States. It stands for simplicity of service and consistency in a level of service that the customer can count on, no matter which Dignity chapel or cemetery they choose to use. So we thought

that partnering our two networks was a good fit. We have a similar client base and provide similar types of services."

"We felt with our network of Dignity firms and with the Association's agencies throughout the state of New York, we could provide support for them and they could provide us with the venue to present our programs, like Smart & Safe Seniors® and our series of bereavement tapes,

known as Picking Up the Pieces®, to the aging community."

And how do AAAs view the success of this partnership?

"The positive reaction from AAAs to date has been overwhelming, since Directors view the program as a wonderful educational opportunity for seniors," said Lorre Anderson, President of the NYSAAAA and Director of the Monroe County Office for the Aging. "We're delighted to be partnering with Dignity Memorial™. The Smart & Safe Seniors® programs provides an important resource in our communities to help seniors to remember to be safe in their own homes. We're also excited that those attending the Smart & Safe Seniors® programs have an opportunity to hear about Escape School®. This is information that they can share with their adult children and grandchildren, so that our young peo-

ple can remain safe as well."

What is the role of NYSAAAA in this partnership?

Laura Cameron, Executive Director of the NYSAAAA, responds that "A core mission of NYSAAAA is to provide educational opportunities and resources for our member AAAs. The Smart & Safe Seniors® program and our partnership with Dignity Memorial™ is a stellar example of tapping into resources that benefit seniors throughout the state. In addition, NYSAAAA serves as a conduit of information to the AAAs to highlight the program, which includes the bi-monthly publication of SmartNews, which is mailed to AAAs and Dignity Memorial™ funeral homes in New York and adjoining states. Our partnership is further solidified by the networking that occurs during events that Dignity Memorial™ sponsors during the year, such as the June 4-5, 2002 "Aging Concerns Unite Us" Conference and the annual

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Look for Smart & Safe Seniors® across NY

Two Videoconferences Offer Long Distance Learning

During March and April, two video conferences will be presented, giving all counties in New York State an opportunity to participate, in real time, in significant educational events.

March Caregiver Videoconference

The first videoconference, on March 15, targets the area of caregiver assistance and support.

A recent study estimated the number of caregivers in New York State to be over 1.7 million individuals. These caregivers provide the majority of care to individuals living in the community who require assistance with routine tasks of daily living. The conference provides an opportunity to share new and innovative strategies to assist caregivers in the critical care that they provide to loved ones every day.

The program was hosted by Rhonda Montgomery, Ph.D., Director of the Gerontology Center and the Gerontology Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Montgomery has conducted numerous regional and national studies focused on public policy and the role of family in providing long term care.

Dr. Montgomery kicked off the conference with an overview of her program findings, and moderated the

first panel discussion on Caregiving programs from a federal/national perspective. Joining her in the discussion: Nancy Day, Director of Community Programs, New Jersey Division of Senior Affairs; John Wanat, President of the New Jersey Association of AAAs; Daniel McGuire, Chief, Division of Quality Management and Managed Care, PA Department of Aging; Carmen Cunningham, Director

TSEOP, New York State Office for the Aging.

Part Two of the conference highlighted programs from around New York State. The

speakers on this panel included: Bobbi Hull, Special Programs Director, Orange County Office for the Aging, Marti Haase, Executive Director, Caregivers Respite Program, Catholic Charities of Albany and Ann DiSarro, Executive Director, Senior Services of Albany.

April Bereavement Conference

On April 24, 2002, the Hospice Foundation of America presents its ninth annual National Bereavement Teleconference, "Living With Grief: Loss in Later Life." Moderated by Cokie Roberts of ABC News, this presentation targets seniors who have lost a loved one. The elderly are often disenfranchised, ignored and underserved grievers. Yet the losses inherent in the aging process and even the death of an elderly person are often ignored in the professional literature.

Moreover, the deaths of elderly persons affect individuals throughout the lifecycle. This teleconference will address this long-neglected area. Specifically it seeks to educate a wide professional audience - those in healthcare and hospice, funeral service, clergy, those in the aging network - all who regularly deal with elderly clients. The teleconference also seeks to educate the wide range of professionals, such as educators and school counselors, employee assistance personnel, and others, who while they may not directly deal with the elderly, do work with others who may be affected by the death of someone in later life.

This videoconference is sponsored in part by a grant from Foundation for End of Life Care, Last Acts with additional support from Department of Veterans Affairs, Employee Education System; Project on Death in America of the Open Society Institute; and in cooperation with Adventist Communication Network, AGS Foundation for Health in Aging, Association for Death Education and Counseling, The Compassionate Friends, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The teleconference will be broadcast on April 24, 2002 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 pm EDT nationally, including to thirty locations across New York State. For a full listing of registered sites, please visit the Hospice Foundation web site at : www.hospicefoundation.org or contact your local Dignity Memorial™ fu-



Teleconferences offer convenient forums

AAAs To Hold Spring Membership Meeting

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging will be holding a general membership meeting on April 9, 2002 at the Cayuga County Soil and Water building in Auburn, NY. Once again, the meeting will be enhanced by the presence of the New York State Office for the Aging Management team, including: Executive Deputy Director, Neal Lane, Deputy Direc-

tor for Local Programs and Operations, Frank DeMarinis, Deputy Director for Policy and Program Development, MacMcCoy and Deputy Director Finance and Operations, Bob Bush.

We extend a hearty thank you to Nelsa Selover, Director, Cayuga County Office for the Aging for securing the location and for hosting the meeting

