

Let's Talk about Dementia and Culture 2024

Speakers

Opening Welcome



Nora Moreno Cargie

As vice president of corporate citizenship for Point32Health and president of Point32Health Foundation, Nora is a leading voice for changing inequitable systems. Through Nora's leadership, Point32Health and its Foundation have earned national and local recognition. JF&CS thanks Point32 Health Foundation for supporting Dementia Friends Massachusetts' Community Partner initiative.



Gail Schulman

As Chief Executive Officer of Jewish Family & Children's Service, Gail leads an organization of 300 professionals serving more than 10,000 people each year. JF&CS's integrated services address mental health and well-being, economic insecurity, and disability supports, across the lifespan from infancy through old age. JF&CS leads Dementia Friends for Massachusetts.

The State of Brain Health Research



Yakeel Quiroz, Ph.D.

Dr. Quiroz is Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. She currently serves as Director of the MGH Familial Dementia Neuroimaging Lab, and Multicultural Alzheimer's Prevention Program (MAPP).



Susan Antkowiak

As Vice President Programs & Services, Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, Susan oversees care consultation, evidence-based education programs, support groups and early-stage social engagement programs. Susan is the Intervention Manager for the New England/Rhode Island site of US POINTER, an Alzheimer's Association funded 2-year clinical trial examining a multidomain lifestyle intervention for older adults at risk for cognitive decline.

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Social and Structural Determinants of Brain Health: Research and Community Experience



Kun Chang, LCSW

Kun is the Associate Director of the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age. He served as a Dementia Friends Champion since 2017 and a Community Partner since 2019. Kun has served as President of the Chinese Folk Art Workshop and Project Director of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging for over 20 years.



Andrea Dettorre

Andrea serves as Healthy Aging Director at the Boston Public Health Commission. Andrea is part of a team leading the Boston BOLD Project, which aims to improve access to high-quality services for Boston residents living with Alzheimer's or other dementias, and their caregivers.



Alana Dundon

Alana has served as a Dementia Friends Champion and Community Partner since 2019. Before emigrating to the U.S. from Brazil, she worked as a psychologist, organizational consultant, and human resources. She was a longtime caregiver for a family member who lived with dementia.



Arnetta E. Ferguson

Arnetta has served as a Dementia Friends Champion and Community Partner since 2019. She is a Senior Instructor and Instructor Trainer for Tech Goes Home, a digital equity program. Arnetta has served as a Healthy Neighborhood Study Resident Researcher and Coordinator. This work follows her 20+ year career in Family Childcare and as a Family Advocate.

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Social and Structural Determinants of Brain Health: Research and Community Experience, continued



Doris Harris, Ph.D.

Dr. Harris joined Dementia Friends as a Champion and Community Partner in 2023. Her consulting firm, Harris Resources, specializes in quantitative and qualitative research methodology. Dr. Harris hosts Health Matters radio show, is Health Editor for the Point of View newspaper, and facilitates a Memory Café. She and is Co-Chair of the Black Springfield Health and Wellness Coalition. Her Board service includes: Equity and Inclusion Team of the Massachusetts Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and All Other Dementias, Equity BayCare/Baystate Health, Valley Eye Radio, Springfield Downtown YMCA, and Springfield Dementia Friendly Coalition.



Lisa Krinsky, MSW, LICSW

Lisa joined Dementia Friends Massachusetts as a Champion and Community Partner in 2023. She is Director of the LGBTQIA+ Aging Project, a program of The Fenway Institute at Fenway Health in Boston. Lisa is a national leader in LGBTQIA+ cultural competency and technical assistance for mainstream aging service providers, as well as a variety of practice and policy issues impacting LGBTQIA+ and HIV +older adults and caregivers. With attention to intersectional identities, she has focused on outreach, engagement, and program development for LGBTQ elders of color and transgender and gender diverse older adults.



Tirsia Ramirez

Tirsia has served as a Dementia Friends Massachusetts Champion and Community Partner since 2021. As a Patient Navigator and Health Educator at Latino Health Insurance Program, Tirsia helps individuals and families to access insurance, medical and dental care, and she provides varied educational programs. Tirsia also serves as the Pastor and Leader of Women's Ministry for a church serving the Spanish-speaking community.

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Reverend Dr. Sandy Range, M.Ed., M.Ms., Ph.D.

Dr. Sandy has served as a Dementia Friends Champion and Community Partner since 2023. Dr. Sandy has over 24 years in private Psychotherapy practice as a Trauma Specialist and Certified Hypnotherapist. She is a Tsalagi Medicine Elder and Initiated Q'ero Shaman, and Ancestral Lineage Healing practitioner with 40+ years as a Reiki Master, Meditation Teacher, and Therapeutic Life and Wellness Coach. She founded the Grandmothers' Village Project as a result of listening to her elder clients' stories of hardship and struggle and is creating a low-moderate income, eco-sustainable, supportive housing village for Elders of Color and other marginalized populations.



Kathy Service, RN, NP, MS, FNP-BC, CDDN

Kathy has served as a Dementia Friends Champion and Community Partner since 2021. She has worked in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) since 1976 as a RN and since 1979 as a nurse practitioner and was one of the first RNs nationally to be certified in the specialty of developmental disabilities (DD) nursing. Although retired since 2016, she continues to work as a clinician, healthcare consultant, educator, and advocate to people with IDD, their families, staff, and to other health care providers in the general community. She has served on local, national and international advisory boards, including the Equity and Inclusion Team of the Massachusetts Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and All Other Dementias, and the National Task Group on Dementia and Intellectual Disabilities through which she facilitates a virtual support group for families with a member with ID and dementia. She has contributed to many federal grants on IDD and dementia, and volunteers the Alzheimer's Association and other regional organizations.

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Judith Thermidor

A Dementia Friends Champion and Community Partner since 2021, Judith is Director of the East Boston Council on Aging. Prior to this, she worked in affordable housing at CSI Support & Development. Her current Board service includes the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (MADRC), the Massachusetts Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and All Other Dementias, the Center for Alzheimer and Dementia Research in Minority Aging, and the Alzheimer's Association. As a Core member and Steering Committee member of CREST (Collaboration For Research Equity, Sustainability, and Trust) at Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Judith's work accelerates diversity and inclusion in clinical trials. Judith's background includes training in medicine, advocacy and global health delivery.

Living Well with Dementia: Lessons from Research and Personal Experience



Alice Bailey

Alice "Faye" Bailey is a native of Springfield, Massachusetts, and a graduate of Classical High School. She is known in the community by her extraordinary customer service skills and 30-year career in retail. When Faye was diagnosed with younger onset Alzheimer's in 2018 at age 55, her myriad of emotions included confusion, relief, denial, and acceptance. Faye began talking about her journey in webinars and conferences to educate the community on the barriers she has faced. Faye and her husband, Tony, have been married for 37 years. She is mother to three adult children and proud grandmother of Emmanuel (8), Elijah (4), Rose (2), and Olivia (2). Faye is a proud 20-year member of St. John's Congregational Church, a historically Black church. Faye enjoys singing in the choir, planning themed parties, and playing word games. She finds comfort through her faith in God, the support of her family, and the joy of her grandchildren.

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Miriam Owens

Miriam was diagnosed with Parkinsonism and Lewy Body Dementia in her mid 50's. She lives in Virginia with her husband, and has three adult children, three precious grandchildren, and a sweet dog named Sasha. Miriam previously owned a childcare business, and nurturing young children was her passion. She has written and self-published books and played piano for church choirs. Her diagnosis required her to change her focus to advocacy - a mission she has embraced wholeheartedly. Her primary goal is to erase the stigma of dementia and change the narrative surrounding the diagnosis. Miriam says "I know there is still a plan for my life, and I trust that plan completely! God wastes nothing, and neither will I."

Symposium Facilitator

Beth Soltzberg, MSW, LICSW, MBA



Beth directs the Alzheimer's/Related Dementias Family Support Program at Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS) of Greater Boston. She has served as lead for Dementia Friends Massachusetts since 2017, and launched the Community Partner initiative with support from JF&CS and Point32Health Foundation. Beth founded and directs the JF&CS Memory Café Percolator, a free resource for those starting and sustaining Memory Cafés throughout the U.S. and several other countries. Beth's Board service includes the Massachusetts Alzheimer's and All Other Dementias Advisory Council's Equity and Inclusion team, Dementia Friendly Massachusetts, Alzheimer's Association DEI committee, and Massachusetts Alzheimer's Research Center (MADRC).