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Making Painless Dental Visits Possible • August 18, 2015 • Issue #839

EDITOR'S PEN

Gary Barg, Editor-in-Chief

An Interview with Dr. Beverly Kidder

*Director - Aging and Disability Center,
Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut*

Gary Barg: Dr. Kidder, why do you call your book The Gift of Caregiving?

Beverly Kidder: Two reasons. One, I got sick and tired of hearing and reading about the burden of caregiving, as though that is the only model we have. And, I was inspired one time a couple of years ago to hear a man, whose wife had Alzheimer's disease, talk about the wonderful gift that he had received from her through the process of caring for her. [...more](#)

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Advance Directives

Trying to predict the future when diagnosed with a debilitating illness leaves caregiver and loved one with many, sometimes confusing, alternatives. Advance directives, such as a living will, can provide families with some comfort. There are online living wills that can be printed, estate lawyers who help with end of life planning through and designating a medical power of attorney. [...more](#)

GUEST ARTICLE

A Trip to the Dentist

By Micki LaVres

For 18 years I tried – unsuccessfully – to get Frank to the dentist for a cleaning. He felt that cleaning his teeth was a paltry undertaking when you considered the significance of his bigger problem, being paralyzed from the chest down.

Only after suffering for several days with a tooth ache did he finally allow me to make an appointment, but under one condition. The dentist would have to treat him in his wheelchair without being transferred to the exam chair. [...more](#)

CARETIPS

Caregiver Tips for Traveling

Traveling long distances with a person in the early stage of dementia may still be quite enjoyable. As dementia advances, however, traveling becomes unpredictable as the person becomes more confusing. Plan ahead for a trip by gathering important documents: insurance cards, passports, your physician's phone number, refills on medications and a copy of medical records in case the person with dementia needs to see a physician while away. Make sure you keep track of all the documents and medications. [...more](#)

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CARENOTES

From Charlotte:

My husband 84 has dementia. My friend says mostly all of what he does is to gain my attention and sympathy. I resent that. Wondering does he realize he may be trying to gain my attention? ...[more](#)

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