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## EDITOR'S PEN

Gary Barg, Editor-in-Chief

# An Open Letter to the Future President of the United States

Dear (Mr./Madam) President.

*I have sent a version of this letter to each of your predecessors since the 1996 election.*

Congratulations on winning election to the highest office in the land. As you well know, our already divided nation was tested to its limits during this seemingly endless campaign season and I sincerely hope that you are dedicated to taking immediate and honest steps to bring us together under your leadership. [...more](#)

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#### FEATURED ARTICLE

## Caring for Loved Ones with Dementia: Communication is Key

*By Shanon Raynard*

Each person living with dementia is unique; as their dementia symptoms progress, they journey down a path entirely their own. Their caregivers make this same journey, in a way. Over time, caregivers must adapt to meet their loved one's evolving needs and abilities. This is especially true where effective communication is concerned. [...more](#)

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#### GUEST ARTICLE

## Life After Caregiving

*By Sandra O'Connell*

"The only way for me to survive is for the two people I love the most to die." When I wrote those words, I was unable to foresee a future without the endless demands of caregiving. At the time, my beloved husband, Rev. Ralph Minker, and my mother were each suffering from a form of dementia. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at age 69; Mom had vascular dementia, not uncommon for someone in her ninth decade. In the midst of the great balancing act that is the caregiver's reality, another kind of life seems impossible. And when it is over (YES, caregiving does end), there are new challenges in finding a life not consumed by your loved one's illness. [...more](#)

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## CARETIPS

# How to Travel With a Loved One Who Uses a Wheelchair

By MiKayla Henry

Just like caregiving, traveling with someone who requires a wheelchair is something that most people probably never give any thought to until they have to do it. The world is not always an easy place to maneuver a wheelchair. Traveling when you're caring for someone in a wheelchair requires a little more preparation and planning than you may be used to, but the extra effort doesn't mean you should shy away from it. These tips should help you if you're thinking of taking your caregiver life on the road. [...more](#)

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## CARENOTES

### From Mechell in Idaho:

Will Medicaid pay for a walk-in shower for my mother? She broke her hip in a car accident some years ago but then had it replaced. She still walks with a limp and can barely lift her leg to get into the shower. I'm afraid she's going to fall. Anything would help. thank you [...more](#)

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