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**Get Your Loved One To Eat** • February 26, 2015 • Issue #793

## EDITOR'S PEN

Gary Barg, Editor-in-Chief

### Caregivers with Famous Faces

I watched the 87th Annual Academy Awards last weekend with some bemusement, amusement and sometimes even confusement. Great movies, heartfelt speeches, nobody tripping on the stairs, as well as the continuing saga of Idina Menzel and John Travolta on display in its full absurdity. All shepherded by perennial award show host, Neil Patrick Harris, complete with briefcase and wardrobe malfunction. It was either a night to remember (or try to forget).

One thing that stood out for me during the evening's proceedings was how much humanity was on display.

Tim McGraw's beautiful rendition of Glen Campbell's last song as Alzheimer's descended to take its dastardly toll on his remarkable talents and on his family. The McGraw family is no stranger to caregiving.

Julianne Moore's well-deserved award for her portrayal of a professor as Alzheimer's started to take its toll on her. The book on which the movie is based, *Still Alice*, if you haven't read it, is terrific, too. We have had it in our [Caregiver Book club](#) for many years now ...[more](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Column...

**What is Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)?**

**Caregivers Encourage, Motivate Loved Ones with Aphasia**

**Nine Ways to Get Someone to Eat**

**CareVerses**

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## FEATURED ARTICLE

### **What is Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)?**

Macular degeneration is an eye condition that attacks the macula, the region of the retina responsible for central, detailed vision. Although it does not cause complete blindness, it robs the individual of their central, straight-ahead vision, resulting in what is often referred to as a central vision “blind spot” [...more](#)

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## GUEST ARTICLE

### **Caregivers Encourage, Motivate Loved Ones with Aphasia**

*By Joanne Marttila Pierson, Ph.D.*

#### **Imagine...**

- You ask your spouse for a plate, and he hands you a cup.
- Your spouse seems to get “stuck” on the same word or phrase.
- Your spouse can say words, but her sentences don’t make sense.

That's Aphasia: a language disorder that results from damage to ...[more](#)

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#### CARETIPS

## **Nine Ways to Get Someone to Eat**

*By Jennifer B. Buckley*

A common nutritional problem that can affect care recipients in poor health is cachexia-anorexia and it especially involves those in advanced stages of Alzheimer's, Cancer and AIDS. Cachexia-anorexia is a syndrome in which progressive and involuntary weight loss occurs. The people with this disorder are "wasting-away" from the lack of vitamins and nutrients and as a caregiver; this can be a difficult and frustrating event to witness ...[more](#)

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CAREVERSES

**Dancing**

*By Gwen Safranski*

One two, this dance we do  
My arms around your waist  
Your hand on my shoulder  
One two, one two

Bend, lift, this we do  
From bedroom to bathroom  
Wheelchair to toilet  
We rise, turn  
Sink gently down

Here, between chrome fixtures and porcelain bowls  
We shift, pause – awkward ballet  
You balanced on one foot  
My knees bent to swing you round  
We shuffle, turn  
Sink gently down

You keep time  
Counting moments, counting steps  
Laughing when I count along  
Still your child

One, two, this dance we do  
Mother and daughter joined by motion  
Joined in love stretching beyond  
My birth... your grave  
One two, one two

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