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It Ain't Over When It's Over • March 10, 2015 • Issue #796

RETRO MAGAZINE

A look back at 20 years of *Today's Caregiver* magazine

March/April 2013

The Valerie Harper Interview

Valerie Harper, actor, author, dancer, Broadway star, is best known for her roles as Rhoda Morgenstern on the 1970s television series, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, and its spin-off, Rhoda, and later as Valerie Hogan on Valerie. Another role that Valerie took on in her life was family caregiver—first, for her mother, and then for a neighbor for whom she became legal guardian. Recently, Valerie made the announcement that she has leptomeningeal carcinomatosis, a rare condition in which cancer cells spread into the membranes surrounding the brain. Valerie shared the news with her fans with typical humor, openness and honesty—the same qualities that are found within her new book I, Rhoda, a Memoir. Editor-In-Chief Gary Barg sat down with Valerie for a wide-ranging interview detailing her behind-the-scenes life as loving spouse, friend, mother and caregiver.

Gary Barg: I have to tell you, Valerie, I read the book, *I, Rhoda*, and couldn't put it down. Some of my favorite interviews that I've done for the magazine were mentioned in your book – Ed Asner, Betty White, Gerald McRaney, and Delta Burke – they were fun.

Valerie Harper: Oh, my God, what a couple. They're wonderful. And I had a front row seat for that romance; it was lovely. Mac and I would take Delta up to Vancouver on a Sunday night to shoot the movie. We'd meet on the set the next day and then, Friday night, we'd rush to the plane to get me back to my newly adopted daughter, my brother and my mom, who was dealing with lung cancer. And he was rushing back to see his darling – inamorata, is it? The person you're engaged to, in Italian [laugh] ...more

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Drug Dispensing and the Caregiver

By M. Simon

One of the common issues that caregivers have to deal with on a daily basis is the need to dispense their care recipient's medication in a safe and timely fashion. Navigating the dangerous waters of different pill sizes, colors and dosages can be an intimidating experience as most family members and home care workers possess neither an in-depth knowledge of these medications nor the ability to discern when a problem with the pills may be developing ...[more](#)

GUEST ARTICLE

When Your Caregiving Days Are Over

By Joyce Aleshire

I am a facilitator of a Cancer Caregiver Support Group in Ohio. We have monthly meetings at two different facilities in two different counties on the second Tuesday and second Wednesday of the month. In the course of our meetings, several topics surface. One that got my attention most recently was: How a caregiver moves on once their caregiving days are done [...more](#)

CARETIPS

Traumatic Brain Injuries Can Result from Senior Falls

Traumatic brain injuries due to falls caused nearly 8,000 deaths and 56,000 hospitalizations in 2005 among Americans 65 and older, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released in the June issue of the Journal of Safety Research [...more](#)

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CARENOTES

From Kathy:

I have a lot on my plate with my 91-year-old dad. I work six hours a day at two different schools. I cannot retire yet. Almost 63 and I have to go to at least 65. My husband is a teacher and gets home after 6:00. I haven't hired a caregiver yet and I really don't want to. I've heard too many horror stories from close friends and family. You can interview them and they act like they are the best thing, then you find out they steal from you and your dad or mom. I do need help and I know not all caregivers are like this, but how do you know the good from the bad? Very difficult. I'm getting burned out. I need some suggestions, please.

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