



PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES DEALING WITH MEMORY LOSS

**ASHEVILLE
NORTH CAROLINA**

CITYWIDE DEMENTIA SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, October 12, 2024

Registration - 8:00 am with continental breakfast

Guest Speakers - 9am-1pm

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
1 Resort Dr. Asheville, NC**

Suggested Donation \$35

ASHEVILLE AREA MEETINGS



MAIN SITE- Scenic View Terrace Clubhouse, 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 6pm

CENTRAL DOWNTOWN- Central UMC, 27 Church St. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 2pm

WEST ASHEVILLE- Abernethy UMC, 1418 Patton Ave. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 6pm

CENTRAL EAST- 315 Old Haw Creek Rd, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 6pm

SOUTH ASHEVILLE- Givens Gerber Park South 40 Gerber Rd 2nd & 4th Saturday @ 10am

YMCA DOWNTOWN- 30 Woodfin St, 1st & 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

HARMONY at Reynolds Mountain- 41 Cobblers Way, 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 6:30 pm

YMCA WOODFIN- 40 N. Merrimon Ave, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 6pm

DEMENTIA PARTNERS SYMPOSIUM

You are invited...

WHO: Anyone with an interest in memory loss

Caregivers, family members, support professionals

WHAT: The second biannual Dementia Partners Symposium

WHEN: Saturday morning, October 12, 2024

Registration at 8am

Special Guest Speakers 9am-1pm

WHERE: Crowne Plaza Hotel

1 Resort Dr. Asheville

WHY: To learn, receive support and share the journey.

And know that YOU are NOT alone!

HOW: Register using QR code on the right



Register for
Symposium Here

A Member's Story

It's tough to relay a story of being pulled into a boundless sea of uncertainty by a relentless undertow while you watch your anchor drift away. My wife, Rhonda, suffers from advanced Alzheimer's dementia. She was my soulmate and anchor for many happy years.

Rhonda and I met in high school, but lost touch during college. She got her Ph.D. in Psychology and worked for the VA, counseling veterans with PTSD and drug and alcohol dependence. We reconnected 35 years later, after we had both divorced, and married shortly thereafter. We were deliriously happy.

Rhonda's Alzheimer's symptoms began around eight years later. First it seemed she was "tuning me out" - not paying attention to what I said. It was annoying! Also, she started doing odd things in the kitchen like washing dishes but leaving the dirty plates or mixing up dirty dishes with clean ones in the dishwasher. She wasn't aware that this was a problem. We eventually consulted a neurologist who diagnosed her with Early Cognitive Impairment, and we enrolled her at MemoryCare in Asheville, a real blessing in this journey.

Rhonda has had a typical downhill course. She no longer has any awareness of her disability. She has lost the ability to verbally express herself and maintain reasonable hygiene and toileting. When we came down with COVID, we were both quite ill. But as sick as I was, Rhonda was totally dependent on me to care for her. I realized we were living too close to the edge of catastrophe and moved her to an inpatient dementia-only facility.

The emotional ups and downs of visiting her there are trying. Even though she does not know my name or recognize me as her husband, I get "up" when she smiles, happy that I am there...the "down" comes when I must leave. I visit her 3 or 4 times a week. Unlike some other residents, Rhonda is content and at ease in her new environment, and that reassures me. I am grateful that she never asks about going home. And I am lucky to have experienced a few short years with this wonderful woman who was my soulmate. Now I have the gratifying opportunity of caring for her through the rest of our story.

Notes from Our Co-Founders

Greetings!

Dementia Partners AVL, Inc. continues to serve the Metropolitan Asheville area and neighboring communities. Since our last newsletter, we have expanded our services to eight support group sites. We hosted our inaugural spring symposium last April, and have a second, even larger symposium scheduled for October 2024. At our meetings, each individual, family member, and care partner with compassion. We take pride in the quality of our support services and are committed to making a positive impact in our community. We encourage you to become a member as we offer hope on this journey.

To connect with Dementia Partners AVL please view our Website: dementiapartnersavl.org (or) Facebook page: [dementiapartnersavl](https://www.facebook.com/dementiapartnersavl), Inc. (please join as a member).

Warm Regards,

Vernon and Joyce Robinson

