

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in NYC Elder Abuse Center. Don't forget to add info@nyceac.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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**Achieving safety, dignity and respect
for all NYC's elders through
steadfast commitment to collaboration
and inspired solutions.**



NYC Elder Abuse Center's eNewsletter

September/October 2015

Greetings from the NYC Elder Abuse Center!

And just like that, another year has flown by! Fall 2015 marks the **three-year anniversary** of NYCEAC's Elder Justice Dispatch Blog. We are thrilled to be continuing on this digital journey and are excited about the year to come. Before we race off into the future, this anniversary provides us with an occasion to pause, look back and celebrate.

In line with tradition, we have selected and summarized eleven blogs you may have missed between July 2014 and June 2015. This collection of blogs -

11 Elder Justice Blogs to Inform & Inspire: July 2014-June 2015

- were chosen from a stellar roster of nearly 40 blog entries published during that time period. They include blogs on topics ranging from intimate partner violence to aggressive behaviors in dementia to educating college students about sexuality in later life. We hope you find this collection interesting and informative.

Acknowledgements

Blogging is not easy; it takes time, dedication, and tremendous effort to create blogs as thoughtful and helpful as the ones posted on the Elder Justice Dispatch. NYCEAC owes tremendous gratitude to the authors featured in the eNewsletter as well as to the amazing authors for the many blogs written this year. A number of dedicated people provided time and talent to making these blogs happen. Thank you

to Pam Ansell, Elizabeth Bloemen, Sarah Dion and Cara Kenien, - the Social Media Team behind NYCEAC's blogs containing insightful articles and educational resources for professionals, advocates and students alike. A special thank you as well to Rachel Tannenbaum, a NYCAEC Risk and Resiliency Internship Project Intern during 2015, who created this eNewsletter.

Make sure to subscribe to the Elder Justice Dispatch from our [home page](#). It's quick, easy and free to do! Once you subscribe, our weekly blog posts will be delivered right to your inbox and will cover a broad range of elder justice topics not typically discussed elsewhere.

Regards,

Risa Breckman, LCSW, Director

Mark Lachs, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Peg Horan, LMSW, Elder Abuse Prevention Specialist/Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator



11 Elder Justice Blogs to Inform & Inspire July 2014-July 2015

Advice from the Professionals: Responding to Elder Abuse

This blog, [Quick Clips: Elder Abuse Dramatization with Expert Commentary](#), describes NYCEAC's recently released [Quick Clips](#), in which a wide array of elder justice professionals respond to an enactment of an elder abuse case. In brief, impactful video clips, the experts provide me a ningly advice about best practices and considerations based on their unique perspectives. When viewed collectively, the diversity of these professional responses illuminates the need for a multidisciplinary approach to manage elder abuse cases most effectively.



Photo Courtesy of Astrid Westvan

In [Aggressive Behaviors & Dementia: Tips & Resources](#), co-authors Elizabeth Bloemen and Matt Kudish stress the importance of assessing why someone is behaving in a particular manner, rather than focusing on what the behavior is. Bloemen and Kudish provide several helpful tips that can be used by

individuals caring for elders with dementia - a disorder characterized by

The Elder Justice Dispatch: Celebrating Our Third Year

10 Elder Justice Blogs to Inform & Inspire
In the Spotlight
Events Calendar & The eNewsletter Archive
Inspiration
NYCEAC's Multidisciplinary Teams and Case Consultations

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aggressive behaviors among other neurodegenerative symptoms - as they are more likely to respond in abusive manners to the elder's challenging behavior.

Elder Abuse in Court

This blog, [Lessons from the Astor Elder Abuse Case](#), discusses the experience of Philip Marshall, who advocated for his grandmother, Brooke Astor, when he found out that she was being abused by her son. Through an interview with Elizabeth Bloemen, NYCEAC's Social Media Associate, Marshall elucidates several important lessons learned from the manner in which this case was managed; these lessons can be applied to other elder abuse cases. Marshall's recommendations include educating families about the resources available when responding to elder abuse, as well as the concepts of capacity and guardianship.



Philip C. Marshall; Judith Shaw, Securities Administrator, Office of Securities, Maine; Senator Susan Collins, Chairman, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. Hearing, Feb. 4, 2015.

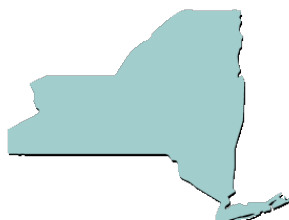


Photo courtesy of: NYC Housing Court

As suggested by the title of this blog, [Court Decision Sets Precedent & Raises Awareness of Elder Abuse](#), a recent court ruling has set an important precedent for victims of elder abuse seeking safety in their own homes. Kings County Judge, Susan F. Avery, JHC, ruled in favor of an elder abuse victim who was seeking to evict the girlfriend of his abusive son. The son had already left the home, but Judge Avery's ruling sided with the victim and argued that the justice system must do more than simply remove an immediate threat from the victim's residence in order to ensure the victim's complete safety and right to self-determination. Additionally, Judge Avery's ruling spoke at length about the significance of elder abuse as a public policy concern. This case is representative of the complicated role housing often plays in elder abuse cases, as well as the potential power of collaboration and elder justice advocacy across disciplines.

Should New York State Have a Mandatory Reporting Law?

New York is the only state in the U.S. without a law that mandates a wide array of professionals to report community based elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Ryan Patrick Baker, NYCEAC 2014 [Risk and Resiliency Internship Project](#) Intern, and co-authors Risa Breckman and Bobbie Sackman, tackle this complicated topic in the blog [New York State Doesn't Have](#)



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[Mandatory Reporting: Good or Something to Change?](#), and describe common arguments in favor of these laws, as well as some of their limitations. This information is highly relevant for anyone in NYS wanting to weigh-in on whether or not NYS should pursue passing a mandatory reporting law. *New York State, courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Intimacy and the Elderly



Nora Moran

Guest blogger Nora Moran is interested in the intersection of age and gender, and how such identities impact older women. In this blog, [Intimate Partner Violence or Elder Abuse? Considering Age, Gender and Elder Justice](#), she explores the way in which these particular elements of identity influence elder abuse and its interventions. She explains the distinctions between Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in younger populations and IPV in older adults and the significant implications regarding the interventions and services to be administered. Collaboration between several disciplines is crucial in devising a safety plan and intervention for a victim of elder abuse, who is likely experiencing a combination of physical, intimate partner, and psychological abuse among other forms as well.

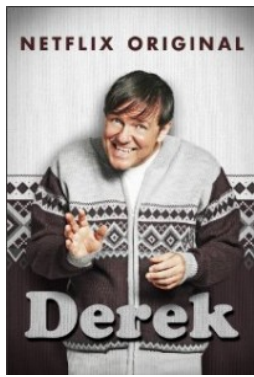
In the blog, [Let's Talk About Sex and Older Adults: Educating Undergrads & Tackling Ageism](#), Zoe Eisenberg, NYCEAC 2014 [Risk and Resiliency Project Intern](#), highlights the ageist

nature of common beliefs about sexuality in later life. As Eisenberg explains, research has shown that while there are currently limited opportunities for young adults to learn about sexuality in later life, those students that have been exposed to aging, sexuality, and gerontology have a more positive attitude toward sexuality in later life and toward aging in general. It is crucial to expand undergraduate education in this field, as current college students will likely serve as advocates for the elderly population in the near future.



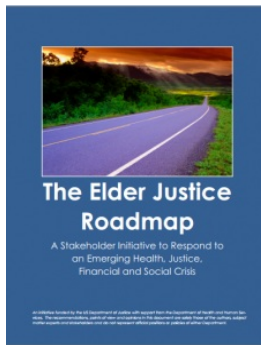
*Universities and colleges should offer opportunities for students to learn about sexuality in later life.
(Creative Commons)*

Positive Aging in the Media



NYCEAC 2014 [Risk and Resiliency Project](#) Intern Madeline Weinfeld uses the blog, [Derek: Fighting Ageism Through Television](#) to reflect on "Derek," a TV series that highlights the value of older adults in society as well as the importance of inter-generational relationships. While TV shows like *Derek* have played an important role in raising awareness of the value of older adults, other forms of mainstream media perpetuate ageism by depicting a divide between different generations and by simply limiting society's exposure to aging. As Weinfeld suggests, incorporating older adults into pop culture will enhance people's perspective of the elderly and hopefully encourage them to direct more attention toward the issue of ageism.

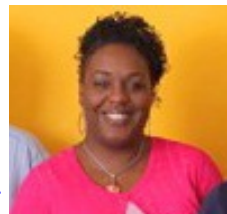
Collaborative Approaches to Elder Abuse Cases



Elder abuse is a problem with solutions. The blog, [The Roadmap for Elder Justice: Priorities and Opportunities for the Field](#), discusses the [Elder Justice Roadmap Report](#), which outlines these solutions. The Report, a strategic planning document, is the result of a three-year process of interviewing and engaging 750 elder justice stakeholders from around the country, including direct service providers, policy workers, and

government officials. The Report calls us all to action to pursue elder justice. (The Report is a product of *The Elder Justice Roadmap Project*, an initiative funded by the US Department of Justice with support from the Department of Health and Human Services.)

In this podcast, [Exclusive Look at NYC Adult Protective Services' Elder Abuse Work](#), Deborah Holt-Knight, then Executive Director of Operations for [NYC Human Resources Administration Adult Protective Services](#) (APS), discusses



Ms. Deborah Holt-Knight

challenges APS workers face in responding to elder abuse cases as well as their role on NYCEAC's Multidisciplinary Teams. The podcast explains that collaboration with other agencies has allowed for greater success in resolving difficult cases of elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect. (Ms. Holt-Knight is currently the Acting Deputy Commissioner for NYC's Human Resources Administration APS.)

In her blog, [Bringing Unexpected Allies to the Fight Against Elder Abuse](#), Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S.



Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Health and Human Services and Administrator of the [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL), discusses World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and emphasizes that we can all make a difference in the prevention and detection of and response to elder abuse by talking to each other and working together. "Unexpected allies," as Greenlee refers to individuals outside of the elder justice discipline, can learn about the red flags of elder abuse and create safe spaces for elders to discuss their experiences.



Matt Kudish, LMSW

In the Spotlight: Matt Kudish, LMSW

With each edition of the NYC Elder Abuse Center's eNewsletter, we take pride in showcasing a member of our incredibly talented and dedicated Steering Committee.

In this edition, we are pleased to shine the spotlight on Matt Kudish, LMSW. This summer, he sat down with NYCEAC [Risk and Resiliency Internship Project](#) Intern Rachel Tannenbaum to discuss his passion for the field of elder justice. Matt was excited to share how he developed a connection to the field, and to talk about the integral role of the Alzheimer's Association and other elder justice organizations can play in addressing the important intersection of elder abuse and dementia.

Matt Kudish, LMSW, is the Senior Vice President of Caregiver Services at the Alzheimer's Association, New York City Chapter. Matt received his Master's degree from Columbia University School of Social Work in 2004 and Post Master's Certificates in Non-Profit Executive Leadership and Clinical Supervision from New York University's School of Social Work. As Senior Vice President of Caregiver Services, Matt is responsible for the Chapter's considerable array of programs and services for people living with dementia and those involved in their care. These programs include the 24-hour Helpline, Care Consultation social work services, Support Groups, Education and Training initiatives, and Early Stage Services, including the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Early Stage Center, which provides programs and support to persons with dementia and their care partners. Additionally, he sits on the Board of the Helen Rehr Center for Social Work Practice and is a Steering Committee member of the NYC Elder Abuse Center.

Though he did not enter Social Work school expecting to work with older adults, Matt has built his career around supporting this population. He first gained exposure to the field of aging and caregiving during his first job after completing graduate school, which centered on the role of caregivers of older

adults. Jumping into the field to work with this particular issue quickly introduced Matt to the many wonderful benefits of working with older adults, as well as the challenges and complexities of the field. The immediate connection Matt developed with the elder population and their caregivers inspired him to continue working in the field, volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association as an education meeting facilitator and leading a support group for caregivers of people with dementia. As Matt explains, "older adults are a marginalized part of our world. We live in an ageist society, but can learn so much from the people who came before us."

Matt's current role at the Alzheimer's Association is to assist in "giving a voice to people who don't have one," and this mission naturally aligns with his commitment to elder justice. "All older adults are vulnerable," Kudish tells NYCEAC, "but people with dementia are especially vulnerable. They typically have difficulty communicating, and even when they do not, they are often dismissed." Alzheimer's and other dementias compound and exacerbate the challenges faced by all victims of elder abuse, particularly the struggle to bring attention to their condition. Addressing the intersection of dementia and elder abuse requires skill and compassion. Throughout his years in the field of aging and caregiving, Matt has found that strategies to normalize the discussion and candidly face the issues of elder abuse and dementia have proven to be most successful. As such, he has worked with the Alzheimer's Association, the Helen Rehr Center for Social Work Practice and the NYC Elder Abuse Center to create spaces in which people are willing to discuss their experiences of elder abuse.

When asked how the field of aging has changed since he first began his career, Matt explains that "since the baby boomers are aging, we have seen a shift in the amount of attention directed toward issues of older adults, including Alzheimer's and elder abuse. Over the last ten years, there has been a shift in the recognition of older adults - they are making their voices heard by the sheer number of them." Matt is optimistic about the future of the aging and caregiving fields - he has helped to lay the groundwork for effective practices that other regions and societies "can replicate without having to reinvent the wheel."

For more information about the programs and services offered by the NYC Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association-all of which are available free of charge-call their 24-hour Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit them online at www.alz.org/nyc .

Check Out the Elder Justice Events Calendar to Find Out What's Happening in NYC and Beyond



Are you sponsoring a community fair on aging services? A workshop on guardianships? A lecture on social isolation? A conference on caregiving? A webinar on responding to trauma in later life?

If your event touches on any aspect of abuse, neglect and exploitation - building awareness about it or focusing on prevention, response, education or research - **then please post your event on NYCEAC's events calendar.**

The [events calendar](#) was created with you in mind, responding to the need for a central place for the NYC elder justice community to list events related to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This feature allows you to easily and quickly submit information. Check out what's happening on the events calendar , and if you want to [post an event](#), do so in seconds directly through NYCEAC's website.

Learn More About Elder Justice Issues: Visit NYCEAC's eNewsletter Archives



NYCEAC's no cost eNewsletter is an excellent resource for an in-depth look at some of the most pressing issues in the field of elder justice. Each issue features new guest writers, case studies, and profiles of experts in New York City.

Launched in April 2011, NYCEAC's eNewsletter has explored a number of pertinent topics related to elder abuse:

- Edition 1: Overview of the NYC Elder Abuse Center
- Edition 2: Coming up: Guardianship/Alternatives to Guardianship
- Edition 3: Intimate Partner Abuse in Later Life
- Edition 4: NYC's Temporary Shelter Options for Elder Abuse Victims
- Edition 5: Capacity Evaluations in Elder Abuse Cases
- Edition 6: Social Media
- Edition 7: Exploring the Intersection of Elder Abuse and Mental Health
- Edition 8: Elder Justice in the Blogosphere
- Edition 9: I'll Stand by You: Recognizing Concerned Family, Friends and Neighbors in the Lives of Elder Abuse Victims
- Edition 10: 10 Elder Justice Blogs to Inform and Inspire
- Edition 11: Web-based Elder Abuse "Quick Clips" Educational Videos

These editions are [archived](#) on NYCEAC's website. To subscribe at no cost, [click here](#) .

We want to hear from you. We are eager to help you in your work to increase the dignity and safety of older adults. If you have an elder justice-related topic you would like us to write about, please contact us and let us know your idea.

Inspiration

"In the late 1930s, when Bill Taylor was in his mid-eighties, he moved to Montgomery from rural Alabama plantation where he had been born into slavery. There he began to draw, and for the next four years he did little else. He spent his days sitting outside, under a pool hall awning, recording his observations of daily events both seen and remembered.



Bill Taylor, "Walking Man" 1930

The artist's late-in-life outpouring of creativity resulted in more than 1,200 pictures. Taylor scoured the streets for scraps of cast-off cardboard and used the unpredictable smudges and stains to guide his compositions. Everyday imagery such as a walking man and an unpretentious house become, through their simplified reduction, powerful and iconic signs."

- From the Whitney Museum of American Art

Case Consultations and Upcoming Multidisciplinary Team Meetings

Professionals throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan have an opportunity to receive case consultations on elder abuse cases in two ways:

- 1) 1:1 case consultations are provided by NYCEAC's social worker, geriatrician, geropsychiatrist and forensic accountants. For access to these consultants, email [Peg Horan](#) or call at (917) 519-1514.
- 2) Professionals working with Brooklyn and Manhattan-residing elder abuse victims can present complex elder abuse cases to the NYCEAC's multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in Manhattan and Brooklyn. For more information, please refer to the individual sections of NYCEAC's website re: the MDTs: [EACCRT](#), [Brooklyn MDT](#) and [Manhattan EMDT](#).

The following are dates for upcoming MDT meetings:

Elder Abuse Case Coordination and Review Team (EACCRT) Meeting

2015 Meetings: Wednesdays - October 7th, December 2nd

Time: 9:30-11:00am

Location: Convenient Manhattan location

RSVP: Email [Peg Horan](#) or call at (917) 519-1514

Manhattan Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (EMDT) Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday afternoons, 3:30-5:00pm, 2 meetings/month

Location: Downtown Manhattan

RSVP: Email [Peg Horan](mailto:peg.horan@nyceac.org) or call at (917) 519-1514

Brooklyn MDT (BMDT) Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday mornings, 9:00-10:30am, 3 meetings/month

Location: Downtown Brooklyn location

RSVP: Email [Peg Horan](mailto:peg.horan@nyceac.org) or call at (917) 519-1514

Thank You to NYCEAC's Steering Committee Members

NYCEAC's staff receives guidance from its [Steering Committee](#), comprised of many deeply knowledgeable experts from diverse fields. With considerable contributions of time, talent and expertise from these dedicated professionals, NYCEAC is able to improve the lives of older victims and make substantial contributions to the elder justice field. To these wonderful people: *Thank you.*

The following organizations are represented on **NYCEAC's Steering Committee**:

Archaeos, Alzheimer's Association, NYC Chapter, Bronx District Attorney's Office, Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, Carter Burden Center for the Aging, CONNECT, LiveOn NY, Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of NY, Heights and Hills, JASA, Kings County District Attorney's Office, Mount Sinai Hospital Elder Abuse Program, NY County District Attorney's Office, Neighborhood SHOPP, NYC Department for the Aging, NYC Housing Authority, NYC Human Resources Administration Adult Protective Services, New York Legal Assistance Group, Queens District Attorney's Office, Renaissance Economic Development Corporation, Search and Care, Service Program for Older People, United Federation of Teachers, The Vladimir and Araxia Buckhantz Foundation, The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Research in Elder Abuse at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, and Weill Cornell Medical Center's Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology

Connect With Us!

We want to hear from you! If you have ideas for articles or other suggestions about how this eNewsletter could be helpful to you in you work with elder abuse victims, please [email us](#) or call Risa Breckman at 212-746-1674.

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Please forward this eNewsletter to anyone you think would benefit from it. Thank you!