

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

~Keynotes~

ISOBEL MACKENZIE

Seniors Advocate, Province of British Columbia, Victoria, BC, Canada
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Isobel Mackenzie has over 20 years' experience working with seniors in home care, licensed care, community services and volunteer services. Isobel led B.C.'s largest not-for-profit agency, serving over 6,000 seniors annually. In this work, Isobel led the implementation of a new model of dementia care that has become a national best practice, and led the first safety accreditation for homecare workers, among many other accomplishments. Isobel has been widely recognized for her work and was named B.C. CEO of the Year for the not-for-profit sector and nominated as a Provincial Health Care Hero. Prior to her appointment as the Seniors Advocate, Isobel served on a number of national and provincial boards and commissions, including the BC Medical Services Commission, the Canadian Homecare Association, BC Care Providers, BC Care Aide and Community Health Worker Registry, and the Capital Regional District Housing Corporation. Isobel currently serves on the University of Victoria's Board of Governors. Isobel received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Victoria and has a Certificate in Health Care Leadership from the University of Toronto.

MILA HARTER

Senior Community Activist, Alumni of At This Age group, Vernon, BC, Canada
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Mila Harter has lived in the Okanagan since 1993. She is a graduate of the University of Nottingham, England (B. Pharmacy, Honours) and has an Advanced Graduate Diploma in Distance Education and Technology. She has worked as a hospital and community pharmacist in the UK and in Canada. Mila also worked as a Regional Administrator and a Career Counsellor for the Government of Alberta. Upon moving to the Okanagan, she continued her work in Career Counselling and Program Management for non-profit and government organizations. She was a co-owner of a music store and school in Alberta, is an avid supporter of local community music and arts initiatives, and is a member of Amnesty International.

~Presenters~

ALISON MILLER

Caregiver, Member of the At This Age group, Vernon, BC, Canada
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Alison Miller Alison Miller has been a businesswoman in Vernon for 32 years, most recently as owner/manager of Marlin Travel. In 2007, her mother Madeleine moved to Vernon from Toronto. Since then, Alison has been closely involved with her mother’s care and socialization, first in her own apartment, and in the past year at Creekside. From a family atmosphere that was extremely lively, well-travelled and widely read, Alison is concerned about maintaining a high level of social and intellectual stimulus for her mother. Art activities, she finds, has been extremely positive, and she would like to see more similar programs that will provide daily engagement for her mother and for others.

ANNE BRISSON, MA

Artist, Parlamaine Studio, Montreal, QC, Canada
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Anne Brisson is a self-taught artist who is skilled in a wide variety of mediums including watercolor, acrylic, collage painting, color pencil, pastel, clay, pulp paper and papier maché. Although she has been painting and drawing for over 25 years, she has crafted her sculptural methods in the last 8 years. She builds on her talent in figurative clay modeling and her love of all things paper. This mixture helps produce pieces that are both whimsical and realistic in their own way. She has shown at various galleries in Canada, and currently resides in Quebec where she is now focusing on exploring with the mixture of pulp paper with paper-clay and metal. Anne conducts weekend workshops in Pulp Paper Sculpture in Canada and in the US. Places such as the Carving Studio and Sculpture Centre in Rutland, Vermont and at the Montreal Art Centre in 2014. She is compassionate about creative expression in aging and is a regular contributor towards her causes. In addition of being an artist, Anne is also in a unique position having worked for many years in the pharmaceutical industry, where she interacted on behalf of her employers with various populations across Canada, especially with those who cared for people living with dementia.

DALIA GOTTLIEB-TANAKA, PhD

Founder and Chairperson of the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care, BC, Canada
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Dalia Gottlieb-Tanaka earned her PhD from the University of British Columbia in 2006 in the Institute of Health Promotion Research and the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. In 2011 she completed a Post Doctoral Fellowship with the Department of Psychology at UBC. She graduated from the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem in 1976, and in 1980 received a Master's of Architecture degree from UBC. After working in architecture for about 30 years and raising a family, Dalia returned to school to pursue a new direction in gerontology, specifically in the study of creative expression, dementia and the therapeutic environment. The Creative Expression Activities Program she conceived and developed for seniors with dementia won an award from the American Society on Aging and the MetLife

Foundation. She continues to deliver presentations and workshops demonstrating the program and her research work in the US, Canada, Israel and Europe. Dalia founded the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care in British Columbia and is the moving force behind the annual international conferences and workshops on creative expression, communication and dementia (CECD).

GARY GLAZNER, BA

Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project, NY, USA
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Gary Glazner is the founder and Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project, (APP). The APP was the recipient of the 2013, Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Award. The APP was awarded the 2012 MetLife Foundation Creativity and Aging in America Leadership Award in the category of Community Engagement. PBS News Hour, NBC's "Today" show and NPR's "All Things Considered" have featured segments on Glazner's work. Harper Collins, W.W. Norton and Salon.com have published his work. Glazner is the host and co-producer with New York Memory Center, of the monthly Memory Arts Café, a series of free art events for

people living with Alzheimer's disease, their caregivers and the general public. He is the author of ***Dementia Arts: Celebrating Creativity in Elder Care***, published by Health Professional Press, 2014. Glazner is the founder of the Institute for Dementia Education and Arts (IDEA). The APP has provided programming in 25 states and internationally in Australia, Germany, Poland and South Korea. Glazner holds a B.A. in Expressive Arts from Sonoma State University.

JIM ARNOLD

Folklore Music and Arts, Mississauga, ON, Canada

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Jim Arnold is the founder of the Creative Enrichment Group and is a Certified Geriatric Wellness Instructor. Jim is a musician, author, and a frequent speaker at conferences, education forums, colleges and universities on the topic of music in dementia care. Jim has developed music based recreation activities that are now being used by Recreation Therapists across Canada. Jim has presented at:

- Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association 2013 Conference
- Therapeutic Recreation Ontario Conference in 2013
- Activity Professionals of Ontario Convention 2011 and 2013
- BC Activities Coordinators Association 2013 Conference
- BCACA Victoria Region Education forum 2014
- Recreation staff training at over 100 long term care homes in Ontario

JONI VAJDA

Outreach Coordinator, Keeping Connected, District of West Vancouver, BC, Canada

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Joni Vajda is this year’s recipient of the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Program Excellence Award in the over 15k population category. She is the Outreach Coordinator for the *Keeping Connected* program at the West Vancouver Seniors’ Activity Centre. *Keeping Connected* programs are specially designed to support vulnerable seniors in their pursuit to live independently and enjoy a high quality of life.

JUDITH-KATE FRIEDMAN

Founder/director of Songwriting Works Educational Foundation, Washington, USA

www.songwritingworks.org



Judith-Kate Friedman is an award-winning vocalist, producer, and composer who creates musical contexts for social expression and transformation. As founder/director of Songwriting Works Educational Foundation she has collaborated with more than 3,300 elders, youth, and families, age 4 to 106, composing 300+ songs in communities diverse in cognitive, physical and mental health, culture and economic circumstances. Her research-based method has been shown to have lasting positive cognitive, social and health impacts for elders in dwelling in long-term and memory care settings and their loved ones and care partners. A fellow of the Jubilation Foundation, Ms. Friedman trains health and social service professionals, teaching artists and creative aging advocates across the lifespan. She serves as a master teaching artist with the National Center for Creative Aging’s (US) Creative Caregiving Initiative, and continues to perform and tour. Watch for Songwriting Works’ forthcoming album “Life’s a Song.”

JULIE GROSS MCADAM, PhD

Founder and Director of Mac.Art program, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

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Julie Gross McAdam PhD is a gerontologist, an author and the program director of MAC.ART, an established, internationally respected and multi-award winning dementia-specific art as recreation therapy program (www.macart.com.au). Established in 2001, the MAC.ART program draws on the life-story experiences of participants to create large scale, permanent, communal artworks. For the past decade, Dr Gross McAdam has directed over three thousand artists in aged and community healthcare settings in Australia and North America, to create more than thirty communal artworks that depict the life and times of the contributing participants. Dr Gross McAdam is an Executive Member of the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care (North America). She holds undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in the graphic arts, recreation therapy, aged care and dementia services. These qualifications include a Graduate Certificate in Aged Services, a Graduate Diploma in Dementia Care and Service, and a Master of Health Science – Aged Services degree. Her ongoing research and PhD thesis focuses on the relationship between art and wellbeing for those living with dementia.

LEEANNE STRINGER

Art Teacher, Member of the At This Age group, Vernon, BC, Canada
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Leeanne Stringer is a graduate of the Alberta College of Art. She has over thirty years of educating and inspiring others to be creative. She owns and operates her own private art school in Calgary, Alberta where students were introduced to drawing, painting, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and papier mache. Five years ago she moved to Vernon, B.C. and now solely operates a large summer art camp in Calgary. Leeanne is both a two and three dimensional artist. She paints and works in ceramic/concrete sculpture. Her work with mentally challenged students and children suffering from severe rheumatoid arthritis at the Alberta Children’s Hospital has led her to continue her education in the field of the Expressive Arts at the Prairie Institute of Expressive Art Therapy in Calgary. She will graduate in June of 2016 as a certified facilitator focusing on working with seniors.

MARY JANE KNECHT

Manager, Creative Aging Programs, Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington, USA
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Mary Jane Knecht is a Manager of Creative Aging Programs at the Frye Art Museum. She designs, facilitates, and oversees *here:now*, a museum-based arts engagement program for adults living with dementia and their care partners, and *Bridges*, home-based creative experiences for adults living with more progressed dementia. She also curates and co-presents *Meet Me at the Movies*, an interactive film program, and conducts professional development workshops, conferences, and public events on the topic of creativity, aging, and dementia. Ms. Knecht leads the Frye’s Creative Aging Advisory Committee that consists of community advocates for persons with dementia, artists, researchers and clinicians in dementia care, and person(s) with dementia. She received her BA in visual anthropology and poetry from The Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA) and has worked at the Frye Art Museum since 2004.

TERRIE BABIUK

*Owner of All About You Helping Hands, Caregiver, Member of the At This Age group,
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Terrie Babiuk has a passion for seniors. She owns a business that offers help for seniors. Many of her clients live with dementia. Terrie believes that giving her clients the respect, love and support are important and the kind of care they deserve. Her approach to care includes laughter and fun that enriches the lives of her clients.

~Abstract Submitters~

ALISON CADA

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Alison Cada is passionate working for the elderly. He is a certified massage therapist specializing in geriatrics and a Registered Nurse (RN) currently working for ASC as manager of a Dementia Adult Day Program. With certification from Opening Minds through Art (OMA), he is recipient of University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing Covenant Health ASPIRE Award 2015.

JODI BRESLER

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Jodi Besler is an RN, a certified gerontological nurse, certified diabetes educator, certified adult educator and has worked with seniors for 22 years. She started out with a home care business, then worked for CareWest for 18 years. For the last six years, she has worked as an educator for six personal care homes in Calgary. She is committed to empowering her staff in providing excellent care for their clients contributing to their quality of life, and to celebrating them as unique and valued individuals.