

Collaborating for a Dementia-Friendly Washington: **Expanding Possibilities**

Speaker Bios



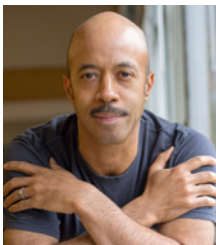
Becky Bendixen — Tribal Specialist, Wisdom Warrior T-Trainer, Northwest Regional Council

Becky Bendixen (Unangax) was born in the Territory of Alaska in King Cove, a fishing village of 700 people, located about 650 miles from anywhere. She lived in King Cove, happily subsisting on the plentiful Alaskan bounty for over 40 years before moving to Washington State. As a tribal specialist for Northwest Regional Council, she co-created Wisdom Warriors, a culturally tailored approach for managing chronic conditions. The Wisdom Warriors program is changing elders' lives on a daily basis and she feels blessed to be one of the program's creators. Becky has increased her outreach to indigenous nations every year as Wisdom Warriors goes nationwide. Collaborating with tribes to implement Wisdom Warriors and share it throughout indigenous communities will always be one of her life's greatest passions. She notes, "Embracing our Indigenous ways is a priority for our people, as we heal and become stronger in ways that honor our sovereignty."



Britta Willson, MA — Lead, Dementia Friendly in the Gorge

Britta Willson is a gerontologist who has worked with older adults for over 20 years. She lives in The Dalles, Oregon and works as the program coordinator for Providence Volunteers in Action. This organization provides social and practical support to older adults in Hood River and Klickitat Counties. Through her work with the Aging in the Gorge Alliance, Britta helped the Mid-Columbia Gorge region become the first community in Oregon to join the Dementia Friendly America network.



Chris Daigre — Owner, danceDaigre www.danceDaigre.com

As a dance and fitness teacher for over 25 years, Chris was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease about two years ago. After accepting the new reality, and with a grant from the Northwest Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, he created DANCE for the Body, Mind and Spirit. This is a dance class for people with Parkinson's disease, based on his personal journey with movement that feels good on his body. The result was a class that incorporates great music, relaxation, joint mobility, range of motion, balance, and cognitive enhancement.

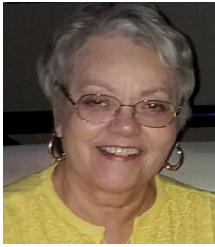


Dave Baldrige — Executive Director, International Association for Indigenous Aging

Dave Baldrige (Cherokee) is a nationally-recognized Native advocate for elder issues who has served as the Executive Director of the International Association for Indigenous Aging since 2003. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging from 1992-2002. His recent work includes national leadership for the Center for Disease Control's initiatives to address Alzheimer's disease and dementia among American Indians.

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Flavia Batteau Walton, PhD. — Lead, South County Action Team, Dementia Friendly America Prince George's County, Maryland

Dr. Flavia Batteau Walton currently leads the Dementia Friendly America Prince George's County Initiative in South County. In this capacity, she developed and implemented several programs to educate and serve the community. This includes the Purple Worship Service targeted to meet the cognitive needs of individuals living with dementia and their families and a grief and recovery support group for individuals experiencing a loss of any kind during the pandemic.

Dr. Walton received a B.A. from Mills College in Oakland California and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. She has spent most of her career identifying and mobilizing resources to build human and community capacity that improves education, health, and economic outcomes for individuals and organizations. In her leadership positions, Dr. Walton has worked with elected local, state, and national officials to mobilize community groups and institutions to garner support and advocacy for the most vulnerable individuals and their families. She uses her knowledge to develop and evaluate programs and policies that impact the lives and environments of individuals, their families, and their communities.



Heather Chun, MSW — Senior Director of Aging and Caregiver Programs, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)

Heather Chun was involved in a partnership between NAPCA and Dementia Friends Hawaii to culturally adapt Dementia Friends and outreach strategies to engage Chinese and Samoan communities. Prior to NAPCA, Heather worked in Hawaii's Aging Network where she helped develop systems change initiatives, such as Age Friendly Honolulu, the Hawaii Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (HADI), and the Hawaii State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD).



Jennifer Kulik, Ph.D. — Founder and CEO of SilverKite Community Arts

Dr. Kulik is the Founder and CEO of SilverKite Community Arts (www.silverkite.us), a Seattle-based arts company dedicated to designing, supporting, and facilitating intergenerational arts experiences and arts programs for older adults. Through SilverKite, Jen partners with Seattle area organizations to design and facilitate arts programs for persons with dementia and for care partners.

In 2012 Jen was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Fellowship to conduct intergenerational arts research in Singapore. She also received a Fulbright Alumni Award in 2013 to present at a conference in Boston on an intergenerational program she designed with a colleague in Colorado. Jen has presented workshops on intergenerational program development in Brazil, Ethiopia, Singapore, France, the UK, Denmark, and South Africa in addition to many locations in the United States. She holds a Ph.D. in theatre from Arizona State University, an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in theatre from Grinnell College.



Joe Liao — Tai Chi Master

Laurelynn Brooks — Health Advocate/Caregiver and former Science Educator

Master Joe has studied tai chi since childhood, has taught tai chi for over 30 years, and lives his life practicing its principles of harmony, balance, compassion, diligence and loving-kindness. Laure's 30-year career as a science teacher focused on how people learn and actualize their development. She is on a mission to discover each person's unique gift and contribution to society, especially in her role as family caregiver. With the support of Laure's advocacy, Master Joe continued to teach tai chi to the wider community during COVID from inside his memory care home. Together they use their gifts to build healthy, connected communities for a dementia-friendly world.

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Joel Loiacono, MPA and Master's Level HCA — Regional Director for Eastern Washington & North Idaho, Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter

Joel Loiacono has been with the Alzheimer's Association for 23 years. He is a recognized regional speaker on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. He has opened and operated a dementia care facility and has over 23 years of experience in providing dementia care training and support for families.

Joel was born and raised in Walla Walla, graduating with a political science degree in 1984 from Washington State University. He also holds a master's degree in public administration and a master's level certificate in health care administration from Eastern Washington University.



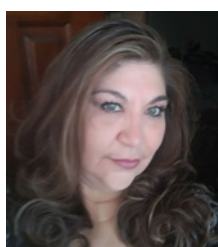
Jordan P. Lewis, PhD, MSW — Associate Director, Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team; Professor, Department of Family Medicine & Biobehavioral Health, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus

Dr. Jordan P. Lewis (Aleut) is a cross-cultural community psychologist, social worker, and credentialed professional gerontologist. His research develops approaches, generated by the wisdom of the elders, to improve the health of all generations. This includes peer-based caregiver education training and community-based programs to develop dementia-friendly families and communities.



Julie Donovan, post-graduate certificate, gerontology — Dementia Champion, Hope Dementia Support

Julie came to HOPE Dementia Support with a background in home care services and hospice. Her work allowed her to see first-hand the difficulties families experienced when dealing with a loved one who has dementia. She joined HOPE Dementia Support as a facilitator about nine years ago, and eventually joined HOPE's Board of Directors as well. She was very excited about the opportunity to bring Dementia Friends to the area and to work with the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington as a co-sponsor. She enjoys meeting "neighbors" through Dementia Friends information sessions.



Leticia Meza — Community Education & Outreach Specialist, East Los Angeles Service Center, Alzheimer's Los Angeles

Leticia is a Community Education & Outreach Bilingual Specialist with Alzheimer's Los Angeles. For over 11 years, she has built strong community partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders. Leticia helps to uplift underserved and diverse communities and connect them to resources and information.

Leticia grew up in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. She is married and has two beautiful children.



Lynn Crawford, RN, BSN — Dementia Friends Champion, HOPE Dementia Support

Shortly after retirement, Lynn's husband developed Lewy Body Dementia. During his illness, she became aware of how little support there was available for the care partners of those living with dementia. Following his death, she joined HOPE Dementia Support as a group facilitator, subsequently joining their board, and eventually becoming Executive Director. Familiar with Dementia Friends from the national website, she was thrilled to have HOPE Dementia Support join the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities of Southwest Washington as co-sponsor in bringing Dementia Friends Washington to Clark County. She loves providing the Dementia Friends information sessions!



LueRachelle Brim-Atkins — Principal Consultant, Brim-Donahoe & Associates; Mother's caregiver

Since 1988, LueRachelle Brim-Atkins has owned the consulting firm, Brim-Donahoe & Associates, where she consults with Fortune 100 businesses; public, private, and non-profit organizations; and boards. She and her husband Michael had the honor of caring for her mother and brother in their home for 4 years. When the physical burden of lifting two loved ones to and from wheelchairs became too much, they cared for them in a nearby adult family home until their deaths.

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Mark Haberman — Planning and Resource Director, Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW)

Mark Haberman serves as co-chair of the Spokane Area Dementia Friendly Community initiative and is now in his fifth year at ALTCEW. Previously, he served for sixteen years as Program Manager and Program Director at Community Action Partnership (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho) leading anti-poverty initiatives. Prior to his work in social services, Mark (a United Methodist clergyperson) served for nearly twenty years in music and program ministry in United Methodist congregations.



Mary Beth Riedner, MLS — Library Services for Dementia/Alzheimer's Interest Group, American Library Association

Mary Beth Riedner resigned as University Librarian for Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL in 2008 to care for her husband with a young-onset dementia. She then developed an award-winning book and reading program for people living with dementia called Tales & Travel Memories. She is a leader of the American Library Association's dementia interest group, has presented at conferences, has written several articles and book chapters, and is active in the Dementia Friendly America initiative.



Meredith Hanley, MSW — Project Director, Dementia Friendly America

Meredith Hanley is the Director of Community Capacity Building with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging in Washington, DC. In this role, she is the Project Director for Dementia Friendly America, which is a multi-sector collaborative on a mission to foster dementia friendly communities across the country. She also provides leadership for Dementia Friends USA, which is part of the global Dementia Friends movement. Meredith oversees the Information and Planning Program, funded through the U.S. Administration for Community Living, which gathers and disseminates information on Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American aging programs through surveys, topical polls, research, and analysis.



Nicole Lomay, BIS — Senior Outreach Program Manager, Banner Alzheimer's Institute

Nicole Lomay (Dine') is the Senior Outreach Program Manager for the Native American Outreach Program at Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. There she provides a new standard of care for dementia patients and their families. She does this by raising awareness about dementia, by bringing brain health programs, and by identifying the types of education and outreach activities needed to meet the unique needs of the Southwest tribes. Nicole completed her Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (Sociology / Native American Justice Studies) from Arizona State University.



Zaldy S. Tan, MD, MPH, FACP — Project Director, TimeOut@UCLA

Dr. Tan has directed the TimeOut@UCLA program since 2013. The aim of TimeOut@UCLA is to foster intergenerational connections between college students and memory-impaired seniors, to provide needed respite to family/caregivers of older adults, and to inspire college students to consider careers in aging.

Dr. Tan is the Director of the Memory & Aging Program and Medical Director of the Goldrich Center for Alzheimer's & Memory Disorders at Cedars-Sinai. He holds the Warschaw Endowed Chair in Neurology and is Professor of Medicine and Neurology at Cedars-Sinai and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He performs epidemiological research and health services research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.