

DECIDEWNY

Coalition for Advance Care Planning in Western New York

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Conversation Sabbath 2018

This year, Conversation Sabbath took place October 26 – November 4th. This initiative, adopted from The Conversation Project, invites faith leaders to “use the power of the pulpit” to address the importance of talking with loved ones about the kind of care you would want (or not want) in the face of unexpected disability and debility, especially if you are unable speak for yourself.

DecideWNY asked local religious leaders, churches and faith communities to commit to participating in this event. Five organizations pledged to distribute information and resources to their congregants and four churches committed to hold presentations and informational sessions at their churches throughout the year. To pledge your participation for this year or for more information visit:

<http://decidewny.org/conversation-sabbath/>

Having Important Holiday “Conversations”

With the holidays right around the corner, it gives you a perfect opportunity to talk to your loved ones at the dinner table. Give them the priceless gift of conversation and make your care preferences known this holiday season. It is a time to share what matters the most to you about how you want to be cared for.

Making a point to set aside the precious time

to speak honestly and openly about wishes can be a special gift to those that you love.



The perfect holiday gift: <https://youtu.be/aX8M4yFBx14>

Share Your Stories

Elder Wiggins, Chaplain at Terrace View Long Term Care, shares his story of having advance care planning conversation with his extended family following a delicious Thanksgiving Day dinner. After facing an unexpected medical situation involving his sister, he decided to have a conversation with his family to ensure everyone heard the same thing to limit any confusion should there be a time he was unable to help doctors make his own decisions for care. As he says, “Insurance is important, but assurance is more important.”

Click [here](#) to listen his account of how he started this ever-important conversation with his family.



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Students' Corner *Chronicles of a Fourth-Year Medical Student*

Eva Zimmerman is a 4th year medical student at the University at Buffalo, eagerly awaiting acceptance into an Internal Medicine residency program. She recently completed a rotation with the Supportive Care and Palliative Medicine Team at ECMC. While with this team, she learned not only about support and resources provided in a hospital setting, but had the fortunate experience of going out into the community to discuss the importance of advance care planning. Read her story [here](#).

Featured Coalition Member:

Mary Catherine Kennedy, a registered nurse for over 50 years in the WNY community, has been a very committed and active member of the DecideWNY Coalition. She is a certified Respecting Choices Facilitator and Advance Care Planning instructor, obtaining these certifications in June, 2013. Since this time, she has presented at various faith sites and to graduate and doctoral nursing students at D'Youville College. She, along with Dr. Denise Dunford (also from D'Youville College— Nursing) participated in this year's Conversation Sabbath with several presentations at St. Martin of Tours Parish. The event were extremely successful, distributing over 300 healthcare proxy forms, accompanied with resources from [The Conversation Project](#). Mary Catherine says, "The challenge we have is listening, encouraging, suggesting, reminding and being there for those we care about and care for, to help them, answer questions and assist them in this process." Click [here](#) to read more about her background and the importance of this topic as it relates to her fantastic work in this community.



From the News Desk:

["One Day Your Mind May Fade. At Least You'll Have a Plan."](#) The New York Times

["Good to Go!"](#) by Amy Pickard (tcp-blog)

["What Happens When the Family Cannot Agree on End-of-Life Issues?"](#) by Dr. Edward T. Creegan (tcp-blog)

["We Plan for Death Poorly in the U.S."](#) by Dr. Sudip Bose

Upcoming Events:

"Conversations Over Coffee"

April 18th, 2018, 10:00-11:00 AM
Southern Tier Health Care System Training Center
150 N. Union St., Olean, NY

Universal Primary Care Training
April 18th, 2018, 12:00-1:00 PM
Universal Primary Care
135 N. Union St., Olean, NY

Foster Grandparents Program
April 18th, 2018, 2:00-3:00 PM
Brookside Community
301 W. Henley St., Olean, NY

Inspirational Quote:

*Let our advance worrying
become advance
thinking and planning.*

~Winston Churchill

To request a **FREE** presentation on advance care planning or for more information, please visit: <http://decidewny.org/home/events-and-training/>