

Alzheimer's caregiving seminar coming to Fairfield

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FAIRFIELD TWP. – A caregiving seminar for residents whose parents have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia is coming to the Cricket Hill Brewery from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13.

The seminar is being offered through Alzheimer's New Jersey, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting New Jersey families affected by Alzheimer's disease.

The seminar will feature cold craft beer, snacks, and two speakers offering basic information on different dementias and financial advice for caregivers.

"We are holding this for young people who have a connection to Alzheimer's disease. Lots of young people have a connection to this disease through their parents, and are trying to figure out how to properly care for them," said Alzheimer's New Jersey Communications Vice President Julie Schuldner.

"Our message is, simply; you're not alone. Our organization is here, along with other local families in similar situations. We want to get together, share our advice and have people talk about their experiences."

Heather Roman, the programs and services coordinator at Alzheimer's New Jersey, is slated to speak to residents about Alzheimer's and dementia in general. Schuldner said the talk will be a sort of "Alzheimer's 101."

The second speakers at the seminar are Adam D. Rubin, Esq. And Jason Alguram, Esq., from the Levine, Furman, Rubin & Alguram law firm.

"They will speak about the financial and legal issues caregivers may be facing," said Schuldner. "Like taking over power of attorney for parents and some of the next steps people can take if their parents are diagnosed with a form of dementia."

She said both presentations will be part lecture and part question and an-

swer session.

Schuldner said she thought the event would be more appealing to a younger crowd if it was held in a craft brewery, as opposed to local library or senior center.

"We have found that this sort of event definitely helps young caregivers. A lot of the time, they feel isolated, and their bonds with friends and family suffer," she said. "We want to bring people together so they can learn from each other."

She said this seminar in particular was meant for residents aged 21 to 39, who are caring for parents afflicted with dementia, but anyone is welcome to attend.

20 people have registered for the seminar thus far, she said, and a maximum of 75 people can attend.

"If we get close to that, I'll be happy," she said. "We're very excited for this."

The seminar is free of charge, but registration is required. To register, visit alznj.org or call Alzheimer's New Jersey at 1-888-280-6055.

According to their website, over 500,000 people in New Jersey are impacted by Alzheimer's disease. Since 1985, Alzheimer's New Jersey has provided local programs and services seeking to help families and support dementia research.

For more information on Alzheimer's New Jersey, visit alznj.org.

