

Caring FOR YOUR Parents

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CARING FOR YOUR PARENTS PREMIERES ON PBS APRIL 2, 2008

Primetime Special Reveals Stories of Love, Hope, and Loss

Follow-up Panel Discussion Led By Dr. Art Ulene
Offers Advice on How to Begin the Caregiving Conversation

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(BOSTON, MA, FEBRUARY 6, 2008) As the population ages, many adult children are grappling with an unprecedented social, economic, and personal revolution as they transition into the primary caregiver role for their aging parents. With family members now responsible for 80% of elderly care in the United States, nearly every generation is feeling the ripple effects of the aging process. *Caring for Your Parents* is a moving two-hour special that draws much-needed attention to this emotional and universal reality. Comprised of a 90-minute documentary followed by a 30-minute panel discussion, the broadcast event premieres nationally on PBS Wednesday, April 2 at 9:00 p.m. ET (check local listings).

The first 90-minutes of *Caring for Your Parents* underscores today's struggle to keep parents at home, tension between siblings, and the complexity of shifting caregiver roles through an intimate look at five American families. In the end, the documentary—produced, written, and directed by award-winning filmmaker Michael Kirk—contends successful caregiving requires one primary ingredient—love.

"Aging is the chapter in life that is too often skimmed over. However, it is a critical topic that directly impacts all of us, or will in the very near future," explains Kirk. "It's imperative that we turn to our loved ones today, so we are prepared for what happens tomorrow."

Over the course of the film, Kirk examines the caregiving process through the experiences of families from varying cultural and economic backgrounds. The documentary exposes struggles to keep parents at home, shows the impact of caregiving on marriages, and reveals the financial repercussions of eldercare. Through the stories of these five families, we are also given a glimpse into the emotional and physical effects of caregiving that often go unnoticed. Other heartbreak stories explore the decision to stop driving, loss of independence, and tension between caregivers and medical professionals.

Immediately after the 90-minute documentary, medical correspondent Dr. Art Ulene leads *A Conversation About Caring*. This half-hour panel discussion, taped at AARP's Life@50+ National Event & Expo in Boston,

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Massachusetts, offers concrete advice and guidance on how to start the conversation—often the most difficult step in caregiving. The panel of experts includes AARP Publications Editor-in-Chief and co-author of *Caring for Your Parents: The Complete AARP Guide* Hugh Delehanty; Newsweek columnist Jane Bryant Quinn; best-selling author of *Passages* Gail Sheehy; renowned physician Dr. Cora Christian; and leading eldercare expert Dr. Bill Thomas.

This broadcast event represents the first effort of a multi-year relationship between WGBH Boston and AARP to produce programming relevant to baby boomers and is a complement to the book *Caring for Your Parents: The Complete AARP Guide*.

“We are thrilled to launch our relationship with WGBH for *Caring for Your Parents*. This program is an insightful and useful look into the world of caregiving, a complex topic that is extremely relevant and important to AARP, our members and their families,” said Cathy Ventura-Merkel, Senior Vice President, AARP Publications. “Working with WGBH provides a unique opportunity to create and deliver thoughtful, engaging and high quality content that utilizes print, online, and broadcast channels for people age 50+ in ways that have never been done before.”

A list of local eldercare resources and more information about caregiving will be available at www.pbs.org/caringforyourparents in March. Following its broadcast premiere, the complete 90-minute documentary and 30-minute follow-up panel discussion will also be made available, free of charge, on the web site.

THE WGBH LAB—an online destination for independent media makers—has issued an Open Call to filmmakers for completed 3-minute video stories relating to the themes explored in *Caring for Your Parents*. Selected works may be licensed for broadcast in conjunction with the premiere of *Caring for Your Parents*. Learn more at <http://lab.wgbh.org/open-call/watch-over-me>.

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ABOUT WGBH BOSTON

WGBH Boston is America’s preeminent public broadcasting producer, the source of one-third of PBS’s primetime lineup and companion online content as well as many public radio favorites. WGBH is a pioneer in educational multimedia (including the Web, broadband, and interactive television) and in technologies and services that make media accessible for people with disabilities. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors: Emmys, Peabodys, DuPont-Columbia Awards—even two Oscars. In 2002, WGBH was honored with a special institutional Peabody Award for fifty years of excellence. For more information, visit wgbh.org.

ABOUT AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 33 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's 39 million members and Americans 50+; AARP Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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