

Mill Street Loft Presents 3 Evening Programs, July 8, 15 & 22 on Alzheimer's Disease during Michele Muir Photo Exhibit: Every 71 Seconds – Memories of Alzheimer's

Michele Muir, professional photographer and advocate for Alzheimer's disease, will give a gallery talk on Wednesday evening, July 8 from 5:30-7:00 pm about what motivated her to create her photo essay project Every 71 Seconds – Memories of Alzheimer's, which opens at Mill Street Loft's Gallery, 45 Pershing Avenue, Poughkeepsie, on Saturday, June 20 and runs through July 31. Caregivers and persons with early-stage Alzheimer's are most welcome, as are members of the public interested in how Alzheimer's disease is affecting our lives.

On Wednesdays, July 15 and July 22, 5:30 to 7:00 pm there will be screenings of two of the segments from the HBO documentary, The Alzheimer's Project, each followed by a discussion led by an educator from the Alzheimer's Association - Hudson Valley/Rockland/Westchester, NY Chapter.

These programs are FREE and open to the public and being sponsored by Integrated Enterprise Solutions, Inc. (IES) of Wappingers Falls, NY. Additional programs about how art can help Alzheimer's patients and care-givers are planned for the fall. For further information, contact Mill Street Loft at 845-471-7477, info@millstreetloft.org.

The July 15th program will offer a screening and discussion on the HBO Documentary, The Alzheimer's Project: "The Memory Loss Tapes." The HBO description includes quotes from Shari Cookson and Nick Doob who directed and produced this documentary: "While there is hope for the future as science gains momentum, millions of Americans are currently affected by the painful and deadly consequences of Alzheimer's. This documentary profiles seven people living with the disease, each in an advancing state of dementia, from its earliest detectable changes through death. 'We wanted to capture a sense of what it was to be inside the disease,' explains Shari Cookson. 'Our plan was to show the progression of the illness through several stories along the way.... It was moving and life changing that people let us into their lives while this intense experience was happening. You see how much the disease takes from a person, how everything you've learned and been in your life is stripped away—yet you still get these glimmers of the person.' As Nick Doob notes, 'You get a feeling that there's a foundation of personality that never leaves. What makes a person a person seems to somehow sustain itself.'"

The July 22nd program will screen the HBO Documentary, The Alzheimer's Project: "Grandpa Do you Know Who I am". The segment, narrated by Maria Shriver, is drawn from her book, "What's Happening to Grandpa?". It was directed and produced by Eamon Harrington and John Watkin and tells five stories of children, ages 6-15, who are coping with grandfathers or grandmothers suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Maria Shriver provides commentary and delivers valuable "lessons" for the kids, urging them not to blame themselves for what their grandparents do or say. "We are all children of Alzheimer's," says Shriver, sympathetically making it clear that "if it's too painful to visit, you don't have to go." Maria's own father, Sargent Shriver, suffers from the disease; comparing his earlier vitality to his present condition is hard, but it is offset by good memories and an unexpected "gift": bonds between generations that may not have been made otherwise. Ultimately, the film shows how important it is to "go with the flow," offering up a variety of perspectives on how kids can handle a grandparent's loss of memory through kindness, patience and compassion.