

Sparking Memories since 2003

- **40,000** people living with dementia served.
- **3,000** copies of *Sparking Memories: The Alzheimer's Poetry Project Anthology* distributed.
- **5,000** healthcare workers and family members trained in using poetry with dementia.
- **1,500** programming sessions at over 300 facilities.
- **26 States** where programming has taken place: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Washington DC, and Wisconsin.
- **National Endowment for the Arts** listed the APP as a **"best practice"** for the NEA Aging and the Arts Initiative. APP was one of twenty groups in the nation to receive this distinction.
- **Media Coverage:**
The APP has been featured on NBC's "Today" show, NPR's "Weekend Edition", Voice of America, New Zealand National Radio, and Deutschlandradio and has been the subject of over 20 newspaper articles. These stories reached **over 20 million people** and help to keep the issue of quality innovative care for people living with Alzheimer's disease in the public's mind.
- **Memory Arts Café**
A series of free art events for people living with Alzheimer's disease, their caregivers and the general public. The events are co-produced with New York Memory Center and includes light refreshments and the opportunity to chat with the guest artists. The highlight of each event is the creation of a new work of art by the audience and the guest artist.

"The APP helps with more than memory; your program also promotes participants' self-esteem and social skills.

— **Lesley Halliday, Isabella Geriatric, New York City**



Creating a Poem

Alzheimer's Poetry Project

Gary Glazner, Founder & Executive Director
172 5th Ave. #37, Brooklyn, NY 11215
505-577-2250 (cell)
gary@alzpoetry.com
www.alzpoetry.com

"I have lived here a year and this is the first time I have sat through an activity to the end. You made us all poets."

— **Jean Jensen, Attic Angel Place, Madison, Wisconsin**

AWARDS

The Alzheimer's Poetry Project (APP) was the recipient of the 2013, Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Award and the 2012 MetLife Foundation Creativity and Aging in America Leadership Award in the category of Community Engagement.

Unit for the Cognitively Impaired at Fishkill Correctional Facility

In 2014, Glazner began a monthly series of poetry and improvisational theater workshops to create and perform poetry and with the incarcerated men at Fishkill Correctional Facility. Fishkill has the only dedicated unit in the U.S. for people living with memory loss in prison.

APP International Programming

Glazner will be a featured speaker at the Celebrate Creative Ageing at the Sydney Opera House and Art Gallery of NSW in August, 2015. Glazner presented at the 5th Annual Art of Good Health and Wellbeing International Arts and Health Conference in Australia, in 2013. Glazner and project artist Michelle Otero led a workshop on using poetry with people living with dementia at the Koran Arts and Culture Education Service International Arts Education Conference in Seoul, Korea in 2012. The APP completed a pilot project in Poland with support from the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, in 2012. This work builds on APP's 2010 pilot project in Germany with funding from the U.S. Embassy in Berlin.

Caregiver Tool Kit

APP launched with the National Center for Creative Aging and dementia arts groups an on-line tool kit for caregivers to use arts with their loved ones.

<http://creativecaregiving.creativeaging.org/>

Dementia Arts Research Ensemble (DARE)

APP is working with KAIROS dancing heart™; Songwriting Works™; TimeSlips; Dr. Kate de Medeiros, Gerontology and Scripps Fellow in the Department of Sociology at Miami University and Dr. Daniel B. Kaplan, Institute for Geriatric Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College to conduct research in using the arts with people living with memory loss.



Student poets after a session in New York City

PBS NewsHour

In 2013, the U.S. Poet Laureate, Natasha Trethewey, chose the APP for the initial broadcast of her new PBS NewsHour series, "Where Poetry Lives." The series is a partnership between PBS and the Library of Congress. Trethewey writes about working with the APP, "...our grasp of language has a beginning in poetry. To see it used at a very different stage of life, and to such effect, was deeply moving."

PBS NewsHour broadcast: <http://tinyurl.com/ou26jwb>



People living with dementia respond to poetry at the Bowery Poetry Club

"Working with the Alzheimer's people made me think how poetry can help people remember things. At first it was scary, but after I got used to them, it was fun, but it also made me cry."

— **Brittany Whitmore, age 16**