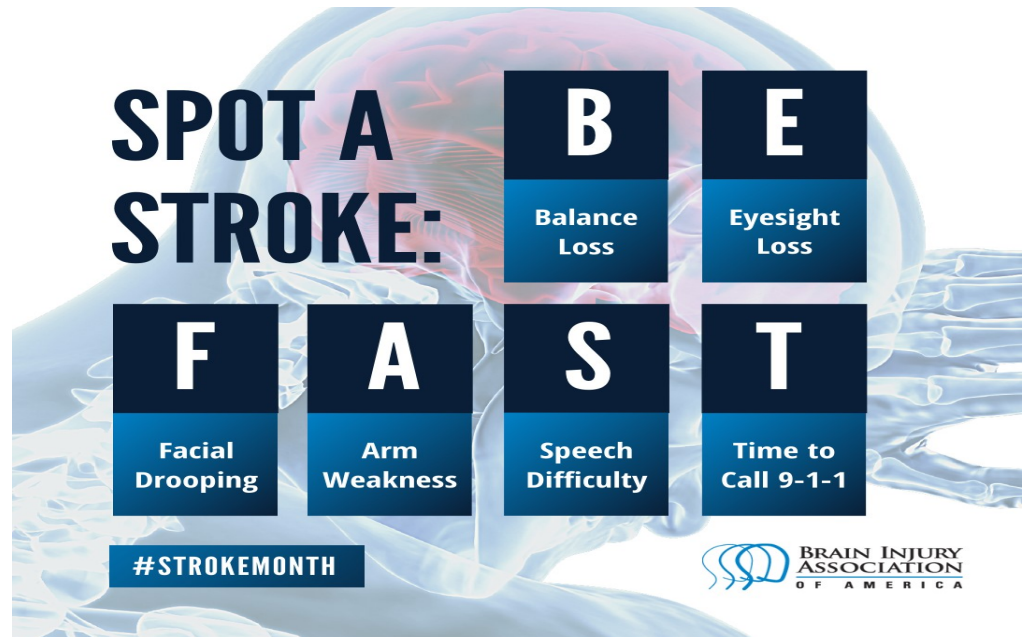


HEADFIRST



May is Stroke Awareness Month



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>May is Stroke Awareness Month</i>	1
<i>Note from Debra</i>	2
<i>Educational Conference Series</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	3
<i>Support Groups</i>	3
<i>Partner Spotlight</i>	4
<i>Trivia Tournament</i>	4

How can we better serve you?

We are in the process of updating BIARI.org. We are looking to include more resources, announcements and archive many of the articles we post on our Facebook page. Please reach out to us if you have any suggestions of materials you would find helpful, or that you think a stranger discovering our site for the first time might find useful.

Email Cynthia@biari.org or phone 401-228-3319.

Did you know that someone in the U.S. has a stroke every 40 seconds? In honor of Stroke Month this May, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is raising awareness of stroke, a form of acquired (or non-traumatic) brain injury. “Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in this country,” says BIAA President/CEO Susan Connors, “but it doesn’t have to be. Unlike many other types of brain injury, stroke is preventable.”

Last year, BIAA and the Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS) released educational videos about the signs of stroke and the risks for people of all ages. The videos featured CNS experts, including Founder and CEO Dr. Mark Ashley, Medical Director Dr. Vibhay Prasad, Director of Rehabilitation Dr. Nicole Andreatta, Texas Regional Director of Clinical Services Dr. Gary Seale, and Texas Regional Internal Medicine Director Dr. Omesh Singh. Presenters covered a range of topics including COVID-19 risk factors for brain injury, stroke myths and realities, and emotional resilience. Anyone can have a stroke, and everyone should be prepared. It’s a matter of knowing what to do, taking action, and spreading the word.

Share this infographic (above) with your community to help people recognize the signs of stroke and follow BIARI on social media for educational posts throughout the month or go on our website at www.BIARI.org.

WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED?

REMINDER...

Memberships run from January to December.

Visit our website www.BIARI.org to renew your membership.

Perks include:

-Unlimited access to BIARI's Resource Center and Resource Guide

-Support groups and education and awareness programs

*-Subscription to the Brain Injury Association of America's quarterly magazine, *The Challenge!**

-Brain Injury membership card and a decal

-Newsletters, informational mailings and member appreciation events

-FREE enrollment in yoga classes designed specifically with brain injury survivors needs in mind

-Discount admission to our Annual Statewide Brain Injury Conference and educational events

A Note From Our Executive Director

Dear Members,
Happy Spring!

We here at BIARI are optimistic that soon in-person events and connecting face-to-face with all of you will resume as our state's population is steadily being vaccinated.

Our staff continues to find ways to provide the services and support our clients need which leads me to announce an exciting new development at BIARI! Thanks to funding from the Department of Health, a pilot program is underway and we are excited to have Colleen McCarthy join us as a part-time Case Manager. This new program will allow BIARI to better assist survivors, caregivers and families get the help they need when they need it. We are grateful to have Colleen on board!

As of right now, our support groups are still being held virtually to help provide resources and support to survivors and caregivers. As always, our resource library is available by telephone or in-person by appointment. Our conference series continues through October and we have a number of events coming up, including our Hidden Treasure Gala October 7. We look forward to celebrating better days in the future. In the meantime, please stay safe!

Debra Sharpe

Annual Statewide Brain Injury Educational Conference



In honor of our 20th Educational Conference, BIARI will be offering a series of virtual educational webinars.

June 4- Noon - 1:00 P.M. 1 CEU
"Covid 19 – Neurocognitive and Psychological Effects"

*June 9 - 3:30 - 4:45 P.M. 1 CEU
"The Rhode Island REAP Manual: A Concussion Management Program for Students "

October 20 - Noon - 1:00 P.M. 1CEU
"Who's the Victim: Management of TBI in MVA"

Sessions are \$20 each or the entire series for \$100.

*Please note school nurses can view this session for free and pay \$10 if they wish to receive the CEU's. Attendance is underwritten by the RI Department of Health.

Visit www.BIARI.org for additional information , sessions and to register

Upcoming Events



Whisky Tasting: Our exclusive whisky tasting event will take place in early December 2021. Check www.BIARI.org for more details.

Hidden Treasure Gala: An evening of elegance and sophistication awaits you at BIARI's signature fundraising event of the year, **Hidden Treasure Gala**. Following "the year that was," this highly anticipated and pre-eminent RI culinary event returns on **Thursday, October 7** to an exclusive and sought-after venue – Providence Art Club; undoubtedly one of RI's true and historic "hidden gems." Over 16 of RI's top executive chefs and restaurants will partner with some of the region's most renowned vintners, breweries and suppliers to offer food and wine samplings that will take your breath away - all coordinated by event chair Ellen Slattery, proprietor of award-winning Gracie's and Ellie's restaurants. Live and silent auctions will feature one-of-a kind packages. Emcee for this glittering evening will be the incomparable Sir Jeremy Bell, all the way from Edinburgh, Scotland, kilt and bagpipes in hand. For additional details, please contact Neil Sharpe by email at neil@biari.org or by phone at 401.524.2799.



Virtual Support Groups are Beneficial

Our support groups allow persons with brain injury and family members to meet with others in similar situations and gain invaluable emotional support and friendships. The groups also provide a vital opportunity to share information and resources. Additionally, speakers visit to discuss a variety of brain injury topics and attendees learn of education opportunities within the region. While our traditional in-person groups are still on hold, we continue to have a virtual meeting on Tuesday morning at 10a.m. and Friday evenings at 7:00p.m. To join a Zoom Support Group follow the link below or check www.BIARI.org for more details.

<https://zoom.us/j/93510096512?pwd=cXpCSk9ObnNvdUQ3Y2h6cSs1ZTFkZz09>

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—Greenwood Credit Union



Greenwood Credit Union, based in Warwick, Rhode Island, has recently partnered with BIARI to support our mission and to raise awareness of brain injury. Frederick Reinhardt, President and Chief Executive Officer, gave us a glimpse of our partnership.

Can you share a little of GCU's history and how you envision the future for GCU?

Greenwood Credit Union was founded over 70 years ago for the purpose of providing the local community with access to affordable and convenient banking services. While we've expanded our outreach beyond the local community, the Credit Union has remained true to that spirit of providing high quality banking products and services with personalized customer service.

What, if any, are special motivators for GCU in choosing to support community organizations generally?

Greenwood Credit Union likes to partner with local organizations that make a significant impact on the community. We look to support organizations that bring families and individuals hope for a brighter tomorrow. We see ourselves as a company that helps our customers reach their long-term financial goals. We too, are helping families have a brighter future. One of our core values is working together. We define it as working with each other, in our community and for our customers. Being present and supportive of the local community is in our corporate DNA.

What specifically, if anything, persuaded you to enter into a partnership with BIARI?

When a loved one is injured in any way, it is an unsettling event. When the injury involves the brain, the event can be traumatic and confusing as each brain injury is specific to the individual. The work that BIARI does to support survivors and families effected by brain injury provides reassurance at a time of intense vulnerability. In addition, BIARI's proactive efforts to prevent brain injury are a valuable initiative to spare many families from the trauma associated with such injury.

Do you have any personal experience with or knowledge of brain injury or know someone who does?

Our Vice President of Human Resources is a member and volunteer of BIARI. Her son is a survivor of a Traumatic Brain Injury sustained eleven years ago at the age of 18. She has shared with our team the challenges that a brain injury can present not only for the survivor, but also for the family when they are faced with a sudden "unseen" injury, and the decisions that must be made for their continuing care. She has spoken highly of the support and resources provided by BIARI, from the initial guidance years ago, to educational and social opportunities today.

How would you like to see the partnership between GCU and BIARI developing in the future?

I expect that we would continue to support the work of BIARI with financial contributions and participation in the organization's fundraising activities. Each month our Greenwood Credit Union employees participate in a fundraising effort for local, charitable organizations. We call it "Casual for a Cause". For a \$5.00 donation, our employees get to "dress-down" at work. I'm envisioning a "Casual for a Cause" day where BIARI is the sponsored organization and the BIARI provides some brain injury prevention information to the Credit Union employees as part of this fundraising effort. It would be a win-win for all involved!

Thank You To All For Making "Prove You Are A Brainiac" Virtual Trivia Tournament A Success!



Our second-ever "Prove You Are a Brainiac" virtual trivia event took place on April 22, 2021 and helped raise nearly \$8,000 for BIARI. The winning team, dubbed "Chaos," are all colleagues at Ocean State Computers in Providence. The members of the winning team will hold onto the Brainiac trophy until next year and each receive a Visa gift card.

The best team name was "Zoom and Gloom" made up of employees of Operation Stand Down RI, located in Johnston. This year's team names were particularly clever and it was challenging selecting just one.

The winner of the Pre Contest trivia question was Andy Brown, a member of team "I'd Rather Be on Cash Cab" from Greenwood Credit Union.

Below we would like to highlight our generous sponsors and supporters:

Loyal Supporters: Navigant Credit Union, Rob Levine & Associates, Greenwood Credit Union

Gold Sponsors: Hunter Insurance, Inc., Coast Realty, BayCoast Bank

Silver Sponsors: Pawtucket Credit Union, Malchar Chiropractic Wellness Center

Bronze Sponsors: AQUASGROUP, BankNewport, Bosworth Co., Localz Kitchen and Cocktails, Petrodrive Transportation, LLC

