DiNapoli Presents Report On Jobs and Earnings

New York state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli recently released “Employment Trends for People with Disabilities in New York City,” a report on inequitable employment and earnings, at a celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month hosted by the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities.

“There is a stark disparity in employment rates and wages for people with disabilities,” said DiNapoli. “A recent study shows that when businesses embrace disability inclusion, it benefits the corporation and its shareholders. There are some positive signs that companies are opening up jobs to people with disabilities, but more needs to be done to get employers to recognize that inclusion is a smart business decision.”

Continued on page 16
Early Voting Available for First Time

For the first time in history, New Yorkers have the option to participate in early voting for the upcoming election from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3.

Those who choose to do so can select any one of those nine days to cast their ballots, or they can continue to vote on Election Day, which is Nov. 5. There will be more than 200 polling sites for early voting across the state.

This allows people with disabilities and others to vote at their convenience and also avoid the congestion on Election Day. The flexibility of more than a week of early voting will most likely result in increased participation from everyone. In addition, people still have the option to use an absentee ballot.

Each county in the state was charged with choosing the sites and what hours they would operate in advance of Election Day. The state mandated that each must be open a minimum of 60 hours during the early voting period.

The New York City Board of Elections chose sites in all five boroughs, which may not be the same as an individual’s site on Election Day. Also, the hours for early voting varies each day, so residents should check before they plan to vote.

Just as on Election Day, all sites are required to be accessible, and there are guidelines that must be followed. The Center for Independence of the Disabled New York (CID- NY) will be checking the polling places to determine which ones are following accessibility guidelines.

They have recruited volunteers to help them, and these surveyors have been trained. CIDNY is asking the public to keep them informed about any accessibility problems by calling Margi Trapani, CIDNY director of education, at 347 635-2045.

Early voting has already been instituted by 39 other states. New York adopted the policy in January. Locations and hours can be found at www.vote.nyc. ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml.

Deadline for the December Issue of Able Newspaper Will Be Nov. 13
Courts Block Trump’s Public Charge Rule

Three separate federal district courts recently issued injunctions blocking the Trump Administration from implementing its public charge rule which is meant to limit or reject green card and visa applications filed by immigrants who are disabled and/or have low-income, because they might become a burden on U.S. taxpayers.

The suits were brought in the Federal Courts of New York, Washington and California. The Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), along with 17 other disability rights organizations, filed amicus briefs in each of these cases, stating that the administration’s rule is discriminatory and would create confusion and fear among disabled and/or low-income, because they might become a burden on U.S. taxpayers.

In New York v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Judge Daniels wrote “[The Trump Administration did] not explain how disability alone is itself a negative factor indicative of being more likely to become a public charge. In fact, it is inconsistent with the reality that many individuals with disabilities live independent and productive lives.”

In Washington v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Judge Peterson wrote “Amici provide a compelling analysis of how the factors introduced by the Public Charge Rule disproportionately penalize disabled applicants by triple-counting the effects of being disabled.”

However, these are temporary injunctions that could still be appealed. Therefore, DREDF is asking advocates to remain apprised of any new developments regarding overturning these rulings.

Public charge is a term used to describe a person deemed to be primarily dependent on government assistance. The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Public Charge would expand the conditions under which DHS can exclude more applicants for U.S. entry or green card status.

They may deem an individual not self-sufficient if they are already receiving or might qualify to receive public assistance such as food stamps, housing subsidies and other benefits. The public charge policy has been in place for more than 100 years, but the new requirements would favor only the healthiest and wealthiest immigrants.

“The public charge rule blocked today would discourage immigrant families from utilizing critical public services out of fear of harming their immigration status,” said Peter Berns, CEO of The Arc. “It discriminates against people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and others who use vital programs like Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, housing assistance and other important benefits.”

“We commend the federal court for striking down another attempt by the Trump Administration to attack immigrants,” said Cesar Vargas, co-director of the Dream Action Coalition and New York’s first undocumented attorney. “By striking down the public charge rule, the court strikes down another ugly head of xenophobia. There’s no legal and rational basis for the White House to alter regulations unless it’s to drastically decrease the number of immigrants who are not white or English speaking and to rob them of their ability to get permanent status and eventual citizenship.”

Bill Aims to End SSDI Waiting Periods

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.), ranking member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, along with Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-Tex.), chair of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), House Budget Committee member, recently introduced the Stop theWait Act.

Currently, after waiting months to qualify for coverage through Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), individuals with disabilities must wait another five months to get a disability check and another two years to obtain health coverage through Medicare. The Stop the Wait Act would eliminate these mandated waiting periods.

“Workers who have paid into the Social Security Disability Insurance fund should not be denied their benefits at the time they need them most,” said Casey. “For many individuals living with disabilities, these waiting periods can be deadly. We must eliminate this barrier to accessing necessary and often life-saving supports and ensure timely, equitable access to health care.”

“Individuals with disabilities should not face an onerous waiting period for the Social Security benefits they earned,” said Fitzpatrick. “Improving access to health care is vitally important, and I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation to give Americans the care they need in a proper time frame.”

According to the three who drafted the bill, in 2017, more than 10,000 Americans died while waiting for SSDI benefits to begin. The wait times greatly affect adults with rapidly progressing diseases such as Huntington’s Disease, cancer and cystic fibrosis.

American workers who have developed a disability may be eligible for SSDI, a benefit financed by employee/employer payroll taxes. SSDI requires an application and determination period that can last more than 18 months, as well as mandated five months to obtain a disability payment, and then an additional-mandated 24 months to receive Medicare benefits.

The Stop the Wait Act aims to remedy this by requiring the Social Security Administration to begin payment to an individual eligible for SSDI immediately after they are determined to be eligible for the program and by phasing out the 24-month waiting period for Medicare disability benefits.

The bill will also direct the National Academy of Medicine to conduct a study to ensure the elimination of the waiting periods are resulting in better health and community living outcomes for eligible SSDI recipients and their families. This legislation is endorsed by a number of organizations, including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Justice in Aging, the Medicare Rights Center, the National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the National Council on Independent Living and Paralyzed Veterans of America.
Advocates Want Cuomo to Sign Drug Bill

A broad range of organizations representing patients and doctors is urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo to approve a bill that would protect health plan members from increases in out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in the middle of a contract year.

The 36 groups sent a letter to Cuomo calling on him to sign into law S2849/A2969. The bill, which passed the state legislature with bipartisan support, prohibits health care plans from making changes to drug formularies during a contract year and requires notification of changes to formularies in the upcoming contract year.

“Patients with chronic conditions carefully choose health plans that best match the needs of their complex conditions,” said Mary Bartlett of the Arthritis Foundation. “When a health insurer makes changes to the formulary in the middle of a plan year, it can mean delays in care or a patient stopping medication all together. Signing this bill is essential to protecting patients in New York State from this unfair insurance practice.”

Many consumers choose their health plan based on prescription drug coverage and costs, particularly patients with multiple chronic conditions. But while consumers are locked into their plan for the contract year, the insurance company is not. It can switch drugs into a different tier with a higher co-pay, coinsurance or deductible.

The legislation permits new medications, generics and bi-similars to be added to drug formularies. That would allow patients to switch to new medications in consultation with their doctors and allow lower-cost generic drugs to replace brand name drugs when they enter the market.

Organizations that signed onto the letter include the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, Center for Independence of the Disabled New York, the Mental Health Association of New York State and the New York American College of Physicians.

“The bottom line is that when New Yorkers sign a contract with an insurance company, mid-year changes leave

Continued on page 15

Governor Urged to Increase Funding for LTC

New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) and other disability advocates are asking the public to contact Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) about additional funding that is needed for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).

The LTCOP serves as an advocate and resource for people living in nursing homes and other facilities. It is intended to protect residents’ rights, health and safety by receiving, investigating and resolving complaints made by or on behalf of residents. However, according to NYAIL, state funding for this program has been so low that many residents are not served by the program. They have been calling for more funding for the last few years, because providers lack the resources to hire enough staff to serve everyone in the facilities.

The New York City Comptroller’s Office recently released an audit on LTCOP which confirmed the program does not have sufficient resources and falls behind most other states. It found that many residents in LTC facilities lack representation from an ombudsman due to lack of volunteers and paid staff.

The audit indicates that there is about half the staff needed to meet recommended levels. In addition, the comptroller’s audit shows that New York invests substantially less in their LTCOP than most other states, ranking 39 out of 50. NYAIL stated that people in LTC facilities are vulnerable to abuse and neglect, so it is essential that the state ensure that they have proper representation when needed.

They are asking disability advocates to contact Cuomo about sufficiently funding the LTCOP in the upcoming budget and to include any personal experiences they have had with a nursing facility. Cuomo’s phone number is 518 474-8390.

Auditor’s Report

The audit audit shows that New York invests substantially less in their LTCOP than most other states, ranking 39 out of 50. NYAIL stated that people in LTC facilities are vulnerable to abuse and neglect, so it is essential that the state ensure that they have proper representation when needed.

They are asking disability advocates to contact Cuomo about sufficiently funding the LTCOP in the upcoming budget and to include any personal experiences they have had with a nursing facility. Cuomo’s phone number is 518 474-8390.

CPW Honors Social Club Member

Sean-Paul Denis, right, was recently honored at the Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) 70th annual pioneer dinner dance in New Rochelle and spent time with, left, Lisa Ferri, CPW Pioneer Social Club director.

He is a member of the club, which has more than 200 adult members who plan activities with the assistance of CPW staff. He received the Martie Osterer Award given each year to a club member who has made great strides. Denis currently lives at St. Dominic’s Home McHale Residence and is the leader of his peers at the residence, who depend on him to stay informed about schedules and events. He is bilingual in English and Spanish.

He enjoys singing and has performed at the Pioneer Club’s annual talent show and karaoke nights. In addition, Denis has recently taken up photography. During the event, the club presented him with a camera so he can practice his new hobby.

Such a Pretty Girl

Nadina LaSpina, a disability rights activist tells the story of her liberation from oppressive standards of normalcy, showing that freedom comes not through cure, but through organizing to end exclusion from public and social life.
The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recently released a report, “TSA’s Improvements for Screening of Passengers with Disabilities,” indicating that there have been improvements made that will lead to more positive experiences for travelers who are disabled.

The TSA report indicated that improvements were made in terms of enhanced etiquette and sensitivity training. It also states that they have incorporated new best practices to address complaints from people with disabilities that will manifest into improved service during the security screening process.

“TSA revised its initial and recurrent training requirements for those who perform screening functions at airports as a result of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and other focus groups’ participation earlier this year. The report also reveals that the focus groups showed a benefit to updating TSA’s passenger support specialist training,” said Carl Blake, PVA’s executive director. “We are pleased that TSA used the input of Paralyzed Veterans of America and additional focus groups in order to improve the engagement that travelers with disabilities deserve.”

Additional findings from TSA’s report show airline travelers filed 1,816 disability complaints from Oct. 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019. Of those complaints, 16.2 percent were from travelers who encountered problems while using wheelchairs or scooters.

“It’s extremely disappointing to see individuals experiencing discrimination or lack of accommodations simply because they use a wheelchair or scooter,” said Blake. “We hope that TSA’s incorporation of best practices into training will prevent these problems in the future.”

Study Looks at Wheelchair Restraints on Airplanes

The U.S. Access Board recently announced that it will conduct a study to assess the feasibility of equipping aircraft with restraint systems, which would allow passengers who use wheelchairs to remain in them on airplanes, that would allow the aircraft with restraint systems, which would allow passengers who use wheelchairs to remain in them on flights.

“We are pleased that the U.S. Access Board is moving forward with this study, which was required under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018,” said Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Executive Director Carl Blake. “The inability of our catastrophically disabled veterans and those with disabilities to remain in their wheelchairs on airplanes causes risk of injuries and limits their independence. Additionally, when passengers’ wheelchairs are stowed in the aircraft cargo hold, they are often damaged or mishandled.

We look forward to the U.S. Access Board’s examination of this issue which has the potential to make flying safer and more comfortable for our members and numerous airline travelers who use wheelchairs.”

PVA is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for veterans with spinal cord injury or disease.

They advocate for these individuals on a host of different issues, including their work to ensure accessibility in public buildings, spaces and services.

The report also reveals that 75 percent of complaints came from travelers who are disabled veterans. Of those complaints, 16.6 percent were from travelers who are disabled veterans.

The TSA report also states that improvements were made in terms of enhanced etiquette and sensitivity training. It also states that improvements were made in terms of enhanced etiquette and sensitivity training.
The Perspective of Time

BY JAMES WEISMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I know that when I was a young adult, I probably didn’t want to read about something that happened forty years ago. But it was forty years ago, that EPVA (now United Spinal Association) sued the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for access to buses and subways.

Five years later, we reached a settlement requiring lifts on new buses and key subway stations to be made accessible. The agreement also provided the Access-A-Ride paratransit program for those who can’t use even accessible transit or whose destinations are unreachable by transit, because it hasn’t been made accessible yet.

Forty years ago, the American Public Transit Association (APTA) was holding its convention in New York City. APTA is comprised of transit industry organizations, including MTA/New York City Transit (NYCT).

Terry Moakley and I attended and watched as a process server handed a summons and complaint to New York City Mayor Ed Koch, on behalf of our organization, charging the City and the Transit Authority with violating the New York State (NYS) Human Rights Law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, and the NYS Public Buildings Law, which requires transit stations and terminals to be made accessible when they are built or renovated.

Our position was when MTA buys a bus, it must buy a bus everyone can use, not just people who can walk. It must buy in a non-discriminatory manner. When it renovates, it must renovate in a non-discriminatory manner. Moreover, we said, every renovated station must be made accessible according to the Public Buildings Law—and we were able to enjoin renovation at ten major subway stations, because MTA refused to obey the law.

The Mayor, the New York Times and every other editorial page, and every City Councilperson—except for one—agreed with MTA’s stance. MTA’s position was basically that accessibility was either impossible or too expensive, both on buses and on trains. Even the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA fought us.

“Too little benefit for too few people at way too much cost” was the prevailing thought.

Obviously, those days are over. Reporters from the Times now identify Koch and the MTA Board of that era as problems—but never engage in enough retrospective examination to realize that both the Mayor and the MTA Board were reflecting the social mores of the time.

To gain perspective on the absolute refusal of the MTA to do anything to benefit people with disabilities (PWDs) forty years ago, the agency actually argued that it doesn’t discriminate, because it never throws disabled people off of mass transit or posts signs that say “No Disabled People Allowed.”

It also said that because the Public Buildings Law applies to transportation stations and terminals and buildings “likely to be used by the handicapped,” it couldn’t have meant the subway, because all stations were inaccessible and unlikely to be used by PWDs, consideration should be given to the forty years before 1979.

During the Nazi era, Hitler exterminated between 75,000 and
President Issues NDEAM Proclamation

President Donald Trump recently issued a proclamation recognizing October 2019 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), which initiated a series of nationwide events and activities to honor the contributions workers with disabilities make to America’s workplaces and economy.

“The theme for 2019 was “The Right Talent, Right Workplaces and Economy.” Sponsored at the national level by the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), NDEAM allows grassroots organizations to recognize workers with disabilities each October across the nation.

“National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a time to celebrate the contributions of Americans with disabilities to our country’s workforce and economic strength,” said Trump in his NDEAM proclamation. “By supporting the aspirations of all Americans who want to work, we will strengthen our workplaces, economy and communities.”

Today more than ever, there is a race for talent. Historically low unemployment rates and global competition are converging to create a high demand for workers,” said Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia. “Smart businesses are navigating this by tapping into more talent pools, including people with disabilities, who offer not just needed skills, but also creative ways of thinking about how to solve problems and achieve business success.”

NDEAM dates back to 1945, when Congress declared the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1962, the word physically was deleted to acknowledge the needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities.

In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to what it is today. Upon its establishment in 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

During the month, employers of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate, as well as educators, youth service professionals, business associations, labor unions and disability advocacy organizations.

Mayor’s Office Acknowledges Employment Month

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) Commissioner Victor Calise recently held a series of events during October to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

“If we want to be the fairest city in America, we must ensure that everyone has equal access and opportunity,” said de Blasio. “During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recognize the contributions of hard-working New Yorkers with disabilities and collaborate with our partners to connect more New Yorkers with disabilities to meaningful work.”

“In order to be the most accessible city in the world, we must work to employ more New Yorkers with disabilities so they can have the resources to take advantage of everything the city has to offer,” said Calise. “The National Disability Employment Awareness Month events build on the work of the NYC: ATWORK employment initiative, and MOPD is excited to work with the disability and business communities as well as elected officials and others to spread awareness of disability employment issues throughout October and beyond.”

“Bold measures are required to raise the employment rate for people with disabilities,” said Susan Dooher, executive director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled New York. “We invite the city and state governments to use their purchasing power to create more opportunities for people with disabilities and we look forward to working with MOPD on this issue.”

To commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), Microsoft and the MOPD collaborated on a week-long series of events at various locations in the city.

Resume workshops were available to people who are preparing for college, an internship or a career. Accessibility software demonstrations explained the latest features that focused on vision, hearing, neurodiversity, learning and mobility disabilities.

Job seekers attended employment recruitment events that included professional development seminars and networking opportunities.

Interactive gaming workshops gave participants the opportunity to test adaptive controllers.

Mayor’s Office Acknowledges Employment Month

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) Commissioner Victor Calise recently held a series of events during October to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

“If we want to be the fairest city in America, we must ensure that everyone has equal access and opportunity,” said de Blasio. “During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recognize the contributions of hard-working New Yorkers with disabilities and collaborate with our partners to connect more New Yorkers with disabilities to meaningful work.”

“In order to be the most accessible city in the world, we must work to employ more New Yorkers with disabilities so they can have the resources to take advantage of everything the city has to offer,” said Calise. “The National Disability Employment Awareness Month events build on the work of the NYC: ATWORK employment initiative, and MOPD is excited to work with the disability and business communities as well as elected officials and others to spread awareness of disability employment issues throughout October and beyond.”

“Bold measures are required to raise the employment rate for people with disabilities,” said Susan Dooher, executive director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled New York. “We invite the city and state governments to use their purchasing power to create more opportunities for people with disabilities and we look forward to working with MOPD on this issue.”

To commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), Microsoft and the MOPD collaborated on a week-long series of events at various locations in the city.

Resume workshops were available to people who are preparing for college, an internship or a career. Accessibility software demonstrations explained the latest features that focused on vision, hearing, neurodiversity, learning and mobility disabilities.

Job seekers attended employment recruitment events that included professional development seminars and networking opportunities.

Two Awarded for Vision Research

Attending the 2019 Alfred W. Bressler Vision Science Symposium and Pisart Seminar at The University Club in New York City, left to right, are Bressler Prize recipient Vladimir Kefalov, Lighthouse Guild President Alan Morse and Pisart Award recipient Tiffany Schmidt.

Both awardees were chosen by a panel of leading vision care researchers and physicians for their significant contributions to the field. They each gave a lecture at the event.

Kefalov, a retinal scientist, is a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine in Missouri. His work has generated new insights into mechanisms of multiple human vision disorders, including the causes of photoreceptor dysfunction and degeneration, which affect color and night vision, which are spurring treatments for vision loss.

Schmidt was recognized for her significant contributions in sensory research and circadian biology, which is advancing the understanding of adult retinal function and development. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology and associate director of the Neurobiology Master’s Program at Northwestern University in Illinois.
British video gaming blogger Vivek Gohil, who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, recently became the recipient of a special game controller created for him by well-known computer engineer Ben Heck.

Previously, Gohil, 28, feared his livelihood was coming to an end due to continued muscle deterioration. As his condition worsened, it became difficult for him to even press buttons. However, Heck, a U.S.-based Youtube star, designed special light-touch buttons and a host of other features that allow Gohil to continue gaming. Other adaptations that Heck created include removable joysticks, touch-sensitive sticks, extended trigger buttons and an adjustable stand.

“Gaming was such a big...Continued on page 15
The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation recently announced that William Carpenter Jr., is the recipient of the 2019 Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health.

Carpenter is a professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at Maryland Psychiatric Research Center at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Since 1968, his career has focused on the study and care of people with schizophrenia.

The annual prize recognizes a physician, scientist, public citizen or organization whose extraordinary contribution has made a profound impact on advancing the understanding of mental health and providing hope to those who live with mental illness. The recipient, who receives an honorarium of $150,000, is chosen by an international committee. Established in 2014, the prize is named in honor of Herbert Pardes, a noted psychiatrist, advocate for the mentally ill and the award’s first recipient.

“Participating with others in a field concerned with advancing knowledge and care for persons with severe mental illness is deeply meaningful for me,” said Carpenter. “I am humbled to be a recipient of the Pardes Prize. The honorarium of the prize is being donated as the lynchpin to securing an endowed professorship to support psychiatric research.”

According to the foundation, Carpenter has made major contributions in psychopathology, assessment methodology, testing of novel treatments and research ethics. He has served as principle investigator on five grants funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Carpenter also provided expert testimony in the case of the famed case United States Government vs. John Hinckley. He has served on many editorial boards and advisory committees, authored more than 400 publications and received countless awards in his field.

The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation awards research grants to develop improved treatments, cures and methods of prevention for mental illness. These illnesses include addiction, anxiety, autism, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and schizophrenia. Since 1987, they have awarded more than $408 million in grants.

“William Carpenter has been a transformative force in psychiatry for over 40 years, dramatically changing how we treat schizophrenia, reducing stigma, and enhancing the ethics of treatment and research,” said Herbert Pardes, a president of the foundation. “He is a luminary in the field, whose vision, scientific productivity and tireless advocacy for resources for psychiatric research have improved the lives of countless individuals and families.”
The More Things Change...

By Joan Peters

In 2017 to 10.7 percent in 2018. With disabilities actually in -

security Income (SSI) provides of poverty? Supplemental Se -

people with disabilities out -

working age has a disability. To one in five poor people of -

poverty among people with disabilities of working age.

Of all people of working age in the U.S., only 7.5 percent have a disability. But people with disabilities account for more than 18 percent of people of working age who live in poverty. In other words, close to one in five poor people of working age has a disability.

What will it take to move people with disabilities out of poverty? Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides a subsistence level of income that leaves recipients in pov -

erty. A substantial minority of Social Security Disability In -

surance (SSDI) recipients are also poor.

Employment remains the primary antipoverty policy in the United States. But this is of limited help for people with disabilities. The national em -

ployment rate (the percentage of people who are working) for people with disabilities of working age is 31.4 percent, while the rate for nondisabled people of working age is 74.9 percent.

For many with disabilities, working is not an option. One survey found that only 4.3 per -

cent of people with disabilities of working age who weren’t working or actively seeking work wanted a job. But, the story behind that figure may be more complicated.

Those who can work face sig -

nificant obstacles to escaping poverty. One is the disparity in pay rates. The just-released NYS Comptroller’s Report on Employment Trends for Peo -

ple with Disabilities in New York City found that workers with disabilities earned 20 percent less than their nondis -

abled colleagues.

Difficulty finding jobs, or concerns about losing benefits may deter others from seeking employment. While federal programs exist to help people find jobs while remaining eligi -

ble for government benefits, these programs are not widely known and agency errors with benefits have been reported.

Loss of health insurance is another concern. People who receive government income supports may fear losing their Medicaid or Medicare if they become employed. The uncer -

tainity surrounding the Afford -

able Care Act has only made losing public coverage more of a concern.

Moreover, while discrimi -

nation by covered employers violates the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities often in fact have trouble finding jobs. A recent New York Times article noted that in the tight labor market earlier this year, employers were reaching out to people with disabilities. But a return to a cooler job market may mean fewer opportunities.

Changes in federal antipoverty policy to specifically help people with disabilities are un -

likely in the current political environment. However, this may be a time for strengthen -

ing the cross-disability advoca -

cy that led to laws like the ADA.

Another step is for disability groups to press their concerns with existing mainstream an -
tipovety groups. While these groups often highlight racial and ethnic disparities, they do not tend to focus specifically on disabilities.

Antipoverty advocacy on behalf of people with disabili -
ties tends to be the province of disability organizations. With people with disabilities rep -
senting such a significant percentage of poor people, the larger antipoverty community needs to recognize the role of disability.

Lastly, in an era of consum -
er-driven movements, it is conceivable to think of prod -

ucts or services displaying a “fair employment practices” label. New York State Comp -
troller Thomas DiNapoli has called on 49 of the largest U.S. companies to participate in the Disability Equality Index.

Similar ideas to promote ac -

cessibility have been tried in the past, but have not gained traction large scale.

However, these strategies are worth another look at a point in time where commu -
nications can instantly reach thousands of people at virtu -

ally no cost. The moment may be right as people with disabilities are becoming increasingly visible on fronts ranging from transportation to entertain -

ment. The time has come for measures to bring economic justice for people with disabili -
ties.

Joan Peters is the founder of the Disability Anti-Pover -
yty Initiative, which adresses issues facing people with disabilities and chronic condi -
tions.

We’ve been there, so you can....

Know Before You Go!!!!

Accessibility information of leisure locations for people with mobility challenges

• parking conditions • rest rooms
• ease of navigation • seating
• food services • grounds
• and other import details
• theaters • museums • restaurants • parks & kid friendly venues

For information and space reservation call 516 939-2253 Today!
The deadline for space reservations is November 13
Avoiding Holiday Blues – For People with Vision Loss

By Lisa Beth Miller

With holidays fast approaching, many people are planning gatherings with friends and family. Although these can be a delightful source of joy and happiness, the celebration can also trigger negative feelings. People with vision loss have added challenges to manage.

For some, the holidays represent a time of love and togetherness. For others, the season sparks overwhelming feelings of sadness and loss. Depression can develop from unrealistic expectations, unemployment, memories of lost loved ones and relationships status or loneliness. Getting through the holidays and coping afterwards with the “post-holiday blues” can be challenging.

Also, shortening days bring less exposure to natural light, which can affect hormones and mood. Some people experience seasonal affective disorder, a form of depression, in late fall and winter.

Holidays call on people to be cheerful, buy gifts and forgive past hurts, ready or not. The dimmed lighting of holiday parties can make it more difficult to recognize faces. Social contacts increase with people who may not understand the needs of those with vision impairment. Cooking, shopping, and traveling require more effort.

People can take steps to help make the holidays more enjoyable and less stressful.

Some things people can do to ease the stress include planning travel details and alternating routes carefully and in advance; bringing along necessary devices for reading; shopping before the crowds; limiting celebrations to a few select ones; trying to be patient and asking for help when it’s needed.

It’s not unusual for some to feel sadness, anger and grief during the holiday season. People should acknowledge these feelings and realize that it’s OK to take time to cry or express emotions.

Setting aside differences and trying to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don’t live up to all expectations, can make all the difference. People should make every attempt to delay grievances for a more appropriate discussion time. Chances are others feel the effects of holiday stress, too.

For those who feel lonely or isolated, reaching out and seeking support and companionship can help. Connecting with friends or finding a new community or volunteering to help others can help some feel better.

The holidays don’t have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals change, too. People can choose a few to hold on to while being open to creating new ones.

Coping during the holidays is not easy, but no one has to do it alone. Professional help is available through a number of resources including Lighthouse Guild Behavioral Health services at www.light-houseguild.org.

Lisa Beth Miller, LCSW-R, BCD is Outreach and Referral Coordinator at Lighthouse Guild.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Title: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator (Part-Time)

Description: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator will build upon and administer the ADA accommodation program from start to finish. The position will also be involved in the Light Duty/Return-to-Work program. Other duties include but are not limited to the following: Identifies and performs outreach to employees possibly requiring accommodations; educates management and employees on the rights and duties under the ADA; coordinates with management and employees to develop and provide employees effective and reasonable accommodations; develops written materials and other informational pieces regarding the ADA program; develops and maintains internal measures to track ADA status and compliance and maintains and documents records of all disability and accommodation issues ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies; assures that workers with disabilities are provided effective and reasonable accommodations allowing them to work productively and safely; assure Township-Sponsored activities, Township Facilities and events address accessibility and accommodation concerns.

Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in social sciences, human resource management, business administration or related field and two years of personnel administration experience are required (or a combination of education and/or training and/or experience which provides an equivalent background required to perform the work of the class); a minimum of eighteen (18) months of experience in a position that involved evaluating and administering reasonable accommodation issues subject to the ADA or §504 and completion of a course on barrier-free design or ADA accessibility guidelines which was sponsored or approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs or a department which oversees the Uniform Construction Code in any other State, the American Institute of Architects, the Paralyzed Veterans Association, or the United Spinal Association, within twelve (12) months of hire.

Salary: DOQ

Hours: Part-Time, three days weekly (not to exceed twenty one hours per week).

Apply: Send resume or application to:
Ms. Braedon Gregory, HRIS Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Township of Montclair, 205 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07042 or email: bgregory@montclairmusa.org

Closing Date: Job posting will remain open until position is filled.

We are pleased to announce
That as of August 1, 2019
Brandow Law will be located at
445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 25
Melville, New York 11717

Those sending any correspondence, please address it to the above location. We request that you do not send or drop off anything further to the Suffolk County Stony Brook location.

Brandow Law offers home visits and/or Consultations at other Mutually convenient locations

BRANDOW LAW
Plan Smart. Plan Ahead.

SUFFOLK COUNTY LOCATION
445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 25, Melville, N.Y. 11747
NASSAU COUNTY LOCATION
600 Old Country Road, Suite 328, Garden City, NY 11553
631 675-2540

Remember to Vote

PAGE 11 NOVEMBER 2019 - NEW YORK ABLE NEWSPAPER
Women Take Gold at Paralympic Test Event in Japan

The Women’s U.S. Goalball Team, left to right, Shavon Lockhardt of White Plains, N.Y.; Eliana Mason of Oregon; Ali Lawson of Georgia; Lisa Czechowski of Boonton, N.J.; and Amanda Dennis of Georgia recently won a gold medal at the Paralympic Test Event in Tokyo, Japan. The team allowed just one goal in their three matches, defeating two squads from the host country Japan with scores of 1-0 and 4-1, as well as defeating Parapan American Games champion Brazil with 3-0. Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes who are blind or visually impaired. Participants, who compete in teams of three, use a ball embedded with bells.

U.S. Wins 35 Medals at Swimming Championships

Team USA turned in a 35-medal performance at the recent World Para Swimming Championships in London, England, winning 14 golds, 16 silvers and five bronzes.

Becca Meyers of Baltimore won gold in the 400 free S13, silver in the 200 IM SM13, and bronze medals in the 100 free S12 and in the 100 fly S13. Meyers also set two world records in the 400 free and 200 IM.

“I can’t believe I’ve set two world records,” said Meyers. “It feels amazing. My hard work has paid off, especially after making a huge coaching change. I’m really excited. I can’t wait to see what this year has in store for me as I train for Tokyo 2020.”

Leanne Smith of Massachusetts won two world titles. She won gold in the women’s 50-meter breaststroke SB3 in 57.24 and the women’s 100 freestyle S3 in 1:36.49.

Mallory Weggemann of Minnesota won a gold medal in the women’s 50 free S8 in a time of 32.22. McKenzie Coan of Georgia won a silver in the same event in 32.52.

Coan, Jessica Long of Maryland, Mikaela Jenkins and Lizzi Smith of Indiana won silver in the 4x100 free relay in a time of 4:24.60, coming in less than a second behind the Great Britain team.

SF

---

NEW YORK ABLE™ NEWSPAPER - NOVEMBER 2019 PAGE 12

SPORTS SCENE

Women Take Gold at Paralympic Test Event in Japan

The Women’s U.S. Goalball Team, left to right, Shavon Lockhardt of White Plains, N.Y.; Eliana Mason of Oregon; Ali Lawson of Georgia; Lisa Czechowski of Boonton, N.J.; and Amanda Dennis of Georgia recently won a gold medal at the Paralympic Test Event in Tokyo, Japan. The team allowed just one goal in their three matches, defeating two squads from the host country Japan with scores of 1-0 and 4-1, as well as defeating Parapan American Games champion Brazil with 3-0. Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes who are blind or visually impaired. Participants, who compete in teams of three, use a ball embedded with bells.

U.S. Wins 35 Medals at Swimming Championships

Team USA turned in a 35-medal performance at the recent World Para Swimming Championships in London, England, winning 14 golds, 16 silvers and five bronzes.

Becca Meyers of Baltimore won gold in the 400 free S13, silver in the 200 IM SM13, and bronze medals in the 100 free S12 and in the 100 fly S13. Meyers also set two world records in the 400 free and 200 IM.

“I can’t believe I’ve set two world records,” said Meyers. “It feels amazing. My hard work has paid off, especially after making a huge coaching change. I’m really excited. I can’t wait to see what this year has in store for me as I train for Tokyo 2020.”

Leanne Smith of Massachusetts won two world titles. She won gold in the women’s 50-meter breaststroke SB3 in 57.24 and the women’s 100 freestyle S3 in 1:36.49.

Mallory Weggemann of Minnesota won a gold medal in the women’s 50 free S8 in a time of 32.22. McKenzie Coan of Georgia won a silver in the same event in 32.52.

Coan, Jessica Long of Maryland, Mikaela Jenkins and Lizzi Smith of Indiana won silver in the 4x100 free relay in a time of 4:24.60, coming in less than a second behind the Great Britain team.

NOVEMBER 3
NY Rolling Fury Youth Wheelchair Basketball 1 to 2 p.m. at Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, 232 W. 60 St., Manhattan. Also Nov. 10, 17 & 24

Advanced Goalball for Adults 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Chelsea Recreation Center, 430 West 25 St., Manhattan. Also Nov. 10, 17 & 24

BEGINNER GOALBALL CLASSES

Beginner Goalball Classes for youngsters with visual impairments taught one-on-one by the NY Knights Goalball Team 12:30 to 1 p.m. at the Chelsea Recreation Center, 430 West 25 St., Manhattan. Also Nov. 10, 17 & 24

Balance and Mobility Classes for Kids and Teens with vision loss/blindness 12:30 to 1 p.m., Chelsea Recreation Center, 430 West 25 St., Manhattan. For information call 212 360-3319. Also Nov. 10, 17 & 24

CP Soccer Camp 1 to 3 p.m. at Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn. For information visit https://go.teamsnap.com/login/signin. Also Nov. 10, 17 & 24

NOVEMBER 5
Indoor Hand Cycling free training 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. For information contact Megan Frisco Mfrisco@burke.org. Also Nov. 12, 19 & 26

InTandem Cycling for the Vision Impaired 6:30 & 9:30 a.m. at Engineer’s Gate, 2 E. 90 St., Central Park. For information email Matthew Nidek mnidek@intandembike.org. Also Nov. 14 & 21

ONGOING EVENTS
Adaptive Sports (S.P.A.R.E.S), 1 to 2 p.m. for kids with a disability 5+, every other Saturday (Al Oerter Rec Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave, Flushing) wheelchair basketball, football, tennis, floor hockey, softball, sled hockey, sitting volleyball, adapted swimming, power wheelchair soccer and track and field. http://www.nycgovparks.org/accessibility

Adaptive Hubs: West Bronx Rec. Center, 1527 Jessup Ave.; McCarren Play Center, 776 Lorimer St., Brooklyn; Gertrude Ederle Center, 232 W. 60 St., Manhattan; Al Oerter Rec. Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave., Queens; Greenbelt Rec. Center, 501 Brielle Ave., Walcott-Rockland Aves., Staten Island. For information call 212 360-1430.

SEE MORE SPORTS NEWS ON PAGE 17

SPORTS SCENE

Women Take Gold at Paralympic Test Event in Japan

The Women’s U.S. Goalball Team, left to right, Shavon Lockhardt of White Plains, N.Y.; Eliana Mason of Oregon; Ali Lawson of Georgia; Lisa Czechowski of Boonton, N.J.; and Amanda Dennis of Georgia recently won a gold medal at the Paralympic Test Event in Tokyo, Japan. The team allowed just one goal in their three matches, defeating two squads from the host country Japan with scores of 1-0 and 4-1, as well as defeating Parapan American Games champion Brazil with 3-0. Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes who are blind or visually impaired. Participants, who compete in teams of three, use a ball embedded with bells.
CASTING CALL FOR FEMALE WHEELCHAIR USER OPENS

Casting director Michele Mansoor is seeking female wheelchair users who are non-actors, age 16 to 25, that would like to audition to play the lead in a short film.

An audition video should be sent to wigleroomcasting@gmail.com.

For information call Mansoor, 614 202-1592.

YOUNG WOMEN WELCOME TO JOIN IWFD FALL PROGRAM

The Initiative for Women with Disabilities (IWFD) in New York City is inviting young women ages 14 to 21 to join their fall program on Wednesdays through Dec. 11, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The program includes discussions, craft making, exercise and fitness classes, and dinner. The last session will be a holiday party.

To register contact Suzanne Hurwitz-Wallach, suzanne.wallach@nyulan-gone.org.

AHRC TO HOST TOWN HALLS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Self-advocates, family members and professionals are invited to a series of AHRC town hall meetings that will cover developmental disability services in New York state, current AHRC state initiatives, the state’s move to managed care, care coordination and other related topics.

The meetings will be held at AHRC Middle High School in Brooklyn on Nov. 6, the AHRC Howie Stone Adult Day Center in the Bronx on Nov. 12, and the Institute for Basic Research in Staten Island on Nov. 20. They will all run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For information email jennifer.amendola@ahrcnyc.org.

NEW GUIDE LAYS OUT PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC SPACE ACCESSIBILITY

The American Society of Landscape Architects recently published a universal design guide that provides a set of new design principles that address the needs of people who are deaf, blind, have autism and/or physical disabilities.

These principles include designs that are accessible, comfortable, participatory, ecological, legible, multi-sensory, predictable, walkable and traversable. The guide is meant for landscape architects, urban planners, elected officials and advocates to make sure that public spaces, such as streets, parks, plazas, playgrounds and gardens are accessible to all.

The guide is available at www.asla.org/universaldesign.aspx.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS WORKSHOP HOSTED BY AFC

Advocates for Children (AFC) of New York will conduct a free workshop on middle and high school admissions processes in New York City on Nov. 4, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event will have a particular focus on students with disabilities. It will include a presentation by an AFC attorney, opportunities to ask questions, and handout materials to take home.

For information, visit www.advocates for children.org.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR CPW WINE AND FOOD TASTING EVENT

Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) will host its 14th annual wine and food tasting event at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel in West Harrison on Nov. 11, at 6 p.m.

The evening’s special guest will be Joy Bauer, the nutrition and healthy lifestyle expert for NBC’s “Today” show. She is also a monthly columnist for “Woman’s Day” magazine and the bestselling author of 13 books. All proceeds will benefit CPW’s programs for people with disabilities.

To purchase tickets visit www.cpwestchester.org/events.

FINAL REPORT RELEASED ON PEDIATRIC MEDICAID INITIATIVE

The Pediatric Care Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) recently released its final report on New York’s First 1,000 Days on Medicaid Initiative.

The initiative was created in recognition that the earliest years of life have a significant influence on long-term health and well-being.

The report describes a New York state model of pediatric population health which is already operational in select primary care practices across the state and outlines steps for how New York can build on the model.

NY ABLE GIVES NEW YORKERS TAX ADVANTAGED SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The New York Achieving a Better Life Experience (NY ABLE) program is a tax-advantaged savings plan administered by the state comptroller’s office that helps individuals with disabilities maintain their health and quality of life without risking their Supplemental Security Income, Medicare and other means-based benefits.

The accounts allow individuals’ earnings to grow tax-deferred and their savings to be withdrawn tax-free for qualified expenses.

For details visit www.mynyable.org.

MS. WHEELCHAIR NEW JERSEY HAS GOFUNDME PAGE

Millie Gonzalez, Ms. Wheelchair New Jersey 2019 who has spina bifida, is asking the public to contribute to her GoFundMe page.

She will use the funds to support her advocacy work on behalf of people with disabilities, which includes the elimination of architectural barriers, improving emergency planning, self-care and spreading awareness. The donations will help fund travel expenses, materials and other costs associated with promoting her platform.

For information, visit www.gofundme.com/f/wheelchairmarn2019-milliegonzalez.

BROOKLYN EXHIBIT TO SHOWCASE AHRC ARTISTS

Select artists of AHRC NYC’s Artech Collective will have their work displayed at an art fair at the Brooklyn Expo Center from Nov. 7 to 11.

The collection provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to develop and express themselves creatively through inclusive and accessible approaches to traditional and new media.

To register for free tickets visit www.bit.ly/ArTechTOAF.

ANTI-BULLYING TOOLKIT PROVIDES INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES

An online toolkit to help people deal with the bullying of children with disabilities is available for parents, educators and students.

It includes resources such as a fact sheet, how to teach tolerance in schools and how to talk to a child who is being bullied.

For information visit www.bullyfree-world-bully.nationbuilder.com.

ADULTS NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTHCARE SURVEY

The Collaborative on Health Reform and Independent Living (CHRIL) is asking adults with physical and developmental disabilities to complete a survey about medical insurance and health-care services, including those who have private or employer-based insurance, Tricare, Medicare, Medicaid or no insurance at all.

Responses are anonymous. The survey is available online at www.tinyurl.com/NSHD2019 or by phone at 855 556-6528.

ABLE ACCEPTS EVENT AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

Able Newspaper will print event and program information from agencies when space permits. Send items to ablenews@aol.com.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1
Friday Night Hangout for seniors and adults with physical disabilities, 5 to 8:30 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James, 718 907-1622. Also Nov. 8, 15, 22 & 29

Medicare Open Enrollment
For information visit Medicare Rights.org. Through Dec. 7

NOVEMBER 2
Family Legos: Imagine It! Build It! For children and teens with and without disabilities 1 to 3 p.m. at Flatlands Library, 2065 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn. For information call 718 253-4948.

Movie Club, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at NAMI, 505 Eighth Ave., #1103. For information call Eva Eason 646 442-4156. Also Nov. 5, 11, 12, 15, 19, 25 & 26

Free Workshop: Applying to Middle School & High School for seniors and adults with physical disabilities 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at EIS, 80 Maiden Lane, 9th floor, Brooklyn. For information call 212 938-4040.

SORT Support Group for Clutterers/Hoarders 6 to 8 p.m. at EIS, 80 Maiden Lane, 11th floor. For information call 212 308-2210.

Housing and Benefits Clinics, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at CIDNY 841 Broadway #301 13-14 Sts. For information call Eva Eason 646 442-4156. Also Nov. 5, 8, 15, 19, 25 & 26

Free Workshop: Applying to Middle School & High School for seniors and adults with physical disabilities 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call 212 684-3365.

NOVEMBER 4
Learn to Draw & Paint with Rich 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th Floor, Brooklyn. For information call Elizabeth Lee 646 486-4444. Also Nov. 11, 18 & 25

Knitting & Crochet Group for seniors and adults with physical disabilities 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Nov. 11, 18 & 25

VISIONS Senior Speak Out 3 p.m. at Selis Manor, 135 W. 23 St. For information call 212 684-3365. Also Nov. 11, 18 & 25

Double Trouble Support Group 6 p.m. For information call 212 684-3365. Also Nov. 11, 18 & 25

Stroke Brain Injury Survivor Support Group 12:15 p.m. at SUNY College of Optometry, 34 W. 42 St. For information call 718 907-1622.

SORT Support Group for Clutterers/Hoarders 6 to 8 p.m. at EIS, 80 Maiden Lane, 11th floor. For information call 212 938-4040.

Peer Support Group 1 to 3 p.m. at BCID, 27 Smith St., Brooklyn. For information call 718 998-3000. Also Nov. 14, 21 & 28

Writers Workshop 4 to 6 p.m. at CIDNY 841 Broadway #301 13-14 Sts. For information call Eva Eason 646 442-4156. Also Nov. 14, 21 & 28

Safety Planning Webinar Series presented by The New York Region 1 Training and Information Center 12 to 1 p.m. For information visit www.includeny.org/ Also Nov. 14

National Neurodiversity Conference hosted by Kennedy Krieger Institute 8 a.m. at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel, 1743 West Nursery Rd., Linthicum, Md. For information call 410 243-3790.

The Other Art Fair featuring AHRC NYC’s Artech Collective at the Brooklyn Expo Center, 72 Noble Street, Brooklyn. For information call 212 780-2500. Through Nov. 10

Normal-C A New Musical 7 p.m. at Baldwin High School, 4653 Clairton Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. For information visit www.BaldwinDrama.com. Through Nov. 9

TBI Support Group 12:30 to 2 p.m. at BCID, 27 Smith St., #200, Brooklyn. For information call 718 998-3000. Also Nov. 19

NOVEMBER 6
The Rainbow Connection meeting 1 to 3 p.m. at Independence Care Systems, 25 Elm Pl., Brooklyn. For information call Evelyn, 646 836-4078. Also Nov. 20

Navigating Your Child’s Disability: One-to-One Expert Assistance 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Information Commons, Room 2, Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza. For information call 212 677-4650 ext. 19.

Memory Arts Café free art events for people living with Alzheimer’s, caregivers and public 6 p.m. at NY Memory Cates for Children of New York 151 West 30th St., 4th floor, Manhattan. For information call 212 947-9779.

NOVEMBER 7
AHCRC NYC Town Hall Meeting 6 to 8 p.m. at AHCRC NYC’s Howie Stone Adult Day Center, 1420 Ferris Pl., Bronx. For information at other locations call 212 895-3446.

Peer Support Group 1 to 3 p.m. at Sylsystems, 27 Smith St., Brooklyn. For information call 718 998-3000. Also Nov. 14, 21 & 28

Writers Workshop 4 to 6 p.m. at CIDNY 841 Broadway #301 13-14 Sts. For information call Eva Eason 646 442-4156. Also Nov. 14, 21 & 28

Safety Planning Webinar Series presented by The New York Region 1 Training and Information Center 12 to 1 p.m. For information visit www.includeny.org/ Also Nov. 14

National Neurodiversity Conference hosted by Kennedy Krieger Institute 8 a.m. at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel, 1743 West Nursery Rd., Linthicum, Md. For information call 410 243-3790.

The Other Art Fair featuring AHRC NYC’s Artech Collective at the Brooklyn Expo Center, 72 Noble Street, Brooklyn. For information call 212 780-2500. Through Nov. 10

Normal-C A New Musical 7 p.m. at Baldwin High School, 4653 Clairton Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. For information visit www.BaldwinDrama.com. Through Nov. 9

NOVEMBER 10
Taste of Westchester-A Wine and Food Tasting Event to support Cerebral Palsy of Westchester 6 p.m. at the Renaissance Westchester Hotel, West Harrison. For information call 914 937-3800 ext. 353.

NOVEMBER 12
AHCRC NYC Town Hall Meeting 6 to 8 p.m. at AHCRC NYC’s Howie Stone Adult Day Center, 1420 Ferris Pl., Bronx. For information at other locations call 212 895-3446.

Family Legos: Imagine It! Build It! For children and teens with and without disabilities 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Saratoga Library, 8 Thoms as 8, Boyland St., Brooklyn. For information call 718 253-4948.

NOVEMBER 17

NOVEMBER 19
Long Term Care Webinar presented by Long Term Care Community Coalition 1 p.m. For information visit www.nursinghome411.org.

Moving Forward with MS: Newly Diagnosed 6:15 to 8 p.m. at National MS Society, 733 Third Ave., Third Floor, Manhattan. For information call 800 344-3867.

DECEMBER 2
Learn to Draw & Paint with Rich 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th Floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Nov. 10, 16, 23 & 30

Knitting & Crochet Group for seniors and adults with physical disabilities 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays at ICS, 25 Elm Pl., 5th floor, Brooklyn. For information call Latricia James 718 907-1622. Also Nov. 11, 18 & 25

ONGOING EVENTS
Free Workshops and Services at United Cerebral Palsy of New York City Family Connect Centers throughout the five boroughs. For information call 718 436-7979 ext.704.

Lupus Alliance of Long Island/Queens Support Group meets once a month on the second Tuesday 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Flushing. For information call 516 802-3142.

To have your event or meeting listed, send information to ablenews@aol.com The deadline for calendar items is the 10th day of the month preceding the date of publication. Calendar items will be accepted only if they have a specific date.
New York State to End FIDA

The New York Fully Integrated Dual Advantage (FIDA) will be phased out by the end of 2019. FIDA represents New York’s participation in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) strategies dual demonstration initiative under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The FIDA memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the CMS requires that prior to terminating the demonstration, the Department of Health (DOH) must submit a draft phase-out plan to CMS for approval.

The formal written phase-out plan documents the various operational and policy aspects of the transition. CMS and DOH have been engaged in regular discussions regarding the termination of the FIDA demonstration since 2018. The state plans to transition FIDA enrollees to Medicaid Advantage Plus (MAP) plans fully aligned with Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (DSNP). All FIDA plans currently offer a DSNP aligned with a MAP plan owned by the same Medicare Advantage (MA) parent, which offers an opportunity for participants to continue receiving integrated care and care coordination for their Medicare and Medicaid benefits. As of the date of this phase-out document there are 2,706 FIDA participants.

Personal Profiles

Improve 911 Responses

Smart 911 is a program where people can provide important information about themselves and those living with them prior to an emergency. If there is ever a need to call 911, first responders will already have information about these individuals, which can be helpful in a variety of emergencies.

VIDEO GAME CONTROLLER

Continued from page 8

part of my life, and now Ben has helped me access it again. I call it a miracle controller,” said Gohil, whose video game reviews have thousands of followers. “To be honest, it’s like a dream. Because this controller has been adapted especially for my needs, it will help me to play for longer and stay relaxed, knowing that I can press the buttons. My advice to anyone who finds gaming physically difficult is that there are simple things you can start off with to make adaptations.”

“Four different controllers were used to make this,” said Heck. “Weakening the analog sticks and still keeping them functional was a big challenge, but it worked out pretty well. I hope Vivek enjoys this for many years to come.”

UNITED SPINAL NOW

Continued from page 6

250,000 people with mental and physical disabilities, because they were disabled. In 1939, the movie “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” which dramatized the isolation, ostracization and humanity of the disabled main character, was released. Between 1967 and 1939, 30,000 emotionally or intellectually-disabled people were sterilized across 29 states in the name of science and medicine.

Clearly, society has evolved in a manner beneficial to those who seek equality, inclusion and justice. Now, NYCT is considering fast-tracking access at seven subway stations.

Reporters and columnists wonder why it has taken so long to make this a priority. Newspapers, transit managers, and the Governor agree that access is a priority. PWDs have effectively changed the argument from, “Should we do it?” to “How fast can we do it?”

Continued from page 4

2017.

Drug Legislation

Continued from page 4

In many cases, patients who are on the same medications may not be on the same dosages. This can lead to varying reactions to the same medication. It is important that patients and their physicians work closely together to ensure that they are on the correct dosage for their needs.

For information visit www.smart911.com.

“Having a medication switched by an insurance company is a dangerous practice, especially for those with the most serious forms of mental illness, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder,” said Matthew Shapiro, associate director at the National Alliance on Mental Illness NY. “We urge Gov. Cuomo to hear the cry of patient advocates and recognize the overwhelming support of the legislature and reform the deceitful practice of non-medical switching.”

THE ACCESS INDEX

ACCESS EQUIPMENT

ALPHA CARE SUPPLY, LLC
Ramps • Stairlifts • Porch Wheelchair Lifts
Serving The Entire Metro NYC Area
& LI For 20 years
866 291-7039

CARE COORDINATION

INDEPENDENCE CARE SYSTEM
Expert Help For People With Disabilities
Serving Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens & the Bronx
877 427-2525

HOME ACCESSIBILITY

PATRIOT MOBILITY INC
Sales, Installation, Rentals, Repairs
Stairlifts, Porchlifts, Ramps & More
www.patriotmobilityinc.com
631 392-4050

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE OF DISABLED NY - CIDNY
Helping With Housing • Benefits • Employment
• Education • Health Coverage • Transportation
212 674-2300

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE
Call 516 939-2253

15 NOVEMBER 2019 - NEW YORK ABLE NEWSPAPER
“Businesses need to understand the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and the barriers that they face to employment,” said Victor Calise, commissioner of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities. “Jobseekers with disabilities need the opportunity to demonstrate their value to employers and understand how to navigate the unique challenges they face. Through MOPD’s employment initiative NYC: Atwork, we work with both sides to increase their connections and move the needle on the unemployment rate for people with disabilities.”

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, only 41 percent of working-age people with disabilities in New York City were in the labor force in 2017. The participation rate for people without disabilities was nearly twice as high. It also shows that the number of employed people with disabilities in the city has increased in recent years as the labor market has tightened. However, there were still 259,400 people in 2017 between the ages of 18 and 64 with disabilities who had not entered the labor force for various reasons.

A report by Accenture, a global professional services firm, found that companies that embrace best practices for employing and supporting people with disabilities have higher profitability than their peers. It also noted that hiring people with disabilities has other benefits, including increased innovation, improved productivity and a better work environment.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), New York City’s unemployment rate has fallen to 4.1 percent in 2018, the lowest level since 1976. However, the BLS found that many people with disabilities who were not working reported some type of barrier, including lack of education, training and/or transportation, as well as the need for accommodations. The comptroller’s report also concluded that people with disabilities earn less. In 2017, their median salary was 20 percent less than those without disabilities.
Athlete and outdoor adventurer Mark Wellman has been a mountaineer since the age of 12, ascending more than 50 peaks in the Sierra Nevada and French Alpes.

He had an accident on his descent in the John Muir Wilderness in Nevada in 1982, which left him a paraplegic. But he resumed climbing in 1989, along with a climbing partner.

Wellman made history as the first paraplegic to ascend the 3,000-foot face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park in California. In 1991, he climbed Yosemite’s other big wall, Half Dome.

A former member of the U.S. Disabled Ski Team, competing in two Paralympics, Wellman is also known for his extreme downhill skiing and whitewater kayaking adventures. He has successfully led a team of paraplegics to the top of Mt. Shasta in California, completed the 106-mile White-Rim Trail in Utah on a specialized hand-powered mountain bike and is also the first paraplegic to sit-ski unassisted across the 10,000-foot Tioga Pass in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

From 1986 to 1991 he worked as an interpretive ranger and as director of the Disabled Access Program in Yosemite National Park. In 1996, the Paralympic Committee chose Wellman to carry the flaming torch in Georgia for the opening ceremony. He ascended a 150-foot rope to light the Olympic Cauldron.

Wellman’s notoriety has led him to the White House on visits with Pres. George Bush Sr. and with Pres. Bill Clinton. He has received numerous awards for outstanding achievement, including the FDR Award for Courage in Sports. In the 1990s, he wrote an autobiography called “Climbing Back,” which recounts challenges he faced after his accident, becoming a park ranger, a wheelchair athlete and all his various accomplishments.

Currently, he operates his nonprofit No Limits USA, based in California. As a motivational speaker, he has given many keynote addresses and also conducts adaptive climbing seminars. He has designed adaptive equipment and has developed programs to motivate others, including wounded war veterans. Several documentaries have been produced by Wellman which highlight a variety of athletes with disabilities who achieved their goals in outdoor adventure sports.

SEE MORE SPORTS NEWS ON PAGE 12