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THE NEWSPAPER *POSITIVELY* FOR BY & ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

GALLOP NYC

NYC Celebrates Pathways To Possibility



PHOTO BY SNAP PHOTOGRAPHY AND CINEMA

The bridle path that winds through New York City's Central Park was designed to be enjoyed from the back of a horse and on a recent Sunday, riders from GallopNYC did just that.

Seeing people on mounted horseback is increasingly rare in the Park, so what better way to draw attention to the needs of New Yorkers with disabilities and special needs than a majestic promenade with beau-

tifully groomed horses. Promenade riders included children and adults with disabilities, seniors, veterans, sponsors and champions of GallopNYC. The organization is New York City's
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SCOTUS: Nursing Homes Can Be Sued

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled in a 7-2 decision that a person can sue a nursing home for failing to meet minimum federal standards of care in *Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County v Talevski*.

The Arc of the United States (The Arc) called it “a case that might have gutted Medicaid and other safety net programs.”

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote in the decision that a post Civil War law protects people from abuse by state governments.

Previously the Supreme Court has said that a section “Section 1983” of federal law broadly gives people the right to sue state and local governments when their employees violate rights created by any federal statute.

Congress protected anyone not allowed “any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws” of the U.S.,” Brown Jackson wrote. She continued that the Federal Nursing Home Reform

Act, protects vulnerable patients, to be free from unnecessary chemical or physical restraints and unjustified transfers from a facility.

“Today’s Supreme Court ruling upholding the right of an individual to sue a nursing home for failing to meet minimum federal standards of care is extremely important,” said Richard Molloy, executive director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition.

“As many of you are (sadly) well aware, too many nursing homes fail to provide even basic care or life with dignity for their residents.

“Far too many prioritize maximizing profits by cutting staffing to levels that are unsafe for both nursing staff and residents.”

The case concerned a dementia patient, Gorgi Talevski, who since has died. He was living in a public nursing home in Marion County, Ind. The lawsuit alleged that by using chemical restraints and other actions, the facility violated Talevski’s

rights under the Federal Nursing Home Reform Act.

“Today is a monumental win for disability rights and the principle that a private right of action is critical in the access, accountability and antidiscrimination of our country’s Medicaid and safety net programs,” said Shira Wakschlag, senior director of legal advocacy and general counsel for The Arc. “The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the rights of Medicaid beneficiaries to seek legal recourse when state officials are violating their rights...”

“People with disabilities have long faced pervasive discriminatory treatment within American society, and they have relied on lawsuits to enforce Medicaid’s protections, including the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* case.”

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Brett Kavanaugh, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett joined Jackson’s opinion. Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito dissented.

Disability Unite Festival Returns Sunday, July 16

Friends and family members will gather at the Central Park Naumburg Bandshell from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 16, for the citywide celebration of July’s Disability Pride month and to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Then the party keeps going exclusively online, for another two hours of exciting virtual music, dance, theatre and more at DisabilityUnite.Org.

This year’s theme is “Innovate and Shift Perspectives.” Disability Inclusion Training is scheduled for 11 a.m., on-stage performance begins at noon and the virtual experience begins at 4 p.m. Captioning, sign language interpretation and audio description will be provided.

For those outside of New York City or for those who prefer virtual participation, all festival performances and programming will continue to be live-streamed on the Disability Unite website, so they can tune in from wherever they are

located to enjoy music, dance, engaging discussions, gaming and more.

By visiting www.disabilityunite.org, one may sign up for the mailing list.

DIA To Rally At MTA Meetings

Disabled in Action (DIA) will be rallying at 2 Broadway, Manhattan before every MTA Board meeting and then testifying at 10 a.m. about their demands for the MTA to provide good maintenance; provide good notification of elevator outages at the sidewalk level, on the platform, and in the train; provide alternate paths of travel; provide alternate transportation when the elevator is out; and settle the elevator maintenance case.

Participants may join just the rally or just the testifying or both. “Yes, it is early, but these rallies will help keep the pressure on,” said DIA Pres. Jean Ryan. “We get there when the executives and report-

ers are coming into the building.”

In-person registration to speak will be open on the day of the meeting from 9:25 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. but it is best to get up to the 20th floor for the beginning of the registration.

Participants may speak remotely at MTA’s Board meetings. Registration will be open on that day from 9:25 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. at <https://new.mta.info/transparency/board-and-committee-meetings/how-to-comment>.

Meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays July 19, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 29, and Dec. 20 at 8:45 a.m. There is no meeting in August. To check for last-minute changes those interested should visit MTA.info/transparency.

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**Able Newspaper’s
Next Issue Will Be
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Will Be Aug. 8**

Sens. Introduce Medicare Information Bill

Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Todd Young (R-Ind.) recently introduced the Beneficiary Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification (BENES) 2.0 Act (S. 1687) in the U.S. Senate.

The bill would require the federal government to provide advance notice to people approaching Medicare eligibility about basic enrollment rules, filling a longstanding gap in outreach and education.

While most older adults and people with disabilities are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B, a growing number are not. These

individuals must make an active enrollment choice, taking into consideration specific timelines, complex Medicare rules, and their existing coverage.

“Far too many people make mistakes when trying to navigate this confusing system. The consequences of such missteps are significant and may include lifetime financial penalties, higher out-of-pocket health care costs, and gaps in coverage,” said Fred Riccardi, president of the Medicare Rights Center, a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable

health care for older adults and people with disabilities.

In 2021, about 779,400 people were paying a Part B late enrollment penalty (LEP). The average amount increased their monthly premium by nearly 27 percent.

The BENES 2.0 Act would help prevent these costly errors, empowering informed enrollment choices. In so doing, it would advance the goals of the original BENES Act. Fully implemented this year, the BENES Act modernized transitions to Medicare by eliminating lengthy waits for coverage and updating Special Enrollment Period (SEP) flexibilities.

The BENES 2.0 Act would build upon those successes to further improve enrollee health, well-being, and economic security.

“The BENES 2.0 Act would simplify Medicare enrollment, streamline access to care, and support beneficiary decision-making,” Riccardi said. “On our national helpline, we frequently get questions about Part B enrollment and hear from beneficiaries who made a mistake and are struggling with lifetime penalties and health coverage gaps. The BENES 2.0 Act recognizes and rises to these challenges.”

Act Supports Students With Mental Health Issues

Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, and Representative Katie Porter (Calif. Dist. 47) have introduced the Student Mental Health Rights Act.

The legislation would require the Department of Education (DOE), in consultation with the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ), to publish guidance for colleges and universities to better support students with mental health disabilities and substance use disorder.

It also would require the Secretary of Education to collect data on the prevalence of mental health disabilities and substance use disorders at colleges and universities, review best practices for supporting students and assess current policies at academic institutions regarding leaves of absence.

Healthy Minds Network (HMN) reported that from 2021 to 2022, 44 percent of college students suffered from depression and 37 percent from anxiety. However, students reported barriers to accessing care for these and other mental health disabilities, including financial

cost, lack of available appointments and confusion on where to seek help.

Students with disabilities are protected by civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act, and the Fair Housing Act. Yet, disabled students continue to report discrimination, financial burdens and the denial of reasonable accommodations, which forces students to take involuntary medical leaves of absence, and in some instances, makes their requests for voluntary leaves of absence difficult to access or return from.

“We are in the midst of a mental health crisis, but for too long, we have left students and their schools without a roadmap for navigating it,” Markey said. “Failing to give students and institutions of higher education the resources they need to support students experiencing a mental health crisis or substance use disorder means failing to give all students the opportunity for full and equal access to education. This legislation will support students who have faced discrimination while providing clarity to academic institutions about their responsibilities to protect students’ civil rights.”

“Our young people cannot thrive and succeed if we do not seriously address our nation’s mental health crisis,” Porter said.

“The laws we have on the books aren’t translating into protections for stu-

dents, which is a sign we must redouble our efforts to get schools to comply with mental health safeguards. My Student Mental Health Rights Act with Sen. Markey will help make campuses safer for students in crisis.”

‘Eat Your Catfish’ Debuts On PBS



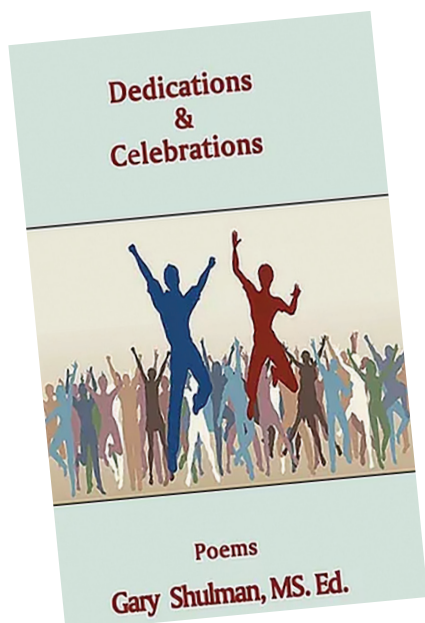
‘Eat Your Catfish’ debuts July 24 on PBS, Streaming Until Oct. 22. POV, America’s longest-running non-fiction series, provides a balanced, in-depth look at Kathryn, a woman paralyzed by late-stage ALS in the moving family portrait, “Eat Your Catfish.”

Reliant on round-the-clock care, she clings to a mordant wit while yearning to witness her daughter’s wedding. Narrated by Kathryn and pictured entirely from her point of view, (back of head shown, foreground) co-directors and producers Adam Isenberg, Senem Tüzen and) Kathryn’s son, Noah Amir Arjoman deliver a brutally frank and darkly humorous portrait of a family teetering on the brink, grappling with the daily demands of disability and in-home caregiving.

“Eat Your Catfish” makes its national broadcast premiere on POV Monday, July 24 (see local listings) and will be streaming at pbs.org, until Oct. 22. In addition to standard closed captioning for the film, POV, in partnership with audio description service DiCapta, provides real-time audio interpretations.

Dedications & Celebrations

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More Bus Shelters Possible – Accessible Bathrooms, Too

BY JAMES WEISMAN
GENERAL COUNSEL



The New York City Franchise and Concession Review Committee just held a hearing about installing bus stop shelters on Madison Ave. and part of 5th Avenue, where there currently are none. The City Council overwhelmingly supports the installation of the shelters, which would be part of a five-year franchise extension for the JCDecaux company.

Of course, wheelchair-using bus riders prefer accessible shelters to no shelters at all. A lap full of snow or rain (along with head and shoulders soaking, like anyone else) is hardly preferential. Who is opposing the bus stop shelters, supported by elected officials, seniors and people with disabilities? Madison Ave. merchants say the shelters will obscure storefronts. They have kept Madison Ave. shelter-free for decades. Preservationists don't want the shelters near Central Park.

JCDecaux needs to post advertising on shelters in prime areas to pay for the costs of operating the city-wide franchise described below. Our relationship with Decaux is an old one that has matured exactly as the disability community desired.

Shortly after the Americans with Disabilities Act passed in 1990, JCDecaux, a French "street furniture" manufacturer, was working with the David Dinkins administration to permanently install public bathrooms on New York City streets. They were all to be architecturally inaccessible to wheelchair users. After a great public battle, dubbed "Toilet Wars" by New York magazine, JCDecaux's CEO, John Francois Decaux, realized that as we (then, Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association) told them, there would never be a market again in the United States for inaccessible public facilities.

Decaux redesigned and has been selling accessible street furniture, including bathrooms, newsstands, bus stop shelters, etc., all over the world. Generally, the Decaux formula is to provide stylish, location-appropriate facilities and sell advertising on them to pay for the product. Decaux maintains his products as part of the franchise agreement he strikes with cities and cuts the municipalities in on the profits.

Since we stopped the installation of illegal, inaccessible public toilets in New York City 30 years ago, it's obvious that the City has become a different place. Curb ramps, a 100 percent accessible bus system, at least key subway and rail stations accessible, all new buildings accessible, taxis (even Ubers) – but one thing has remained constant. There's still not many places that the public is allowed into just to use the bathroom. Despite every successive administration since Dinkins saying they want a public toilet program, it's never really happened. However, that is changing.

JCDecaux, for decades a proponent of accessible design, wants to add accessible public bathrooms on sidewalks, in plazas, etc., to the mix. Thirty years ago, these bathrooms, despite their inaccessibility, were remarkable. Futuristic features included toilet and floor self-cleaned after each use, warm, soapy water and hand dryer.

United Spinal fully supports the idea of installing more bus shelters to make transit more usable for people with mobility impairments. Heat, wind, rain and snow are significant disincentives against mass transit use for everyone and to people with disabilities in particular.

More bus stop shelters, more accessible bathrooms. We agree with responsible city planners and JCDecaux.

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Preschoolers Not Getting Mandated Rights

Advocates for Children of New York has released a new report, "Falling Short: NYC's Failure to Provide Mandated Services for Preschoolers with Disabilities," showing that in the 2021-22 school year, 37 percent of all preschoolers with disabilities (9,800 children) didn't receive at least one of the types of services the New York City Department of Education (DOE) was required to provide.

The report analyzes DOE data and focuses on systemic violations of students' rights. More than 6,500 preschoolers who needed speech therapy did not have one session last year, representing 24.5 percent of all those recommended for monolingual speech therapy and 33 percent of those who needed bilingual speech services.

Geographically, service shortages were widespread, that is, in 26 of the city's 32 community school districts at least one in five preschoolers

never received their mandated speech therapy. Roughly 1,300 preschoolers went without special education itinerant teacher (SEIT) services (support to help include

"These services are not optional; they are legal requirements, and they are critical to the development of young children."

KIM SWEET
AFC's Executive Director

a child in a general education preschool class), representing 19 percent of all those who had this recommendation on their Individualized Education Program (IEP). About 1,015 preschoolers who needed a small special education class were still waiting for a seat at the end of the school year. No school district managed to fully serve even 85 percent of its preschoolers with disabilities enrolled in 3-K and Pre-K for All programs, let alone the 100 percent required by law.

In five Brooklyn districts, more than 40 percent of children in 3-K and Pre-K finished the year having never received at least one of their mandated service types. For reporting

purposes, the DOE considers children "fully" served if they had one session of a given service at some point during the school year.

"These services are not optional; they are legal requirements, and they are critical to the development of young children," said Kim Sweet, AFC's executive director. "The mayor's proposed budget would cut hundreds of millions of dollars from the education budget while the DOE is failing to

comply with a decades-old federal civil rights law. Instead of cutting funding, the city must make the investment needed to hire enough special education teachers, service providers and evaluators to meet its basic legal obligations to preschoolers with disabilities."

In December 2022, Mayor Eric Adams committed to providing a preschool special education class seat for every child who needed one by the spring of 2023. While the city has opened enough new classes to serve nearly 700 children, there are still more than 300 preschoolers waiting. Many parents have been told by DOE administrators that there are no special education teachers or service providers available at the agencies the DOE relies on to serve most preschoolers.

Falling Short is available at www.advocatesforchildren.org/sites/default/files/library/falling_short.pdf.

Human Services Funding At 10-Year Low

FPWA, a New York City anti-poverty policy and advocacy organization, has released its 2023 Human Services Funds Tracker report, which provides a comprehensive funding analysis of the city's human services agencies over fiscal year 2022.

The timing of this year's report is critical as federal and state support hit their lowest in more than 10 years. FPWA has released a video explaining these findings at <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?5318737-9LY-QpqPvHy>.

The report comes as Congress passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act, raising the potential of nationwide disruptions to human services by cutting COVID-19 funding and enforcing stricter work requirements for SNAP and TANF recipients.

FPWA's 2022 report cautioned that the city faced a fiscal cliff as Covid-19 relief fund-

ing expired. NYC has now hit this cliff, straining to fill the gaps of a combined 22.9 percent decrease in federal and state dollars to its city agencies.

"We urge the city, state, and federal government to carry their fair shares – all three levels of government are responsible for this crisis that won't just go away. We call upon our legislative partners in the Assembly, the House, and in the New York Congressional Delegation to raise this issue loudly and often. Now is the time to heed these warnings as economic deprivation looms over our city – the most populous in the country. New York City leads the country on many fronts, including in the care of its people. New Yorkers and indeed, all people, deserve responsible funding to meet these fundamental needs today," said Jennifer Jones Austin, FPWA's CEO and executive director.

Aphasia Treatment Offered At Burke



Burke Rehabilitation is now offering an intensive comprehensive aphasia treatment program (ICAP) service through its Speech Language Pathology Department on an outpatient basis at its White Plains campus located at 785 Mamaroneck Ave.

The program runs for four weeks, with small groups of four to six participants attending five days per week for four hours each morning. Aphasia is a language disorder impacting the ability to speak, read, write, and understand words. It can develop as a result of stroke, brain injury, or non-degenerative neurological disorders. ICAPs are highly specialized and Burke's will be the only ICAP in Westchester County.

The first program is being offered this month, with additional groups planned throughout the year.

Information is available by contacting Burke's Outpatient Speech Department, 914 597-2234 or emailing Susan Wortman-Jutt, swortmanju@burke.org.

Judge Terminates Woman's Conservatorship

A probate judge in Santa Cruz County, Calif. has terminated the conservatorship of Marie Bergum, a California woman with an intellectual disability.

Bergum, who is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as private attorneys Jonathan Martinis and Lisa Hutar, is one of the first to be released from conservatorship following the passage of a new California law that reforms how courts impose, review and terminate probate conservatorships.

"I am so glad that I found supporters and lawyers who helped me end my conservatorship. It feels good to have someone believe in me," said Bergum. "With supported de-

cision-making, I get help from people I trust to make my own choices. I want people to understand that conservatorship is not the only way, and that people with disabilities can make choices and learn and live their own lives."

In September 2022, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law the Probate Conservatorship Reform and Supported Decision-Making Act, A.B.1663.

This law requires courts to consider less restrictive alternatives to conservatorship like supported decision-making, makes it easier to terminate a conservatorship and requires courts to inform people subject to conservatorship of the rights they retain.

The law recognizes sup-

ported decision making in law for the first time in California. It is the culmination of years of advocacy by disability rights organizations and comes after Britney Spears' conservatorship case brought the issue to the national spotlight.

"Marie wants to live life on her own terms, just like hundreds of thousands of other disabled people whose civil liberties are curbed due to restrictive conservatorships and guardianships," said Zoe Brennan-Krohn, staff attorney with the ACLU's Disability Rights Program.

"For too long, conservatorships have been too easy to establish and too hard to terminate. Marie is using supported decision-making to

direct her own life with supports. It is wonderful that California's new law, and the judge in Marie's case, recognize that supported decision making is a valid practice that can be used instead of conservatorship."

Bergum has been fighting to end her conservatorship (known as a guardianship in some states) since 2011, when she sent a handwritten letter asking a court to end the guardianship controlled by her father.

She is enrolled in an independent living program, which helps her learn skills to live on her own. She remains a steadfast advocate for people with disabilities and worked to pass the law she used to terminate her own conservatorship.

Restraint & Seclusion Still Being Used As Discipline

Restraint and seclusion are traumatic, outdated, and ineffective discipline practices, which are commonplace in schools throughout the country.

Even though they have caused thousands of injuries and deaths, there are no federal laws to protect children from the abusive use of these tactics.

Sen. Chris Murphy and Rep. Don Beyer reintroduced the Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA) for the 14th Congress in a row.

KASSA would eliminate the use of seclusion and prohibit the practice of restraint in most cases and give parents a private right of action against school districts that misuse these practices.

Restraint and seclusion are disproportionately used against students with disabilities, particularly Black students, and have long-lasting consequences on their achievement and health.

"Protecting students with disabilities from physical harm and abuse shouldn't be a debate, but it's something we've been fighting for over a decade," said Robyn Linscott, director of education and family policy at The Arc

of the United States. "Thousands of times a day, students are being locked in closets and bathrooms, pinned to the ground, restrained with mechanical devices for hours, and worse.

These practices are life-threatening and they're denying students with disabilities a full and safe inclusion in our education system."

Restraint is intended to be used as a last resort in emergencies when there is a threat of imminent physical harm.

Too often, it is used for minor behavioral issues, not complying with instructions, or even to punish manifestations of a child's disability.

More than 100,000 students, the majority of whom have disabilities, are subjected to restraint and seclusion every year.

Students with disabilities represent 13 percent of the student population, but account for roughly 80 percent of those subjected to restraint and 77 percent subjected to seclusion.

Some students are repeatedly restrained and secluded despite the fact that there is no evidence these tactics are effective in reducing the oc-

currence of the behaviors being punished.

A patchwork of state policies and a lack of federal oversight and accountability allow these practices to continue freely.

HUD Seeks Public Comment On Changes To Regs

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) seeks public comment on potential changes to its regulation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance from HUD.

HUD's Section 504 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) acknowledges the need to align HUD's Section 504 regulation with environmental, societal and technological advances and emerging issues.

HUD is requesting general information and comments on its Section 504 regulation relating to recipients' obligations, including advances in accessible design, the use of websites and other technology, and auxiliary aids and services, such as assistive technologies, which have become available since the regulation

was published in 1988. There are also several questions on HUD's existing Section 504 regulation in relation to effective communication, program accessibility, updating federal accessibility standards and enforcement.

All members of the public, including individuals with disabilities, HUD recipients, states, local governments, Tribes, housing providers and social service providers, are invited to provide input by July 24 by visiting www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/04/25/2023-08464/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-disability-updates-to-huds-section-504-regulations, www.regulations.gov/document/HUD-2023-0029-0001 or by mail at Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St. SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500.

Resources Assist Those With I/DD & Caregivers

CMS has released a set of resources designed to support state Medicaid and partner agencies that play critical roles in designing and delivering supports and services that meet the current and future needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their aging parents and caregivers.

An estimated one million households in the U.S. include an adult with I/DD living with and supported by aging caregivers and this number is growing. As adults with I/DD and their caregivers age and experience life transitions,

they may need new or additional support.

Series Of Resources

“How State Agencies Can Anticipate and Meet the Needs of Adults with I/DD and Their Aging Caregivers” describes strategies that state Medicaid and partner agencies can leverage to meet the needs of adults with I/DD and their caregivers, including strategies related to services, data management and partnerships. Information is available by visiting www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/downloads/State_Agencies.pdf.

“State Policies and Practices to Support Person-Centered

Planning Across the Lifespan for Individuals with I/DD and Their Aging Caregivers” highlights ways states can design and implement person-centered planning processes to support adults with I/DD and their caregivers throughout their lives. Information is available by visiting www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/downloads/Person_Centered_Planning.pdf.

“State Policies and Practices to Support Aging Caregivers of Adults with I/DD” discusses strategies states are using to address the needs of aging caregivers, including assessment, training and navigation support.

Information is available by visiting www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/downloads/Support_for_Aging_Caregivers.pdf.

“State Spotlights: Supporting Adults with I/DD and Their Aging Caregivers” highlights strategies states are using in four areas of focus, mainly building interagency partnerships and relationships, providing engagement and navigation supports, implementing person- and family-centered systems of support and planning for the future.

Information is available by visiting www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/downloads/Adults_with_IDD_State_Spotlights.pdf.

Planning Council Seeking Proposals On DEI

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) is seeking proposals for the creation and implementation of an expanded statewide Community of Practice (CoP) on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in Developmental Disabilities.

The NY CoP will be comprised of an advisory group and a minimum of five regional teams who will meet regularly and receive training on DEI. The teams will include primarily DD provider agencies and Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) that deliver direct services to people with developmental disabilities.

The selected grantee will meet with the advisory group to get input on the project and convene the regional teams to provide ongoing training and technical assistance. The grantee will also offer larger

DEI training opportunities, open to professionals, families and self-advocates in the developmental disabilities field, beyond the regional teams.

Additionally, the selected grantee will create and maintain a website for the project to house DEI resource materials and training developed by the grant project. The available funding for this opportunity is up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations (note: the lead applicant cannot be a for-profit organization; however, for-profit organizations may serve as subcontractors to the lead applicant); public or private institutions, such as universities, colleges or hospitals; disability-service organizations; community-based organizations; tribal organizations; and consortia,

groups or partnerships among organizations.

Applications directly from individuals will not be accepted. Only nonprofit organizations may apply.

An applicant must be a registered vendor in the NYS State-

wide Financial System (SFS). Proposals received from eligible applicants who have not been registered will be disqualified.

The deadline to apply is July 7. Information is available by visiting www.ddpc.ny.gov/funding.

FCC Extends Waiver For NAB

The FCC has released an order to extend for 18 months an existing waiver of the requirement that television broadcasters aurally describe visual but non-textual emergency information, such as maps or other graphic displays.

This order grants in part the petition submitted by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) subject to conditions that must be met during the waiver period.

Specifically, during the waiver period, NAB must sub-

mit quarterly reports to the commission describing the extent of the broadcasters' continued need to invoke the waiver; NAB's efforts to work with the disability community and broadcasters to develop and use standards in ensuring that the critical details of non-textual images displaying emergency information are provided; and efforts to develop automated technical solutions.

This waiver will remain in effect until Nov. 26.

'The Speakers' Rock Out At CPW



The Speakers gave an afternoon rock concert at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's (CPW) David G. Osterer Center, performing original songs and classic covers that had the lively audience dancing, clapping, and singing along to their beat. The Sam Bright Side Band opened the show. The concert, sponsored by Elmsford's Legend Music School, provided adults living with disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a live music performance with their peers.

Legend Music's Power through Performance program was created to assist musicians living with disabilities, who often get misinterpreted as having disabilities. The goal of Power through Performance (PTP) is to change that misperception. PTP forms bands and mentors individuals of different levels and abilities to help them fulfill their dream.

Now in its 74th year, CPW's mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people living with all developmental disabilities including autism, neurological impairments, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy.

Looking At The ADA At

By Allison Howe

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities, guaranteeing they have the same opportunities as every other American in areas of employment, services, government programs, recreation, education, transportation, housing and public spaces.

As the country commemorates the 33rd anniversary of the ADA, many will reflect on some of the recent advancements which further the rights and protections of people with disabilities.

Justin Dart, a wheelchair user who is widely considered the Father of the ADA, began working towards new sweeping legislation for the disabled in the 1980s. The project was spearheaded by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who worked with many other prominent leaders of that time to author the ADA.

On July 26, 1990, George H.W. Bush signed it into law on the Whitehouse lawn, with Dart on the stage beside him. Just before signing the bill, Bush said "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

"The ADA is a landmark commandment of fundamental human morality," said Dart. "It is the world's first declaration of equality for people with disabilities by any nation.

"It will proclaim to Amer-

ica and to the world that people with disabilities are fully human; that paternalistic, discriminatory, segregationist attitudes are no longer acceptable and that henceforth people with disabilities must be accorded the same personal respect and the same social and economic opportunities as other people."

In November 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) launched a new and improved version of the website www.ADA.gov, which was updated to make it easier for the public to understand their rights and comply with the law. The site is now designed to help people more easily and effectively find information, written in plain language.

"The Civil Rights Division is taking an important step forward by providing information about the ADA in a format that is more tailored to the needs of the people seeking this information," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the division. "As we continue our work to increase compliance with the ADA, the department is committed to helping people with disabilities understand their rights and to helping those who have obligations under the ADA understand their responsibilities."

Reeves Freedom Act

In April, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) led 16 Senate colleagues to reintroduce the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act, which is meant to strengthen the U.S.

Supreme Court held *Olmstead* decision, affording people with disabilities the right under Title II of the ADA to receive long-term supports and services in a setting of their choice in their community.

The bill is named for Reeves, who in 1991, fled a nursing home facility in Tennessee to move to Colorado so she could live independently while still getting the care she needed. She then made it her mission to help others like herself live independently within their own communities.

"Like too many other Americans with disabilities, Latonya Reeves was institutionalized for years and unable to exercise her constitutionally-protected freedom to live on her own, until she moved to Colorado," said Bennet. "This bill honors Latonya's legacy of fighting for others by ensuring that people with disabilities can live independently and still access the care they need."

"With the shift in the Supreme Court, it is clear that civil rights must be underpinned by something more than a court decision," said Dawn Russell, an ADAPT activist. "At some point, the Supreme Court will revisit the *Olmstead* decision and could wipe out decades of progress in shifting from institutional placement to supporting seniors and people with disabilities in the community.

"So now, more than ever, we need the Latonya Reeves Freedom Act to ensure that Disabled people and seniors have an enforceable civil right to disability freedom."

Effects Of Pregnancy

In December 2022, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) was signed by Pres. Joe Biden. The legislation, which went into effect on June 27, is a new law that requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to a worker's limitations related to pregnancy or childbirth medical conditions, unless the accommodation will cause the employer an undue hardship.

The PWFA applies only to accommodations. Existing laws al-

ready make it illegal to fire or discriminate against these workers. The new law does not replace federal, state or local laws that are more protective of workers.

Covered employers include those in the private and public sector who have at least 15 employees. Some examples of reasonable accommodations may include receiving a closer parking, flexible hours, appropriately sized uniforms and safety apparel, additional break time, time off to recover from childbirth, and excusal from activities that are strenuous and/or involve exposure to unsafe compounds.

According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), while pregnancy itself is not a disability under the ADA, some workers may have one or more impairments related to their pregnancy that does qualify as a disability under the ADA, as an impairment's cause or likelihood that it is temporary is not relevant in the determination. A few examples are pregnancy-related diabetes, anemia, sciatica and carpal tunnel syndrome.

Communications

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently created a proposal that would now require video conferencing platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams to be accessible under the Communications Act. There is also a proposal to amend part 14 of the FCC rules to enhance accessibility of interoperable video conferencing services such as speech-to-text, text-to-speech and enabling American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting.

Locally

Recently, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed legislation meant to strengthen the rights of New Yorkers with disabilities.

S.7107b/A.8586b recognizes supported decision-making as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship, which promotes autonomy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), meant to empower them to take an active role in making choices about their own lives.

S.6300c/A.7356c requires that the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)



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33 Years

will develop and implement a public awareness campaign that combats stigma and stereotyping of people with IDD.

The program will utilize public forums, social and mass media, the internet, radio and print advertising to educate the public about IDD and highlight positive contributions these people make to their communities.

A.7882a/S.6789a replaces references to “mentally retarded” in numerous sections of New York state law to more accurate terms such as “individuals with IDD.”

A.7652/S.9335 eliminates the state residency requirement for designated beneficiaries in the New York Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program, which is designed to help pay for qualified disability expenses.

Conforming state law with the federal ABLE Act is meant to increase participation in New York’s ABLE program, lower administrative costs and benefit program account owners.

Additional N.Y. State legislation increases enforcement of rules

related to disabled access parking spaces (A9805 /S882) and increases fines for dumping or plowing snow onto accessible parking places (A9702B /S 1271-B).

Colleges And Universities

The DOJ’s ongoing effort to remind people of their obligations under the ADA, includes a letter they sent out in May, in conjunction with the Department of Education (DOE), reminding colleges, universities and other postsecondary institutions of their responsibility to make sure that their online services, programs and activities are accessible. This joint letter reiterates that Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requires them to provide equal opportunities to people with disabilities in all their operations.

In December 2022, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey reached a settlement agreement under Title III of the ADA with Educational Testing Service (ETS) regarding multiple allegations by individuals with disabilities that ETS did not provide testing accommoda-



Pres. George Bush passes a pen to Rev. Harold Wilke at the signing of the ADA in 1990. Wilke, born without arms, accepts the pen with his foot. Sharing the dias are, standing, Vice Pres. Dan Quail, and Sandra Parrino, National Council on Disability. Seated, left to right, are Evan Kemp, Equal Opportunity Commission and Justin Dart.

tions. The agreement mandates that ETS must establish revised policies, practices and procedures; train staff and online proctors; and pay compensatory damages to the complainants.

In November 2022, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York entered into a settlement agreement with New York University (NYU) pursuant to Title III of the ADA. The settlement agreement resolves a compliance review regarding NYU’s accessible housing at various campus housing facilities.

The agreement increases the accessibility of all its student housing facilities in the New York metropolitan area. NYU has agreed to prepare a plan where it will survey and make alterations to its student housing facilities within five years, update its housing emergency preparedness plans and improve the accessibility information about student housing on its website.

Connecticut Marina

In January, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut reached a resolution under Title II of the ADA with the Town of Greenwich, Conn., to address physical inaccessibility at the Byram Marina facility. The agreements include improving the accessibility of designated boat slips and the routes to those slips, as well as other accommodations designed to increase access for the disabled.

Paratransit

The department notified the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) that its Access-A-Ride

paratransit program violates Title II of the ADA in a letter of findings issued in October. The paratransit service engages in operational patterns or practices that significantly limit the availability of service to ADA paratransit eligible patrons, including significant untimely drop-offs and excessive travel times. That letter demanded that the NYCTA address the violations identified by taking corrective actions, including establishing performance standards for on-time drop-offs and trip length, collecting and maintaining data on requested drop-off times, and conducting analysis of on-time drop-off and travel time performance.

Today

“Thirty three years ago we tried to imagine what the country would be like decades later,” said United Spinal’s James Weisman, a key negotiator with members of Congress in drafting and supporting the passage of the ADA.

Compliance has become routine in new buildings but the employment numbers are still poor. The benefits system, which, in many ways, incentivizes people with disabilities to stay out of the labor force coupled with discrimination are the primary reasons.

“For more than 60 million Americans living with disabilities, the ADA is so much more than a law,” said Pres. Joe Biden during an ADA speech. “It’s a source of opportunity, participation, independent living, respect and dignity, the bulwark against discrimination and a path to independence.”

ADA TITLES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) covers a wide array of protections, which are broken down into five titles.

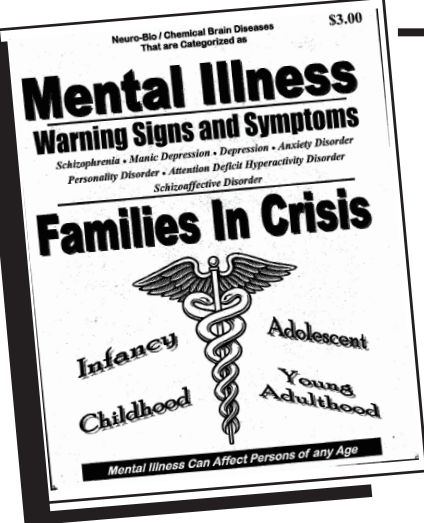
Title I mandates that employers with 15 or more employees provide equal opportunities and reasonable accommodations to workers in regard to hiring, promotions, retention and wages. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulates and enforces this title and can be contacted if there has been discrimination.

Title II prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities such as state and local government agencies, requiring them to make their programs, services and activities accessible. This includes public transportation. It is regulated and enforced by the Department of Justice.

Title III prohibits discrimination by private entities such as hotels, restaurants, retail merchants, doctor’s offices, recreational venues, private schools, health clubs and private transportation companies. This is regulated and enforced by the Department of Justice.

Title IV covers telecommunications. Telephone and Internet companies must provide a nationwide system of relay services that allows individuals with hearing or speech disabilities to communicate. It is regulated by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC).

Title V includes miscellaneous provisions which contain a variety of disabilities and areas relating to the ADA as a whole, including its relationship to other laws, state immunity, its impact on insurance providers and benefits, prohibition against retaliation and coercion, illegal use of drugs and attorney’s fees.



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CDPAANYS EDITORIAL

Budget Fails CDPA & Homecare

BY BRYAN O'MALLEY, EXEC. DIR. CDPAANYS



The last day of the 2023 legislative session was Friday, June 9. How did CDPA and home care fare?

Because so much of our agenda is concentrated on improving eligibility and funding for community-based long-term care and Medicaid, much of our work each year is focused on the annual budget.

This year was no different. The budget dominated the news and the Legislative session, as it was more than a month late. While budget extenders, which make sure the state can pay its bills while we await the new budget, meant this did not matter much in the long-term, it did mean there was less time dedicated to passing other laws.

Overall, the Governor and Legislature failed home care and CDPA this year. Fair Pay for Home Care suffered a setback during the budget. After two years of tremendous progress that saw us win a \$3.00/hour increase for workers, an increase Gov. Hochul described as “just a start” during her gubernatorial campaign, we returned this January ready to see it to completion.

Overall, the Governor and Legislature failed home care and CDPA this year. After last year, when we won a \$3.00/hour increase for workers over two years, we were hopeful for bigger and better victories.

This hope was increased when Gov. Hochul described that increase as “just a start” during her gubernatorial campaign.

That hope was dashed when the Governor released her budget, and we found out that, despite her promises, she planned on returning home care to a minimum wage job. Worse, she wanted to get rid of a law that required extra wages and benefits of \$4.09 in New York City and \$3.22 in Long Island and Westchester – and only for workers in CDPA. While we beat the worst of these cuts, the final budget delayed the wage increase by three months.

Further, while increasing the wage by \$1.55, the budget paid for that increase by cutting the previously mentioned required wages and benefits by \$1.55, effectively making home care workers pay for their own wage increase.

Not even common sense legislation that would have held insurance companies accountable for passing the three-quarters of a billion dollars they got from the state through to agencies, so that they could pay workers the increased rate without cutting benefits, overtime or even facing bankruptcy, went through.

Despite having no cost, this idea was stopped in both the budget and the post-budget legislative seasons meaning that the state will continue to allow the companies to reap windfall profits on the backs of home-care workers and the older and disabled New Yorkers who rely on them.

Despite these setbacks, we did have a significant victory at the end of the year when both houses passed legislation that gives consumers information about how managed care plans behave, so that you can make informed choices when forced to choose a plan.

This legislation, which will be sent to the Governor for a signature, which will make it law, or a veto, will require the Department of Health to post information they already receive from the managed care companies about the average hours authorized by county, the number of their members who had to transition to institutions like nursing homes, and more. If signed, it will be a tremendous resource that helps make consumers more informed when choosing managed

Continued on page 23

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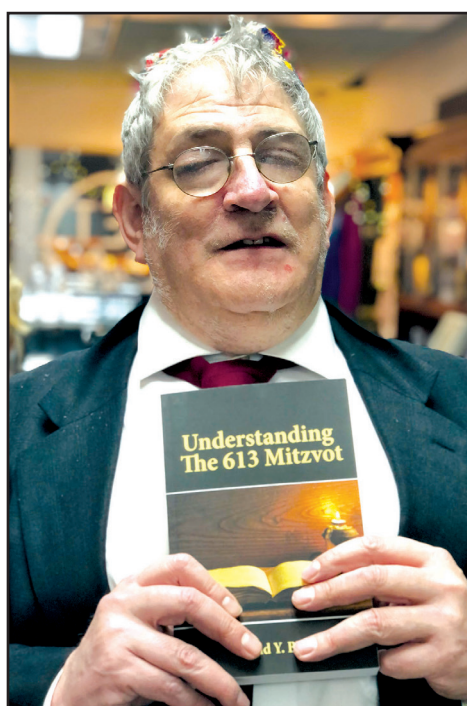
Able Reporter Displays Many Talents

Those who read *Able Newspaper* regularly, might recognize the name David Block. He has written a number of articles for this publication including pieces on the Paralympics.

But there is so much more to the 59-year-old Block of Ardmore, Pa. He has made eight documentaries, many of which focus on people with disabilities overcoming adversity.

Some of his works have won film festival awards and have been televised nationwide. As a freelance reporter, he landed interviews with high profile people such as Kobe Bryant, former Philadelphia 76ers basketball coach Brett Brown, Sarah Palin's parents and Bill Cosby, to name a few.

Block also spent 11 years writing and completing his first book, "Understanding The 613 Mitzvot (2021)," a text to help people to better understand the Five Books of Moses from the Old Testament. Block's book was displayed at the *L. A. Times*



David Block

Book Festival this past April.

Block is legally blind, is on the Autism Spectrum and suffers from anxiety and depression. He has had to cope with these disabilities his entire life, but says he is always too busy to allow these inconveniences to stop him.

He is currently focused and somewhat frustrated as he is struggling to finish his ninth

documentary and his second book.

"I want to finish them before I turn 60 this October," said Block.

Block's ninth film will be about his late blind African American friend, John Sutton who had been a street singer for more than 30 years. His second book will consist of five stories that focus on people struggling with blindness and its daily challenges.

"Some of those stories are very depressing," said Block. "They will not make you feel good, but these stories need to be told."

Block has had his own set of challenges. Throughout high school, college and graduate school, he always had to prove to teachers and peers that his disabilities did not mean inability.

Even though he earned his B.A. in History at Bard College in Annandale, N.Y. in 1988 and his masters' in Journalism at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., in 2017, he sometimes believes that people see

his shortcomings and disabilities before they see him.

"People still ask how can I do this and do that if I can't see well?" Block said. "Sometimes, I get tired of always having to explain how people with disabilities can still accomplish difficult things if they are determined enough."

Another recent project that Block is proud of is that he taught journalism to night-school students this year and last.

"I loved teaching that class," said Block. "I like how after the first week my disabilities are no longer an issue. The issue becomes getting my students to practice their writing and to read what I assign them to read. Some of my students were nervous about writing pieces, so I had to work with them on building their confidence," and building his own confidence seems to be the story of David Block's life.

To learn more about Block, visit his website, www.blind-filmmaker.com.

NYC Student Awarded Lighthouse Guild Scholarship

Matthew Cho of New York City is one of 15 students from across the country who recently received a college scholarship from the Lighthouse Guild.

The scholarships of \$10,000 each are awarded annually to students who are legally blind and will be entering college or attending a graduate school.

Cho is enrolled as an undergraduate at Marymount College in Manhattan, where he will begin his studies in the fall.

In 2019, Cho was diagnosed with a brain tumor which required two surgeries to remove it. The second surgery caused him to lose his vision. In his scholarship application's personal essay to the Lighthouse Guild, Cho wrote that he felt hopeless and lost, with

his everyday routine becoming a struggle due to having to relearn the simplest of things.

However, when he went to the Lighthouse Guild, he was paired with a rehabilitation counselor and a mobility instructor, who taught him the new skills he needed to thrive despite his condition.

Cho attended the New York Institute for Special Education in the Bronx, which specializes in educating students who have visual impairments. In addition, he recently took several college courses at Hostos Community College in the Bronx. Also, he has been engaged in a Lighthouse Guild internship called Tech Pals, where he mentored senior citizens who are visually impaired on how to use technology.

According to Cho, another

turning point in his recovery was discovering the guitar, saying that it brought him joy.

"Having this opportunity has helped me realize my own future goals," said Cho of the internship. "The joy of helping others made me pursue a career in music therapy. I am here today, because music helped me get through the darkest times. My dream is to get people through their mental, emotional and physical illnesses through the power of music. My hope is to give back to my community as it did for me."

Lighthouse Guild scholarships are based on strong academic accomplishment and merit to help students who are legally blind make a successful transition to college and graduate school. Since 2005, they have awarded more than \$2.7 million in scholarships to outstanding students.

"It's challenging for young people today to achieve their



Matthew Cho

higher education goals, and students who are visually impaired face particular challenges" said Calvin Roberts, president of Lighthouse Guild. "We are pleased to support these outstanding students, so they have a clearer path to success in their chosen careers. I congratulate them on their academic achievements and wish them well in the future.

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JULY 2023

INDEPENDENCE CARE SYSTEM

ICS Recipient of Grant to Build Primary Care Center of Excellence

Independence Care System (ICS) was recently named a recipient of an Affinity Legacy Community Grant to develop a Center of Excellence in Primary Care for people with physical disabilities in partnership with New York City Health and Hospitals (H+H), the largest community hospital system in the country.

The grant will allow ICS and H+H to move forward with a two-year-long project that will establish a primary care model for people with physical dis-

abilities. Together in partnership with H+H, ICS will work to improve electronic medical records to identify and accommodate the needs of people with disabilities and document best practices, create educational materials to maximize the value of primary care visits and train staff and clinicians on disability-competent care.

The first year of the program will be devoted to establishing the infrastructure needed to provide disability competent care, with the model being im-

plemented the second year. Overall data will be collected to establish the best practices for both clinicians and administrative staff.

“We’re grateful to receive this funding from Affinity Legacy, which will allow us to fully realize a primary care center for people with physical disabilities – something greatly needed in New York City,” said ICS President and CEO Regina Martinez-Estela. “Our program is greatly aligned with Affinity Legacy’s mission of support-

ing programs focused on helping individuals in underserved communities make informed decisions when choosing and using healthcare services. This grant will allow us to use our 20-plus years of experience serving low-income, Medicaid eligible New Yorkers with physical disabilities to create an infrastructure that can be replicated to promote lifesaving preventative services from primary care doctors. This includes members with spinal

Continued on page 14

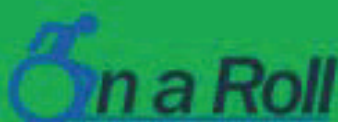
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Our Diabetes Services includes an American Diabetes Association-accredited self-management education program. Our endocrinology specialists help manage diabetes and provide individual and group sessions that teach practical techniques to maintain health.

As part of our Low Vision Rehabilitation Services our vision specialists evaluate the level of vision loss and recommend tools and exercises to help people read, work, socialize and enjoy other activities.

Our Vocational Rehabilitation and Technology Services enable individuals to attain their goals, whether that be to work, to go to school, to shop or to navigate their community. A multidisciplinary team offers occupational therapy, training in assistive technology, orientation and mobility, activities

of daily living, college preparation and career services.

Dorothy Strelsin Behavioral Health Clinic operates the only behavioral health center in the U. S. for people who are visually impaired or at risk for vision loss. Services include individual therapy, couples and family counseling and group therapy.

Our national Tele-Support Network enables parents of children with vision impairment as well as teens and adults with vision loss to connect with their peers to share resources, experiences and support.

Our Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) is the only such program in New York State specializing in care for people with vision loss.

The program includes nursing care, two meals a day, physical, occupational and speech therapy as well as social and therapeutic activities and vision rehabilitation.

We provide support for students with vision impairment to prepare for life after high school in a career or college by offering counseling and advanced computer and technology training.

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Independence Care System

Continued from page 12

cord injuries, multiple sclerosis and other disabilities that limit their mobility. This program will help to address the vast health disparities faced by thousands of H+H patients with physical disabilities, including our 2,500 members. We are excited to receive this funding to put into action our focus on the health, mobility and independence – ICS' three foundational pillars – to ensure for health equity.

"H+H has worked closely with ICS for the last 10 years and we look forward to continued collaboration through the support from Affinity Legacy," said H+H Senior Vice President, Office of Ambulatory Care & Population Health Ted

Long. "H+H and ICS serve many of the same population, whose physical disabilities and chronic conditions put them at higher risk for poor health outcomes.

Our two organizations share a deep commitment to minimizing those risks by providing access to high-quality, disability-competent providers and care to help people be as healthy as possible.

Our work with ICS has grown from one site in 2012 to five locations throughout the H+H system today. We look forward to building on the strength of our relationship and expanding our groundbreaking work into the area of primary care."

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CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THE DISABLED, N.Y.

CIDNY Spotlights NY Connects Program

The NY Connects program at the Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY) is a free, trusted place to go for information about services and resources that support people with disabilities across every borough of NYC.

We work with New Yorkers of all ages and with any type of disability whether they live at home, in a nursing home, or another residential setting. Our counselors help people with disabilities make informed decisions about short term and long term services and support options including help with benefits enrollment.

And, we make sure that people are directly connected with the resources they need to achieve and maintain

their independence. One new focus throughout 2023 is a focus on ensuring access to vaccinations. We are working with partners to ensure older adults and people with disabilities have easy and no cost access to vaccines like flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

At CIDNY we've been helping people with disabilities live their lives independently in the community for forty years. Programs like the NY Connects allow us to do this.

If you are or know a person with a disability, we're here for you. Please reach out to us.

To learn more about CIDNY and the NY Connects program, please visit us online at www.cidny.org/nyconnects.

www.cidny.org/nyconnects

BRANDOW LAW

Has your child reached the age of 18 or older?

Turning 18 is a significant milestone in life. A person can now vote, buy lottery tickets, and be provided with healthcare privacy under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

When a child turns 18, parents will no longer have automatic access to information about their condition if they suffer an illness or injury, and parents might not be able to direct treatment options if the person cannot speak for themselves.

BrandowLaw recommends everyone aged 18 and older, who is capable of understanding decision making, have a health care proxy, living will, power of attorney, and if needed, an educational release form.

These documents allow a person to state their wishes for specific medical treat-

ments and name agents to act on their behalf for financial, educational, and healthcare matters if they're ever unable to do so themselves.

Advance care planning is necessary for peace of mind. We encourage you and your adult children to discuss your wishes with each other and an attorney.

If your loved one cannot understand the daily functionalities of financial and medical decisions, you may want to consider guardianship.

As a court-appointed guardian, you would be able to assist in making sure the person is receiving the desired medical care and that their financial needs are being met.

Please call our office at 631 675-2540 to schedule an appointment to discuss planning for your loved ones.

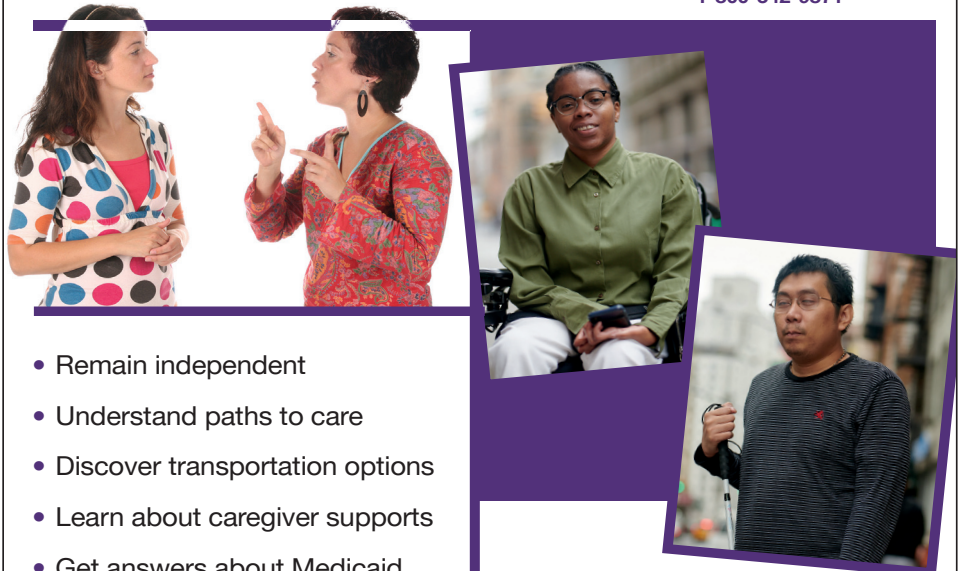
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Locations and Partners

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1010 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 301
New York, NY 10003

Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI)
56 Bay St, 4th Floor
Staten Island, NY 10301

Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS)
4419 Third Ave, #2C
Bronx, NY 10457



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2023

SUNDAY, JULY 16

“Innovate and Shift Perspectives”

Join us at the fourth annual Disability Unite Festival, celebrating disability pride and marking the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!

4 Hours Stage Performances | 2 Hours Virtual Performances & Virtual Panel Discussions | In-Person Interactive Activities | In-Person Community Booths

To register and for more information, visit DisabilityUnite.org

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Presented By



NOD Project Examines ‘Campus To Careers’

A new report released by the National Organization on Disability (NOD) and The Burton Blatt Institute finds employers reporting significant difficulties identifying and recruiting students and recent graduates with disabilities.

At the same time, those students with disabilities are faced with challenges long before they even begin to look for work. This was the motivation to launch

NOD’s innovative Campus to Careers Demonstration Project.

The Campus to Careers Project, supported by lead funder The Coca-Cola Foundation, and in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School’s Work Without Limits Initiative, has served as a living laboratory to test, evaluate and share ideas and strategies among dozens of employers, universities, colleges, and students.

The findings provide practical recommendations, including checklists and video assets, for employers and universities to understand the challenges employers experience in engaging students with disabilities.

They also recommend looking at the obstacles students with disabilities experience in transitioning into their chosen field; and the important role career and disability services play on campus.

“Recruiting college talent is becoming more competitive every year, and employers need a solid strategy to compete for skilled and diverse graduates,” said NOD President Carol Glazer.

“A productive recruitment strategy requires a dedicated commitment and can take some time to develop, but employers will see a return on investment by including people with disabilities who have incredible

Continued on page 23

SUNY Cortland Lauded For Focus On Special Ed

SUNY Cortland has been recognized by BestAccredited-Colleges.org for its focus on special education, being named the third best school in the United States on the organization’s list of “Best Bachelor’s In Special Education Degree Programs.”

The rankings website says that it uncovers the true value offered by schools by using criteria that go beyond the name recognition and prestige of higher education institutions. Among the traits that Better Accredited Colleges considers, are accessibility, quality of education, affordability and return on investment.

Associate professor Maria

Timberlake, chair of the foundations and social advocacy department and director of SUNY Cortland’s Undergraduate Research Council, isn’t surprised by the national success of Cortland’s Inclusive Childhood Education program, which offers dual certification in childhood education and special education.

“The strength of our dual certification program (Inclusive Childhood Education) is reflected in our department name, foundations and social advocacy,” Timberlake said. “FSA means that we teach disability as a natural part of being a human and prepare our students

to understand that their classroom will be filled with a wide range of children with varying strengths and identities.”

The department also offers courses in multicultural and urban education, the role of gender in schooling and the relationship between schools and society.

Emma Trulock ’22, an inclusive childhood education major who is now a special education teacher at F.E. Smith Interme-

diate School in Cortland, said the university is highly effective in preparing her for her career.

“I think the emphasis on inclusion and having an inclusive mindset is a great part of the inclusive childhood education program that you don’t see everywhere ... strong pedagogy with placements in local schools for hands-on experience, so our graduates are ready to teach in any New York school district.”

Celebrating Rehabilitation Act

The Office of Disability Employment Policy has chosen “Advancing Access and Equity” as its theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month in 2023.

Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of America’s workers with disabilities past and present, and showcases supportive, inclusive policies and practices that benefit employees and employers alike.

Similarly, ODEP will use “Advancing Access and Equity: Then, Now and Next” to celebrate the passage of the Rehabilitation Act 50 years ago and its importance in prohibiting discrimination based on disability in employment by federal agencies, federal contractors and recipients of federal funds, and in the delivery of federally

funded programs and activities.

“National Disability Employment Awareness Month reminds us of the valued contributions people with disabilities make in our nation’s workplaces, and the 50th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 marks a major milestone in our nation’s ongoing quest to advance access and equity for all Americans,” said assistant secretary for disability employment policy Taryn Williams. “From now through October, we will be exploring the act’s impact on everything from employment to community living to non-discrimination to accessible technology.”

The Rehabilitation Act laid the foundation upon which the more comprehensive Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 now stands.

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Look for our Magazine DESIGNS 4 LIVING coming out this July. Read our Contributors Stories, Accessible Home Design and So Much More.
Visit us and view our E-Magazine at BRICKHOUSEDESIGNS.NET

Announcing the

NYC Disability Rights Archive

Funded by the New York State Archives
to be housed at the College of Staten Island, CUNY

Do you have or know about old disability rights photos, tshirts, letters, flyers, papers, etc.? We are starting a multi-year project to create an archive of documents, photographs, media, and other objects in order to preserve NYC Disability Rights history.

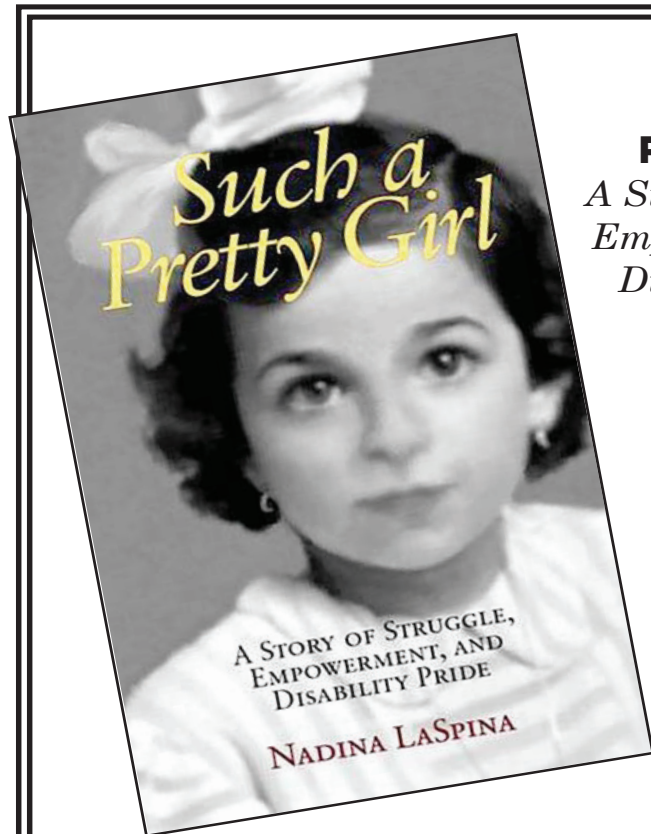
Learn more about the project here:

library.csi.cuny.edu/archives/projects

Do you have materials to contribute? Please fill out a brief form so we can get in touch:

bit.ly/NYC-DRA

Or email: jmurray@gradcenter.cuny.edu



**“Such a
Pretty Girl”**
*A Story of Struggle,
Empowerment and
Disability Pride*

Available at NYU
Press, Amazon.com
& Local Book Stores

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.

CIDNY SAYS

The Road To Inclusion

BY SHARON MCLENNON WIER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On July 26, 1990, Pres. George Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This legislation was seminal civil rights legislation for people with disabilities.

For the first time, people with disabilities could hold others accountable in state and federal court for disability-related discrimination regarding employment needs, architectural design, transportation, information and technology barriers. This legislation made it more apparent that the quality of life for people with disabilities living in the United States was vastly different compared to those without disabilities.

Each year, after the signing of this legislation, as a community we reflect on if it worth the fight. How are we doing as a population? We are steadily growing attributed to birth, age, infections like COVID-19 and traumatic accidents.

We know that people with disabilities are over one million people strong living in New York City. We know that people with disabilities continue to have higher unemployment rates in New York City.

We know that people with disabilities continue to struggle with sustainable housing opportunities. We know that people with disabilities have lower outcomes when it comes to secondary and post-secondary educational achievements and so much more.

Nevertheless, people with disabilities continue to try to live their lives despite all these barriers. We find the inner resilience and fortitude. We continue to show up at the advocacy meetings, the summits, the voting booths, the rallies, council hearings and whatever is needed to ensure our independence – a true access to a barrier-free environment.

CIDNY Believes that the ADA assisted the disabled community with getting our voices heard. CIDNY believes that the disabled community continues to want the same opportunities and privileges that people without disabilities strive for within this society.

We all want to have meaningful and purposeful lives no matter what direction we seek in life. We want people without disabilities to own their bias and actively welcome a diverse and inclusive society.

The ADA helped the society understand that each call for inclusion precipitates a society that allows for people without disabilities to benefit.

We can all enjoy the curb cuts, the elevators in the subway, the large restrooms in the airport, the accessible counter at our favorite coffee shop and even a library built to educate all of us.

This is what ADA did and continues to do. The work at CIDNY is driven by the needs of the disabled community. We fight each day to assist people with their level of independence and inclusion.

If you need help as a person with a disability, call us. If you want to donate to the cause, call us or if you want to learn more about our mission, connect with us at cidny.org.

We are here for you! Thank you!

Diverse Cast Performs 'Richard III'

New York Classical Theatre recently announced the all-female, gender-fluid, and disability-forward cast for Shakespeare's Richard III.

The production, directed by Stephen Burdman, has been performed in Central Park and is scheduled at Brooklyn Commons at Metrotech from June 27 to July 2. From July 4 to July 9. It will be performed at Carl Schurz Park at East 86th Street and East End Ave. All performances are free and open to the public.

The production stars Delaney Feener – a performer with a disability – as Richard. Feener is a seasoned Shakespearean actor having worked at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival and has even played the role of Richard before.

"I will always and constantly implore anyone and everyone to understand that casting actors with disabilities in roles that require disabilities is essential," said Feener. "However, I also want to highlight that actors with disabilities can be in any role, telling many stories."

Richard III is one of Shakespeare's most evil characters. The ensemble of seven women and gender-fluid performers tackle his rise to power in a story filled with familial manipulation, egregious murder, and political deceit.

All performances run from 7 to 9 p.m.. New York Classical Theatre requests that all planning to attend make a free reservation for access to the Digital Playbill. Walk-up participants are welcome on a first-come, first-serve basis on the day of the performance based on the size of the park lawn. Free reservations, performance details and weather updates can be found at nyclassical.org/richardiii.

New York Classical Theatre's mission is to create and reinvigorate audiences for the theatre by presenting all-free productions of popular classics and forgotten masterpieces in public spaces throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. They are also committed to developing and producing new plays by living playwrights that enrich and expand our understanding of what defines a classic.

New York Classical firmly believes that everyone – regardless of social, economic, or educational background – should have the opportunity to enjoy live professional theatre together as a community. Their free performances interpreted for approachable spaces are designed to inspire experienced theatergoers to reconnect with the classics and build new and future audiences.

Now celebrating its 24th Season, New York Classical has served nearly 300,000 people with 45 all-free productions.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA ARDEN

Rami Margron plays Hastings, back left, Pamela Sabaugh plays Duchess of York, back right and Delaney Feener, front, plays Richard.

Emerging Leader Award Winners Named

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) has named the 2023 emerging leaders with disabilities who exemplify leadership, advocacy and dedication to the broader cross-disability community with its AAPD Paul G. Hearne Emerging Leader Awards.

Jennifer Lee and the team of Proud Parents, co-led by Mary Lou Freitas, Quiana Mayo, Sierra Scott, and Jossie Torres are this year's recipients.

Each recipient was awarded \$10,000 – \$7,500 to further work that increases the political and economic power of people with disabilities and \$2,500 in recognition of outstanding contributions to the disability community.

"In naming these impressive honorees, we not only commend

their work, but we also emphasize the importance of the creation of culturally and linguistically competent resources that support the increasing agency of our diverse disability community," AAPD president and CEO Maria Town said.

Jennifer Lee, one of the honorees, is the founder of the Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative (AADI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that amplifies the voices of disabled Asian Americans nationwide. She served as a 2022 Youth to the Front Fund Frontliner from the We Are Family Foundation, 2022 Coelho Law Fellow at Loyola Law School, and was a 2021 Heumann-Armstrong Education Award recipient. She plans to attend Harvard Law School, where she intends to spe-

cialize in disability and civil rights law.

Mary Lou (Lu) Freitas is a mom and foster mom who has spent her life supporting and advocating for people with all types of different abilities and challenges. She promotes empowerment, independence and relationships. She wants everyone to feel included, safe, and respected with a sense of belonging and purpose.

Quiana Mayo is the mother of two young men. Quiana is an advocate for disability rights. She sits at many tables in order to make positive changes. She is on the board of The Association of Successful Parenting (TASP) and works to make public documents easy to read so they are accessible to everyone.

Sierra Scott is the mother of

two boys. She has a passion for advocacy, especially the Department of Children and Families (DCF) systems change. Her hope is to end stigma and discrimination toward individuals who have DCF involvement. She is a Certified Recovery Support Specialist, a graduate of Partners in Policy-making and a member of several Connecticut advocacy groups.

Jossie Torres is the mom of three. She is a self-advocate coordinator for the Department of Developmental Services. She has been an officer and member of many strong advocacy groups and served as president of People First Connecticut. She wants all people to receive fairness and equal rights. Torres is bi-lingual in English and Spanish and translates Proud Parents materials.

DISABILITY HISTORY

Disability In Pre-Modern New York City – Part II

BY WARREN SHAW

By 1860 New York City had reached a crisis. Every year filthier, every year more overcrowded, it is said that inbound sailors could smell the City before they could see it.

New York City was the subject of the nation's first in-depth survey of public health. Published in 1866, its findings were worse than alarming. More than half the City's children failed to reach age five.

The City's death rate was fifty percent higher than Philadelphia or London – it was, perhaps, the highest of any city in the world. The death rate actually exceeded the birth rate, so the City would have been depopulating if not for the constantly arriving waves of immigrants from Europe.

There was crisis of disability too.

Take tuberculosis. It was then the City's most lethal disease, responsible for more than 8,000 deaths – close to one percent of the population, every year (considerably higher than COVID's multi-year total, so far).

If the 1866 survey correctly estimated twenty cases for every death, then something like 1500 New Yorkers were coming down with severely disabling tuberculosis of the spine – every year. That was just one disabling condition, out of many.

These weren't new problems. But an extreme public health crisis came out of the Panic of 1857, an economic depression so severe that it bears directly on our story. In just a few months, breadwinners for a quarter of the City's poor households lost their jobs. Wages fell by a third, at the same time that Civil War inflation soon caused coal and food prices to double and triple.

Already underfed masses' health took a nosedive; desperate men took unfamiliar jobs and became injured; epidemics ransacked whole neighborhoods. Many families could not cope when spouses, breadwinners or children became too disabled to carry on in the expected ways, so they ended up separated, or on the streets. For the seventy percent that were poor and lived in tenements or worse, the chaos that was life in New York got even worse.



A postcard from England circa 1900, showing a disabled young man begging from two girls.

How many disabled beggars were there, in the aftermath of this calamity? My best estimate is that there may have been as many as ten or fifteen thousand, out of a population of 800,000, tightly crammed into Manhattan below 42nd Street.

Consider that today we regard ourselves as living with a crisis of homelessness. Current estimates are that the unhoused population

is about 60,000 (excluding migrants), out of a population of 8,000,000. To make that proportionate to my estimate for 1860, you'd have to increase that number to 150,000.

Imagine 150,000 mobility-disabled people begging, starving and expiring on the streets of New York City.

So, by the 1860s life for New Yorkers with disabilities was quite literally nasty, brutish and short. But there were so many of them that, finally, something had to be done.



Detail from an 1875 illustration, depicting a class for disabled girls – one in a wheelchair, others using chairs as walkers – run by the New York Society For The Relief Of The Ruptured And Crippled.

On April 13, 1863, two physicians, James Knight and Robert Hartley, filed incorporation papers for a new project, resoundingly titled “The New York Society for the Relief of the Ruptured and Crippled.” Established two years and one day after Fort Sumter was shot at by Southern rebels, you might think that “ruptured and crippled” was mainly about injured veterans of the Civil War – but it was not.

No, as Knight explained at the inaugural meeting of Ruptured and Crippled, his objective was to provide “relief of maladies of the laboring population” of the City. Knight described those conditions as “Persons afflicted with ruptures [or] ulcerated legs, [and] . . . Poor families having crippled children, suffering from spinal and paralytic affections, [they] thronged our streets, dwellings and places of business, making revolting displays of their infirmities and misfortunes . . . for the purpose of exciting sympathy . . .”

Ruptured and Crippled began distributing Knight's cutting-edge crutches, braces, canes and trusses. It opened a hospital (initially in Knight's living room) that offered a combination of medical care and what we'd now call social work.

Ruptured and Crippled was the first organized effort to acknowledge and try to address the fact that there was a population of people with disabilities – specifically, orthopedic or mobility impairments – living in the general society.

Then came the Draft Riots in July, 1863, when for four days the City was overridden by hundreds of thousands of poor people and immigrants. The spark was the federal government's new Civil War military draft, but the result was the largest insurrection in the history of the United States, apart from the Civil War itself.

The Draft Riots were widely seen as a warning to the respectable – woe unto New York! Unless the social order was reformed and the poor were mollified, worse riots were surely in store. For a few years in the wake of the Draft Riots, there came some modest efforts to change the social contract.

The beginnings of the modern Fire Department, the Board of Health, the Department of Buildings and the first tenement reform

Continued on page 24



TIPS FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS WITH CHALLENGES AT SCHOOL

Advocates for Children in New York is spotlighting its tip sheet.

It covers how to know whether their child needs behavior support in the classroom; whom to contact if their child does; what their rights are as a parent of a student with a disability; what their child's school is not allowed to do; and what resources can help them get the support they need.

The tip sheet is available by visiting www.advocatesforchildren.org/node/2147.

HELPING HANDS SCHEDULES ACTIVITIES FOR JULY

Helping Hands is holding several group social activities, outings, and meetings planned for July.

July 1 – 2 to 5 p.m., Restaurant Club at Sylvia's Restaurant, 328 Malcolm X Blvd., New York City. Participants will pay for their own dinner plus an additional \$5 for the volunteers. Reservations are available by calling Alice at 917 696-8115.

July 8 – 2 to 5 p.m., Barbecue in Alice's courtyard in Astoria. The cost to attend is \$20. Those planning to attend should call Alice at 917 696-8115 for the address. The rain date is July 9.

July 15 – Be A Friend Day. Volunteers will meet at McDonald's, 686 6th Ave. New York (between 21st and 22nd Street). Members and volunteers must let Alice know by Monday, July 10 if planning to attend or need a volunteer that week. Help will be needed with food deliveries that day. Those interested may call 917 696-8115.

508 BEST PRACTICES WEBINAR SET THIS MONTH

The next webinar in the U.S. Access Board's Section 508 Best Practices Webinar Series will take place Tuesday, July 18 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (ET) and will highlight policies and strategies employed by the Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that may be adapted for use by other agencies.

In addition, resources such as the Section 508 Playbook will also be referenced to help agencies, at any stage of their program maturity level, chart a more progressive path forward. Section 508 coordinators, IT specialists, reasonable accommodation specialists, and disability program managers are encouraged to participate.

For more details or to register, those interested should visit Great Lakes ADA Center's A Tale of Three Agencies.- The Section 508 Playbook webpage, <https://www.accessibilityonline.org/cioc-508/session/?id=111062>.

WEBINAR AVAILABLE ON ACCESSIBLE TOILET ROOMS

The U.S. Access Board's webinar on accessible toilet rooms in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards, can be accessed in the archives.

This webinar addressed accessibility requirements for single-user and multi-user toilet rooms, including those for water closets, toilet compartments, urinals, lavatories, signage, clearances, maneuvering space, and amenities, such as baby-changing tables.

This webinar included video remote interpreting (VRI) and real-time captioning. The webinar series is hosted by the ADA National Network in cooperation with the Board. Other archived copies of previous webinars are available at www.accessibilityonline.org.

SPEAKER ON PATIENT SAFETY AND ADVOCACY AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Those in need of speakers for their organization can look to the Pulse Center?

Pulse Center for Patient Safety Education & Advocacy is available in person or via Zoom. Those interested should contact the center at 516 579-4711.

The organization will arrange for a speaker to present on any of a number of topics around patient safety, becoming a patient advocate or preparing to be a patient.

They will also put a panel together for them on a number of topics.

ADA AND ABA STANDARDS FOR TRAVEL INDUSTRY ADDRESSED

The next webinar in the U.S. Access Board's free monthly series will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m., Thursday, July 6.

It will address requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards for hotels, motels and more.

Presenters will discuss the required number and dispersion of compliant guest rooms and suites with mobility and communication features as well as accessibility requirements for guest accommodations, such as sleeping areas, bathrooms, kitchens and kitchenettes, storage, signage, fire alarms and phones. Check-in counters, fitness centers, swimming pools and spas, bars and restaurants and conference rooms, will also be covered.

Information and registration can be done by visiting www.accessibilityonline.org/training. Archived webinars are available on their site.

'WALK IN THE PARK' FUNDRAISER FOR ALZHEIMER'S SCHEDULED

Be part of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America's Walk in the Park fundraiser, any time between 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 and 11:59 p.m., Sunday, Sept.10.

Online registration closes at 1:59 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 10.

Walk wherever you are during that period or join the Long Island or New York City walks.

Walk at 1899 Park Blvd., East Meadow from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 9 or at 75 Battery Place, New York City from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, Sept.10.

Information and registration is available by visiting <https://apps.alzfdn.org/afa-walk-2023>.

NAD TO HOLD TRAINING CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is launching a new training program for people who are interested in education advocacy.

This training will be provided at the NAD Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) in Albuquerque, N.M., Sept. 21 to 23. The program's purpose is to ensure that every state association and organization has an Education Advocate (EA) trained to promote better policies and laws for deaf education. State associations and affiliate organizations are encouraged to participate.

Attendees will become familiar with special education and disability rights law, state and local education systems, early intervention systems and more. They will be able to attend other NLTC sessions and events.

Information and registration can be done by visiting www.nad.org/2023-nltc/.

CAMP ANCHOR PLANS 13TH ANNUAL BEACH BALL

The ANCHOR Program Fund, Inc.(APF) recently announced their annual Beach Ball to raise funds for Camp ANCHOR (Answering the Needs of Citizens with Handicaps through Organized Recreation) will be held on Thursday July 20 at the Bridgeview Yacht Club in Island Park.

Camp ANCHOR is a year-round recreation program operated by the Town of Hempstead, and is dedicated to children and adults with disabilities who reside in the Town.

The Camp provides programs after school and on Saturdays in various locations throughout the township during the fall, winter and spring. A six-week summer day camp program located in Lido Beach serves more than 700 children and adults.

The last day to purchase tickets is July 17. For information email RSVP2APF@gmail.com

SPORTS SCENE

45 Athletes Selected For Team USA

After three days of competition at the 2023 U.S. Paralympics Track & Field National Championships, 45 athletes – 29 men and 16 women – were nominated to the 2023 world championships roster that will represent Team USA this summer at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships. The meet will take place this July in Paris, one year before the world returns for the Paralympic Games Paris 2024. More than 150 athletes competed for a spot.

Wheelchair Racing

Tatyana McFadden (Clarksville, Md.), 20-time Paralympic medalist leads an accomplished group of women's wheelchair racers that also includes Paralympians Hannah Dederick (Mead, Wash.), Eva Houston (Omaha, Neb.) and Susannah Scaroni (Teakoa, Wash.).

Scaroni, the winner of this year's Boston Marathon, will compete at her fifth world championships.

Dederick and Houston are set for their world debuts.

On the men's wheelchair racing side, Paralympic champion Daniel Romanchuk (Mount Airy, Md.) went unbeaten in the men's T54 events, topping the field in the 100-meter, 400-meter, 800-meter, 1500-meter and 5,000-meter. Three-time Paralympian Brian Siemann (Champaign, Ill.) won all five races in the T53 class to qualify for his sixth world championships.

Throwing

A world record in the women's shot put F46 propelled DePaul University standout Noelle Malkamaki (Decatur, Ill.) to her first world championship team.

Also in the throwing events is teenager Samantha Heyison (Adamstown, Md.), who impressed in her nationals debut, and three-time Paralympic medalist Cassie Mitchell (Warner, Okla.). Heyison threw an American record in the women's discus F44 and a national title in her shot put event.

On the men's side, Paralympic

champions Jeremy Campbell (Perrytown, Texas) and David Blair (Eagle Mountain, Utah) earned world championship berths. Campbell and Blair have been two of the top ambulatory throwers in the worlds in the past decade.

Paralympic silver medalist Hagan Landry (Delcambre, La.), Paralympic bronze medalist Josh Cinnamo (San Diego, Calif.), 2016 Paralympian Cody Jones (Simi Valley, Calif.) and new national team member Devin Huhta (Battle Mountain, Nev.) round out Team USA's throwing contingent. Landry earned his spot with a 13.70-meter shot put in the men's F41 competition, while Cinnamo's F46 shot put win gives him the opportunity to defend his 2019 world gold medal in the event.

Jones recorded his best javelin throw since returning to the sport after a hiatus.

On the track, Sayers Grooms (Gainesville, Fla.) and Michael Anwar (Spokane, Wash.) are set to make history as the first American Frame Runners to compete at a World Para Athletics championships.

Long Jump

Eighteen-year-old Paralympian Ezra Frech (Los Angeles, Calif.) qualified for his second world championships team with an Americas Record performance in the long jump T63 and a national title in the high jump. Reigning men's high jump T47 Paralympic champion Roderick Townsend (Stockton, Calif.), who last month broke his own world record, collected national titles in both the high jump and long jump and will make his fourth world championships appearance.

Paralympic silver medalist and University of Southern California jumper Dallas Wise (Columbia, S.C.), along with former University of Central Oklahoma football player Derek Loccident (Oklahoma City, Okla.) will make their world championships debuts after impressing in their long jump events.



Brittini Mason, Noah Malone, Tatyana McFadden and Nick Mayhugh of Team United States celebrate after winning gold in the 4x100m Universal Relay on day 10 of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games at the Olympic Stadium on Sept. 3, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. Team United States set a new world record in 45.52 seconds.

All three athletes in the men's T64 long jump – Merrill, Loccident and Jarryd Wallace (Athens, Ga.) – qualified for worlds in the event.

On the women's side, Beatriz Hatz (Lakewood, Colo.), Jaleen Roberts (Kent, Washington) and Taleah Williams (Norfolk, Nebr.) won their long jump events and will compete in Paris this summer.

Ambulatory

Paralympic medalists Noah Malone (Fishers, Ind.), Brittini Mason (Cleveland, Ohio) and Nick Mayhugh (Manassas, Va.), Hunter Woodhall (Syracuse, Utah), Patrick Leeper (Kingsport, Tenn.) as well as Paralympians Erin Kerkhoff (Coralville, Iowa), Tanner Wright (Abilene, Texas), and Marshall Zackery (Ocala, Fla.), will represent Team USA in ambulatory sprints. They will be joined by newcomers Jaydin Blackwell (Oak Park, Mich.), Matthew Paintin (Littleton, Colo.) and Ryan Medrano (Savannah, Ga.).

Mayhugh, Paintin, Blackwell, Medrano, Wright and Kerkhoff are all making their worlds debuts, though Mayhugh, Wright and Kerkhoff competed in Tokyo. Mason and Malone are each defending world champions in

the 100-meter and 4x100-meter universal relay, which they will look to defend in Paris. Leeper is a five-time worlds medalist who last competed at the world championships level in 2013, while Woodhall, a three-time Paralympic medalist, has four worlds medals in his career. Zackery is set to make his second world championships appearance.

Rounding out Team USA are five middle-distance runners – two-time Paralympic champion Breanna Clark (Los Angeles, Calif.), Paralympic champion Michael Brannigan (Northport, N.Y.), Paralympic silver medalist Liza Corso (Newmarket, N.H.), Paralympian Joel Gomez (Encinitas, Calif.) and newcomer Kaitlin Bounds (Russellville, Ark.). Clark is the defending world champion in the 400-meter T20 twice, while Brannigan has five worlds medals to his name in the men's T20 class. Corso, who ran her way to an unprecedented silver medal in Tokyo, makes her worlds debut. Bounds and Gomez have each competed at one world championship.

World championships competition is set to run from July 8-17 in Paris, France.

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GETTING PERSONAL

MEET A COMPANION, PHONE FRIEND, PEN PAL, OR EVEN A SPOUSE

MIKE 62, FROM FARMINDALE

Stroke victim, looking for female friend.

A 408

GENTLEMAN INTERESTED IN LADY FOR MARRIAGE

Do you have a physical challenge? In tradition we call you a mitzuyan, "one who excels." Because G-d in his infinite wisdom gives you some compensation--in your case 2 pluses, one is your lovely smile. Jewish man seeks very caring woman, 55 and up. Company president and have great personality. "Wheel of Fortune" thought so, as I was a contestant and did very well. I am very caring. Last winter I made sure my dates had warm hat and gloves and an extra sweater. I made sure the car was warm. As a result of being so caring, a recent survey showed women who dated me, got 50 percent less colds than women who dated brand x. I believe every woman is beautiful, no exceptions. Keep smiling. My mantra is if at first you don't succeed, do not go skydiving. I would like to hear from Maxine F (pianist).

A406

Your Ad Can Be here Call 516 939-2253

WIDOWED 67

seeks simple, playful lady friend. Send phone number. Age, race unimportant.

A407

SWM 57, WHEELCHAIR USER

seeks single female for friendship and dating, into fishing, nascar, baseball, murder mystery dinners, and comedy clubs, I live in Suffolk County NY and I do not drive. Send photo, letter and phone number.

A405

WOULD LIKE TO MEET HIGH FUNCTIONING MEN

for friendship and serious relationship 50-55. Send phone number and picture.

A404

SINGLE CHRISTIAN 54

enjoys conversing about life, current events, seeking penpal.

A403

WWF 81 WANTS FRIENDSHIP

male or female, age unimportant, being kind, caring and thoughtful and with a car.

A402

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TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD CALL THE ABLE OFFICE, 516 939-2253

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deems inappropriate. This service is intended solely for personal advertisements of singles. No ads will be accepted from couples, groups or organizations. Advertisers and respondents must be 18 years of age or older. No ads will be published seeking persons under the age of 18.

ABBREVIATIONS

A - Asian; B - Black; C - Christian; D - Divorced; F - Female; G - Gay; H - Hispanic; J - Jewish; M - Male; N/D - Non drinker; N/S - Non Smoker; P - Professional; S - Single; W - White

CAMPUS TO CAREERS

Continued from page 17

talent in their employment process."

As part of this project, NOD and its partners met with college and university students who shared their job search and recruitment experiences which uncovered surprising realizations for students with disabilities.

"Students with disabilities are an important asset to any organization," said Felicia Nurmsen, managing director, employer services for NOD.

"In addition to the skills all college graduates have, they bring intangible life

experiences and attributes that are not immediately apparent on a typical college transcript. Our corporate partners have demonstrated a strong commitment to hiring well-qualified college students with disabilities, but it was apparent that these employers were still facing challenges identifying and recruiting people with disabilities. Our Campus to Careers Roadmap materials highlight the incredible talent that people with disabilities bring to the table and how to make them part of your team."

CDPAANYS

Continued from page 10

care companies – something that we all should desire.

We also would be remiss if we did not remind folks that the budget did increase eligibility for the Medicaid buy-in for working people with disabilities, which allows people with disabilities to earn money while keeping their Medicaid coverage. It was raised significantly from its previous ceiling of \$64,000 to almost \$500,000 per year, helping to end a forced impoverishment of people with disabilities.

Unfortunately, without Fair Pay for Home Care and other critical investments in the sector, the impact of this expansion will

be limited at best, as increases in eligibility without addressing the workforce shortage that is preventing use of the benefit, is often counter-productive.

While the results of this budget and legislative year were mostly disappointing, we have a lot to be optimistic about. Our movement continues to grow and we are poised to return next year more motivated and stronger than ever. We will spend time over the summer and fall listening to you and building our plan for next year, coming back stronger than before and using an election year to demand change.



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HISTORY PART II
Continued from page 20

laws, all followed. So did quite a few new disability-related organizations, like the New York Orthopedic Dispensary (co-founded by Theodore Roosevelt Sr., Teddy's father).

This social-contract moment didn't last long. Soon an opposite point of view, so called Scientific Charity, took over and by 1875 the City had eliminated welfare for anyone but blind people, on the theory that it helped the least rather than the most fit to survive.

Nonetheless, Ruptured and Crippled, the New York Orthopedic Dispensary and others were able to continue. And over the next fifty years, through the Progressive Era, the First World War and into the 1920s, these efforts would gradually build to a mammoth campaign that I call the

Dickensian Disability Movement. The Dickensians were high society do-gooders, and their efforts were a bit class-blinkered, but their effectiveness was undeniable. They established many of the medical, social and

GALLOP NYC
Continued from page 1

only therapeutic horsemanship organization and serves hundreds of New Yorkers each week.

Riders recently enjoyed the bridle path surrounded by volunteers, riding instructors and supporters. In the Park, staff and volunteers organized a sensory-friendly family zone for New Yorkers to learn more about the benefits of therapeutic riding and equine-assisted programming.

Demonstrations included

social work fundamentals we take for granted today. By the 1890s the movement had even produced the first disability activists.

The path from the dismal mid-19th Century to the present is

adaptive riding equipment used during mounted therapeutic sessions and a sensory buffet offered the opportunity to see, touch and smell objects found in the barn. Miniature horses Priscilla and Joy, were on hand to delight attendees with a reading program.

New York City Councilman Erik Bottcher, New York Assemblyman Tony Simone and Councilman Erik Bottcher attended.

clear yet crooked. It is filled with many brave starts and much repetition. But at least, at last, the journey had begun.

For more of Warren's work in disability history, visit www.DisabilityHistoryNYC.com

"We in government can only do so much," Bottcher said. "We rely on nonprofit programs like GallopNYC to do this in-depth transformative work to really fill gaps in the social service system. You've got GallopNYC transforming lives and helping people with special needs, helping vets with PTSD in ways no other group can."

Following the promenade, a celebration was held at Felice Columbus.

THE ACCESS INDEX

<p align="center">WHEELCHAIR SERVICES</p> <p align="center">ON A ROLL WHEEL Wheelchair Services Scheduled Visits One At A Time Covered By Many Insurance Plans 646 653-6266 or onaroll@icsny.org</p>	<p align="center">VISION & HEALTHCARE</p> <p align="center">LIGHTHOUSE GUILD We are Here For You Low Vision Services • Behavioral Care • Guildcare • Vision Rehab & Tech lighthouseguild.org • 800 284-4422</p>	<p align="center">MANAGED CARE ASSISTANCE</p> <p align="center">CIDNY For Questions, Information And Assistance On ALL Managed Care Issues 212 674-2300</p>
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Blind Baseball A Hit In The U.S.

By Jeremy Morak

Adaptive sports and accessible athletic activities for people with disabilities have been gaining popularity globally for years.

One sport that is entering its golden era in the U.S., is the adaptive sport of Blind Baseball. Founded in Italy in 1998 and first introduced in the U.S. in 2015, Blind Baseball offers people who are blind and visually impaired the opportunity to compete on a baseball field in ways never before possible. The sport also cultivates a safe community that allows players to enhance skills needed for independent living and socialization in a fun and healthy environment.

The sport incorporates aspects of traditional baseball while adding accessible components designed to provide players auditory cues and

signals. Each player, whether batting, running, or fielding, wears a blindfold to create equal ability with people with varying degrees of visual impairment. Players rely on sound, from bells inside a baseball size ball to clappers for base runners to safely navigate the diamond.

Fielders also heavily rely on communication from their teammates at other positions to help locate the ball once it's in play. These requirements culminate in a way that teaches players to work in a team setting and promote individual responsibility.

The U.S. Blind Baseball Association (USBBA), a charitable, nonprofit organization was formed earlier this year by hall-of-fame college baseball coach Donald Landolphi and Ed Plumacher. The orga-



USBBA blind baseball team

nization is contracted by and works closely with AIBXC, the international governing body for this adaptive sport.

In cooperation with AIBXC, the newly formed USBBA is dedicated to the development, management and promotion of blind baseball throughout America. Pres. and CEO of the USBBA Ed Plumacher, an assistive technology specialist at Lighthouse Guild, coordinated an immersive training clinic for American players to travel to Bologna, Italy in May with help from the AIBXC and support from Lighthouse Guild.

The week-long clinic included practicing with coaches of the Bologna White Sox, one of 12 Blind Baseball teams in Italy and a scrimmage against the Bologna squad. Players, coaches and sighted volunteers from New York had a unique opportunity to learn more about the sport overall and practice the necessary skills to compete internationally.

The clinic's success forecasts blind baseballs' continued growth in the U.S. explains the impact that adaptive sports, and Blind Baseball specifically, can have on

people dealing with low vision, "I am a huge advocate for the physical, emotional and psychological benefits that adaptive sports provide to blind and visually impaired individuals," said Plumacher.

"Sports have been a major part of my personal and professional life and adaptive sports had a dramatic impact on my acceptance and acclimation to blindness. The clinic has allowed us to develop the skills we will need to continue to grow and to compete in next year's World Baseball Softball Confederation's Blind Baseball International Cup."

Eva Trevisan, Vice President of AIBXC, specializing in international development, attended the clinic and was delighted to see the progress made in just a few days. She elaborated on her goals for expanding the sport internationally, "My dream is that one day this sport can compete in the Paralympics. I also hope we can demonstrate how much this sport can change lives for people with visual impairment."

Jeremy Morak is a Marketing Manager at Lighthouse Guild.

Zorn Inducted Into Swimming HOF



Trischa Zorn, the most successful athlete in Paralympic Games history, will be inducted later this year into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

She began competing as a 16-year-old, qualifying for her first Paralympic Games in 1980 in Arnhem, Netherlands, where she came away with seven gold medals. Zorn was born with a genetic eye condition that left her blind.

She was the first visually-impaired athlete to earn a full NCAA scholarship. Eventually, she became a special needs teacher and now uses her Juris Doctor degree working for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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