

AWARD WINNING **Able**



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

ADA IN ALBANY Advocates & Leaders Commemorate



As the U.S. commemorated the 33rd anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities (ADA) passing, Abilities First CEO & Pres. Jeffery Fox, with other leaders and advocates were on hand with Gov. Kathy Hochul to celebrate in Albany.

“The impact of this monumental legislation has allowed significant progress in the areas of Accessibility and Accommodations, Employment

Opportunities, Education and Access to Services and Public Awareness and Advocacy,” said Hochul.

“As New York celebrates the 33rd anniversary, we are grateful for the progress but stay steadfast in the fight for continued commitment and advocacy for a more inclusive and equitable society for every person, regardless of their abilities.

IN THIS ISSUE

Langevin Joins NOD
Former Rep. Appointed
To Serve On Board
PAGE 3

State Parks Inaccessible
DiNapoli’s Audit
Shows Obstacles
PAGE 5

Back-To-School
Protecting Children’s
Vision & Eye Health
PAGE 7

SILO Celebrates
Suffolk Organization
Holds ADA Festivities
PAGE 9

Obituary
Advocate Douglas King
Dies At 50 Years Old
PAGE 10

Sports
Goalball, Golf,
Paracycling & Hockey
PAGES 12 & 16



— **READ ABLE** —
— **FREE ONLINE** —
— **REGISTER AT** —
www.ablenews.com

Designing Accessible COVID Tests

Available now and presented by the U.S. Access Board, the Best Practices for the Design of Accessible COVID-19 Home Tests document aims to ensure that more people can access and use COVID-19 home tests, including those who have no vision or low vision, have a reduced range of dexterity or motor skills and are aging.

This document details recommendations for test designers and manufacturers to create user-friendly and accessible COVID-19 home tests. While the initial focus is on COVID-19 testing, the ergonomic and accessible design principles outlined can also be applied to home tests for other diseases and conditions.

Marcie Roth, executive director

and CEO of the World Institute on Disability said, "Commitment to providing accessible products is good business. If these recommendations are put into practice, more people will be able to use home tests independently and these devices will be more usable by everyone."

The document captures the knowledge accumulated during the RADx Tech program to improve the accessibility of home testing options. Launched in 2022 to address current and emerging COVID-19 test products, the initiative sought out existing standards and collaborated with advocacy organizations and academic centers to find people with expertise in the needs and experiences of target user populations.

"The American Council of the

Blind commends the National Institutes of Health for working with the disability community to publish the Best Practices document for the creation of more accessible at-home tests. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became readily apparent that at-home COVID-19 testing products were not designed for people with disabilities. The utilization of these best practices by test manufacturers will ensure that people with disabilities will have greater access to all forms of at-home medical testing and diagnostics privately and independently," said Clark Rachfal, American Council of the Blind's director of advocacy and governmental affairs.

The document is available in HTML and PDF formats at www.access-board.gov/tad/radx/.

Webinar Addresses Accessible Housing

Accessibility barriers within a person's home, where they spend most of their time, are imperative to address. Residential dwelling unit accessibility guidelines and standards are addressed under many laws, including the Architectural Barriers Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the

Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, to ensure these facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. These laws, guidelines and standards can be difficult to understand and lead to confusion for many design professionals, lawyers, and citizens.

The next webinar in the U.S. Access Board's free monthly series will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7 and will clarify these requirements and their application to different types of residential facilities, including both privately and publicly funded facilities.

Presenters from the board and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will review differences between Title II and III of the ADA and the ABA, as well as their overlap with HUD's 504 regulations of the Rehabilitation Act. Additionally, presenters will give an overview of the accessible design and construction requirements under the Fair Housing Act that apply broadly to most multifamily housing.

Information or registration is available by visiting www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/session/?id=111075.

All webinars include video remote interpreting and real-time captioning. Questions can be submitted in advance of the session or can be posed during the live webinar. Webinar attendees can earn continuing education credits.

The webinar series is hosted by the ADA National Network in cooperation with the Board. Archived copies of previous Board webinars are available on the site.

Tribute To Heumann On Youtube

"Heumann Nature: The Life and legacy of Disability Rights Activist Judy Heumann" has been released by The Ford Foundation.

The six-minute video on Heumann's life and work is a tribute to her character and spirit. Often called the mother of the disability rights movement, civil rights advocate Judith Heumann, known as Judy, was instrumental in the development and passage of

key pieces of legislation – the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – all of which have been integral in advancing the inclusion of disabled people in the U.S. and around the world.

The video is available to view at https://youtu.be/_pEFsz-84eg.

ABLE NEWSPAPER

P.O. Box 395, OLD BETHPAGE, NY 11804
516 939-2253 FAX 516 939-0540
ablenews@aol.com
www.ablenews.com



Published By
Melmont Printing

Publisher
Angela Miele Melledy

Editorial Assistant
Pat Horwell
Allison Howe

Staff Writers
Beth Guarino (emerita)
Karin Falcone Krieger

Columnists
United Spinal Association
Jim Weisman

Production Director
Debbie Simko

Art & Production
Jennifer Becker (emerita)
Ann Imbrogno
Marilyn Wheeler (emerita)

Technical Assistance
Louis Melledy

Social Media Assistance
Sofie Melledy

Office Manager
Fannie Miele (emerita)

Accounting
Margaret Wenzel

Advertising Rates
Furnished Upon Request

Postmaster: Send address changes to Able News at P.O. Box 395, Old Bethpage, N.Y. 11804. Periodicals are being paid for at Bethpage, N.Y. post office. ©1994 ABLE NEWSPAPER. Able Newspaper is published monthly by Melmont Printing, 6 Robert Court, Bethpage, N.Y. 11714. Able welcomes manuscripts and suggestions for articles. However, to assure safe return, manuscripts must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. No responsibility is assured for unsolicited manuscripts or art. Submissions are the author's warranty that the material is not an infringement of the rights of others and that the material may be published without further approval. Editorial material does not necessarily reflect the view of the editor/publisher of Able Newspaper. Advertisers are responsible for the content of advertisements. No part of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of the publisher. Able is not responsible for errors in advertisements beyond the price of the space occupied by the error. The publisher reserves the right to decline advertising for any reason.

**The Deadline For The
October Issue of
Able Newspaper
Will Be Sept. 12**

SPECIAL PRICE

THE NEWSPAPER POSITIVELY
FOR, BY & ABOUT THE DISABLED

Subscribe Today

Mail in Subscription

1 Year \$11.00 2 Years \$18

SPECIAL PRICE

THE NEWSPAPER POSITIVELY
FOR, BY & ABOUT THE DISABLED

Please enter my subscription to Able Newspaper

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____

Zip _____

Subscribe online
FREE
www.ablenews.com

For mailed subscription make check or money order payable to Able News,
Mail to P.O. Box 395, Old Bethpage, N.Y. 11804

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

Acct# _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ Security Code _____

Allow 6-8 weeks for first issue

Former Rep. Langevin Joins NOD Board



Former Congressman Jim Langevin has been appointed to the board of directors of the National Organization on Disability (NOD).

During his career in Congress, Langevin was a staunch advocate for Americans with disabilities,

He served his Rhode Island constituents for 22 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and was the first quadriplegic to serve in the House.

He played a big part in passing the ADA Amendments Act and was the first wheelchair

user to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore and preside over the U.S. House of Representatives and is a leading voice in the national disability community.

Langevin was paralyzed because of an accidental gun discharge when he was a Police Explorer. He was 16 at the time. In his first election to Congress, he famously pledged, "I'll stand up for you."

"I am tremendously honored to join the National Organization on Disability Board and contribute to the organization's critical work in promot-

ing inclusivity and empowering individuals with disabilities," Langevin said. "I look forward to collaborating with fellow board members and leveraging my experience to advance NOD's mission on a national scale."

He will play a big role in guiding NOD's strategic direction and advocating for disability rights.

"We are delighted to welcome Congressman Jim Langevin to the NOD Board of Directors," NOD Chairman Luke Visconti said.

DOJ Proposes Title II Improvements For Web

The Justice Department sent to the Federal Register for publication a notice of proposed rulemaking under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that aims to improve web and mobile applications (apps) access for people with disabilities and clarify how public entities – primarily state and local governments – can meet their existing ADA obligations as many of their activities shift online.

Across the United States, people routinely rely on web

and mobile apps to access a variety of vital public programs and services like employment and educational resources, voting information, health and emergency services, parking, and transit schedules. The proposed rule is particularly significant in the wake of the pandemic, as public entities have significantly increased the scope of essential services and programs offered through the web and mobile apps.

"This marks the first time in the history of the Amer-

icans with Disabilities Act that the Justice Department has issued a proposed rule on website accessibility," said Attorney General Merrick Garland. "This proposed rule seeks to ensure that Americans with disabilities have equal access to the websites and apps that connect them to essential services provided by state and local governments."

"This proposed rule, which is the culmination of years of work and collaboration, is a historic moment for the Jus-

tice Department," said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta. "It will help enshrine the right of Americans with disabilities to access critical information needed to lead safe, productive, and prosperous lives."

As state and local governments continue to move more of their programs and activities online – from applying for permits to checking the status of service requests, registering vehicles and paying taxes and fees – ensuring

Continued on page 14

Airline Lavatories Required To Be More Accessible

On the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a new rule that requires airline lavatories to be more accessible.

This rulemaking, authorized by the Air Carrier Access Act, would require airlines to make lavatories on new single-aisle aircraft large enough to permit a passenger with a disability and attendant, both equivalent in size to a 95th percentile male, to approach, enter and maneuver within as necessary to use the aircraft lavatory. Vice Pres. Kamala Harris and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg previewed this rule at a recent White House ADA Anniversary event.

"Traveling can be stress-

ful enough without worrying about being able to access a restroom; yet today, millions of wheelchair users are forced to choose between dehydrating themselves before boarding a plane or avoiding air travel altogether," Buttigieg said. "We are proud to announce this rule that will make airplane bathrooms larger and more accessible, ensuring travelers in wheelchairs are afforded the same access and dignity as the rest of the traveling public."

The announcement builds on the administration's major investments in making infrastructure more accessible. DOT has awarded billions of dollars through Pres. Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to mod-

Continued on page 14

Summer Courses Offer Career Paths



Cosmetology, carpentry, coding and culinary arts were some of the courses recently offered at ESBOCES Summer Career Exploration Program. Students ages 13 to 15, entering grades 8, 9 and 10, were able to test drive a career of their choice for three weeks.

Automotive technology, welding and dog care and training were also offered. The program ran during July at the Bellport, Oakdale and Riverhead campuses.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion In NY Schools

New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James and New York State Education Department Betty Rosa have reminded New York public schools and local education agencies of their obligation to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in educational planning and decision-making.

As states and school districts across the country adopt exclusionary educational policies that deny students from diverse backgrounds and identities access to a safe and affirming learning environment, James and Commissioner Rosa are providing resources to school leaders that assist in fulfilling

their commitment to ensuring every student in New York has the opportunity to learn free from the fear of discrimination, harassment or intimidation.

The joint guidance offers recommendations for upholding the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in three key areas of the school experience – learning and teaching; student discipline; and addressing bullying and harassment. It also warns against actions that may contribute to a hostile environment for students of diverse backgrounds and identities, such as banning books, and provides schools with resources to help create and foster envi-

ronments that protect every student's right to access equal education.

"Every student in New York is entitled to learn, grow and discover in an environment free from discrimination or harassment," James said. "As states such as Texas, Florida and Missouri are banning books and canceling classes, New York is making clear that diversity, equity and inclusion will always be protected and central to our children's education."

"We are urging every school district to reflect on local policies, strategies, and tactics and advance the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion

to ensure all students have the supports necessary to be fully engaged," Rosa said. "Students cannot learn and develop socially and emotionally when they feel disconnected, intimidated, harassed or discriminated against. We have a responsibility to remove the barriers that stand in the way of success for many students. In partnership with Atty. Gen. James and our school and district leaders, the Department and Board of Regents can foster a safe, supportive environment where all New York State students feel included and welcome."

State and federal human
Continued on page 15

EEOC Sues Covius For Disability Discrimination

Covius Services, LLC, a provider of services, solutions and technology for financial companies, violated federal law by rejecting a qualified applicant for a position in Spokane Valley, Washington because of her disability and need for prescribed medication, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportuni-

ty Commission has charged in a lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, Covius scheduled Kelli Ebert for a job interview after an outside recruiter identified her as a qualified candidate for a customer service position. During the interview, Ebert shared that she had chronic conditions which

required her to take prescribed pain management medication. Covius explained that it did not hire her, despite her experience, due to her use of these medications. Around the same time, Covius hired at least two other applicants with similar or lesser qualifications in the same office.

Such alleged conduct violates the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits employers from refusing to hire qualified applicants due to an actual or perceived disability. The lawsuit seeks back pay, compensatory and punitive damages for Ebert, and injunctive relief designed to

prevent such discrimination in the future.

"Fighting prejudice against people who need medication is an integral part of the EEOC's work to eliminate employment barriers for workers with disabilities," said EEOC Seattle Field Director Elizabeth Cannon. "The ADA protects employment opportunity for applicants who can accomplish the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation."

For information on disability discrimination, the public should visit <https://www.eeoc.gov/disability-discrimination>.

Gaining Economic Self-Sufficiency

Making sure that government programs are generating results and helping the people they were created for is a big part of the state comptroller's audit agenda. Back in 2015, the NYS Employment First Commission tasked the Office of Mental Health (OMH) with developing a life coaching network for individuals with disabilities seeking economic self-sufficiency.

A 2021 audit by the Office of the State Comptroller found that while OMH had designed and launched a benefits and work incentives systems within the New York Employment Services System to address the report's recommendations, it had not included all recommended actions including an interactive benefits advisement calculator, automated life coaching communications

and information regarding nutritional and housing assistance.

A recently released follow-up report found that OMH has made progress in implementing these audit recommendations.

"While our previous audit found the state Office of Mental Health was falling short in its efforts to help individuals with disabilities seeking jobs, I'm pleased to report that the agency has acted on our recommendations and has made real progress in expanding its vital support network. Assisting individuals with disabilities to navigate their way to economic self-sufficiency is key to our economy," Thomas DiNapoli, NYS comptroller, said.

Those wishing to read the report, should visit www.osc.state.ny.us/state-agencies/audits/2023/06/22/.

INNERSIGHT

**INNERSIGHT MEANS FREEDOM
ADVOCATES FOR THE DISABLED**

Listen to INNERSIGHT FREEDOM PODCAST weeknights

8:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

Call In # 213-816-1650

www.BlogTalkRadio.com/innersightinfo

New on Wednesday Nights – Nursing Institutions Kill People.

Get rid of them! Turn Them Into Accessible Housing.

Help Us Save Lives and Make Everyone Equal!

Sign Our Petition at www.innersight.info. Click on atchange.org.

Television Talk Show on Public Access

Altice local programming (Nassau and Suffolk County)

Thursday nights at 7:30 pm, channel 20

mnn.org (New York City and Worldwide on the Internet)

Channel 1997 and Channel 3

Spirit Channel online for worldwide coverage at 11:00 pm

Innersight is an all volunteer nonprofit charity.

We can be reached at 631 224-3090

Frank, director 631 478-3590

Suzanne, assistant director 917 848-9477

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/innersightinc

WEBSITE: www.innersight.info

TWITTER: @innersightinfo

EMAIL: innersight@pmpmail.com No Attachments, urls, logos, text only please!! Email for the blind converted into mp3 file!!

Audit Finds Some State Parks Not Accessible

Parks across New York State were found to have inaccessible entrances and restrooms, obstacles on access trails and paths and limited parking for people with disabilities, according to an audit released by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks) oversees more than 250 parks and historic sites and works to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. While the parks examined generally met the ADA's minimum standards, auditors found they could be significantly improved to make them far more accessible.

"New York State strives to promote inclusivity and broad access to all the resources it has to offer, and this includes our state parks and historic sites," DiNapoli said. "The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation recognizes the importance of improving accessibility to the New York State parks system, but must do a better job incorporating this goal into its processes for maintaining

and operating its sites. Auditors reviewed 40 parks across the state from January 2018 to October 2022 and examined 1,446 amenities such as restrooms, campsites, swimming areas, playgrounds, pavilions, elevators, boat launches and parking. They found that 62 percent of them could be improved to enhance accessibility. These included correcting mislabeled accessible signage, fixing rough or uneven access routes, increasing the number of wheelchair accessible stalls in restrooms and ensuring there are more accessible, clearly labeled parking spaces.

Several parks had accessibility information misrepresented online, while others had incorrect accessibility signage on-site. During the audit, parks officials said they would take steps to improve the accuracy of the information.

The audit found some parks had taken steps to improve accessibility. At many beaches and pools, wheelchairs were available and mats were put down to improve access to the water. Signage for such amenities were prominent at some parks, while

others offered unique amenities.

For example, Midway State Park offered a wheelchair accessible playground, and Letchworth State Park had an Autism Nature Trail, featuring sensory stations to help children with autism and all visitors explore nature. Braille was also on all signage along the trail.

In 2015, Parks developed a transition plan as required by the ADA after identifying physical obstacles for people with disabilities at its parks and historic sites. However, the plan did not include a specific timetable for improvements, had not been updated for eight years and little action had been taken to implement the plan's provisions.

The audit also found Parks did not establish grievance procedures as required by the ADA. Although Parks provides a general complaint form and email address for patrons to contact, the agency had not established or published procedures to ensure fair and prompt resolution of complaints.

Instead, each park developed its own process for handling and tracking complaints related to

accessibility, which makes it difficult to determine if they were adequately addressed. Auditors reviewed 27 complaints at 14 parks, and when those parks were visited, it was observed that little had been done to address the complaints.

Additionally, the ADA requires Parks to have at least one ADA Coordinator responsible for coordinating compliance with the law and investigating related complaints. but Parks could not definitively identify who filled the position from January 2018 to March 2022. It was determined the position was vacant for at least four months. During the audit, Parks assigned a new ADA coordinator in March 2022.

DiNapoli recommended Parks incorporate accessibility into its processes to operate and maintain parks and improve accuracy of publicly reported information on accessibility, both online and through park signage.

Parks agreed with their recommendations and will conduct a multi-faceted review of its policies, facilities and programs to improve accessibility.

Grant Funds Services For Kids

Because of a \$7.5 million grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children and youth with disabilities will receive services from a new national center health care system.

With the cooperative agreement, the AAP will establish a National Center Consortium (NCC) with Boston University, Family Voices and The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health.

The goal of the collaboration is to provide better care for more children and youth with special health care needs by supporting the implementation of the MCHB Blueprint for Change: Guiding Principles for a System of Services for CYSHCN.

According to the 2020-2021 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), only 13.7 percent of children with disabilities receive care in a well-functioning system. The Maternal and Child Health Bureau identified structural racism, ableism, complicated and siloed service systems, and weak links between clinical and non-clinical

supports as some of the reasons. One of the goals of the NCC will be to assist state Title V Programs for Children with Special Needs and various stakeholders who serve children and youth with disabilities and their families. Strategies will be implemented in four critical areas: health equity; financing of services; well-being and quality of life; and access to services to improve the cross-sector systems serving this population.

To advance the system of services, the NCC will develop an implementation roadmap based on the MCHB Blueprint for Change: Guiding Principles for CYSHCN that identifies actionable steps at the research, practice, and policy levels for sectors serving CYSHCN and their families across their lifespan.

The target audience includes state Title V programs, families, pediatricians, child health clinicians, education professionals, early childhood and adolescent experts, mental and behavioral health professionals, community-based organizations, payers, health systems, and policymakers.



We provide planning for families & people with disabilities:

- **Special Needs Planning**
- **Supplemental Needs Trusts**
- **Guardianship & Alternatives**
- **Elder Law Planning**
- **Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning**

Mention this ad for 50% off our consultation fee with a telephone or virtual Zoom appointment

Contact us today by calling 631-675-2540 or visit: www.brandowlaw.com

Garden City - Port Jefferson - Melville

We've been there, so you can....
Know Before You Go!!!!

Accessibility information of leisure locations
 for people with mobility challenges



- parking conditions • rest rooms
- ease of navigation • seating
- food services • grounds and other import details

• theaters • museums • restaurants • parks & kid friendly venues

www.destinationaccessible.com
 (917) 693-3420

UNITED SPINAL^{NOW}

Eventually – But Not Really

BY JAMES WEISMAN
 GENERAL COUNSEL



Airplane access for wheelchair users is supposed to get better, according to the Biden administration's Department of Transportation. Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Vice Pres. Kamala Harris, and other bigs at U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by announcing that new single-aisle aircraft, ordered after 2033 or to be delivered after 2035, must have at least one accessible restroom.

This is great news for some. However, the vast majority of aircraft will remain inaccessible for years to come, and aisles may remain so narrow that they prevent wheelchair travel, requiring transfers to aisle chairs as if it was 1990. At least there's a commitment to accommodating the bodily functions of those with mobility impairments who choose to travel.

By 2035, medicine will be keeping us alive much longer, i.e. there will be more wheelchair and scooter users. The airline industry is lagging, and will continue to lag decades behind others in the travel industry. Twenty years from now, people will wonder about the slow pace of airline accessibility. Remember, it took until 2023 to require airlines to provide accessible restrooms, and that took USDOT action. Compare that with the cruise ship industry who saw the retiree market (aging with disabilities) – and went for it.

More important to air travelers with disabilities today is something that USDOT did a year ago. The Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights describes the fundamental rights of air travelers under the Air Carrier Access Act, and each can be found along with supporting documentation on USDOT's website with descriptive materials. An explanation of each right can be found on USDOT's website under Airline Passengers with Disabilities' Bill of Rights.

- The right to be treated with dignity and respect
- The right to receive information about services and airplanes
- The right to receive information in an accessible format
- The right to accessible airport facilities
- The right to assistance at airports
- The right to assistance on the aircraft
- The right to travel with an assistive device or service animal
- The right to receive seating accommodations
- The right to accessible aircraft features
- The right to resolution of disability-related issues

USDOT has linked each of these rights to laws and regulations supporting them on their website. Airlines will be unable to fool aggrieved passengers with disabilities if those passengers are armed with knowledge of this Bill of Rights. Incidentally, contractors with airlines must comply with this Bill of Rights, although the airline may ultimately be responsible for violations of the law.

Foreign carriers are covered for flights to or from the United States. All flights of all U.S. airlines are covered. The provisions of this Bill of Rights, which is really just a collection of statutory and regulatory provisions in one place for passengers and airlines, do not render inaccessible aircraft accessible. However, if airlines obey its provisions, the process of boarding for passengers with disabilities and even lavatory use on accessible planes (wide-body aircraft with at least two aisles must have an accessible restroom now) will be made easier and more dignified.

If you're a wheelchair user, you're probably wondering why new aircraft ordered after 2033 or delivered after 2035 don't need to have wide aisles and permit travel in your wheelchair. Me too.

FREE

Order Your Copy Now

A priceless booklet to guide and help families prevent a crisis

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Mail to Terry Gehm for FREE Booklet
 24 Conscience Circle
 Setauket, N.Y 11733

Additional copies \$3

DESIGNS 4 LIVING

SUMMER 2020

ARCHITECTURE
DESIGN
CULTURE
ARTICLES

CAMPING MADE ACCESSIBLE

Designs for your Home

SUMMER D4L

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

Back-to-School Eye Care Tips

Courtesy Of The Lighthouse Guild

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month is a national health observance during back-to-school season that highlights the importance of protecting children's vision and eye health.

As parents get their children geared up for the new school season, it's a good time to add an eye exam to their checklists.

Lighthouse Guild offers a few important tips to help safeguard children's eye health during back-to-school season and throughout the year.

Regular Vision Screenings

"Vision health is one of the keys to success in school, and the most important thing one can do to protect a child's vi-

sion is to make sure they get an eye exam," said Laura Sperazza, director of Vision Rehabilitation Services at Lighthouse Guild. "An eye health professional can determine if a child needs eyeglasses or contact lenses, or if there is a vision problem that requires further intervention."

Eating Those Carrots

People should encourage their children to eat a well-balanced diet loaded with different types of fruits and vegetables, as well as fish.

Speak Up

Children should be asked if they notice any vision changes such as vision that is blurry; if they are squinting a lot; or if their eyes are bothering them.

Wear Those Glasses

Parents should help their children understand the importance of wearing their eyeglasses. If they are resistant because they believe glasses are unattractive, parents can try pointing out sports figures and other well-known people who wear glasses.

Clean Glasses

Children should be taught how to clean and store their glasses.

Rest Those Eyes

Looking continuously at a computer, phone or TV screen can tire eyes. Parents should encourage their children to take a break from staring at the screen.

Wear Safety Gear

Everyone should wear goggles or other types of protec-

tive eye wear while playing sports, using chemicals or tools for school projects, or engaging in other activities. Many eye injuries can be prevented with better safety habits.

Lighthouse Guild provides services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals. They provide coordinated care for eye health, vision rehabilitation and behavioral health as well as related services.

The Guild's podcast series, "On Tech & Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts," offers information and insights about technological innovations that are tearing down barriers for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Are Robotic Guide Dogs The Next Step?

The white cane and guide dogs are long-established tools people with vision impairment use to navigate.

Researchers are now working on robotic technologies that incorporate sophisticated computer learning systems to augment that cane or replicate many of the same functions of a guide dog.

Robotic Guidance Technology is the latest episode of the Lighthouse Guild podcast, "On Tech and Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts."

A small suitcase-shaped machine called LYSA sits on two wheels and is pushed by the user. Currently under development by Vix Labs in Brazil, it can identify obstacles and guide users to saved destinations. It's a potential alternative for people who either do not have access to guide dogs or aren't interested in having one. Kaio Ribeiro is one of the project's researchers and contributors to the podcast.

Cang Ye discusses how he and his team at Virginia

Commonwealth are developing a robotic white cane that can provide more specific guidance than the traditional version.

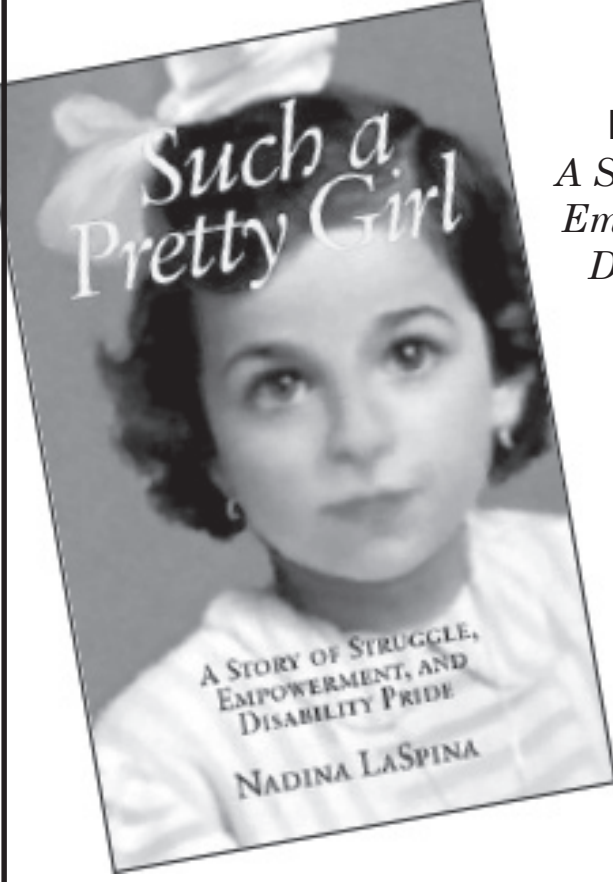
It allows users to identify obstacles and navigate around them using a roller ball tip at its base.

Can robotic guide dogs ever fully replace living guide dogs? Thomas Panek, president and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, provides his perspective in this latest podcast.

Now in its third season, "On Tech & Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts" explores the big ideas that are making life better for people with vision loss. Roberts, president and CEO of Lighthouse Guild and podcast host, interviews innovators and experts who are breaking barriers with transformative technologies. The podcast has more than 13,000 downloads since it was launched in 2020.

"On Tech & Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts," is available online at [\[guild.org\]\(http://guild.org\) and for downloading on Apple Music, Spotify, Google Podcasts iHeartRadio](http://www.Lighthouse-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Podcasts and Tunein.com. Twitter: @LighthouseGld #OnTechVision.



"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.

Support Our Advertisers
They Make This Newspaper Possible

Rebuilding Homes For L.I.'s Needy



Volunteers from Rebuilding Together Long Island (RTLI) take a break from a project being done for a wheelchair user.

With the goal of maintain- ing homes for needy homeown-

ers, Sol Goldstein, Joe Botkin, Ed Mehring, Bill Weiss and

Saul Ferdman or Rebuilding Together Long Island (RTLI)

came together and worked to increase the amount of homes they could rehab using volun- teers and material donations.

Today, RTLI boasts 250 volun- teers, who are the heart and soul of the organization, skilled craft- men, unskilled workers, office personnel and kind-hearted home visitors who make the initial con- tact with those applying for help.

RTLI performs repairs includ- ing carpentry, electrical, plumb- ing and home modifications in- cluding wheelchair ramps for the physically challenged and there is never a cost to our income-qual- ified clients.

To contact RTLI for help or to volunteer anyone may call 516 320-3225 or visit their website, www.rebuildingtogetherli.org.

Service Streams Films About PWD

Honoring Disability Pride Month and the 33rd anniver- sary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ReelAbili- ties Film Festival recently launched ReelAbilities Stream. org, an accessible streaming

platform dedicated to films that celebrate and explore the lives and experiences of peo- ple with disabilities.

Vast Collections

This platform offers a vast collection of films, drawing

from the repertoire showcased at previous editions of the fes- tival.

With its official launch in July, ReelAbilitiesStream.org became the largest online hub for disability-themed films, providing the opportunity to appreciate and embrace these powerful stories with full ac- cessibility.

Mission

ReelAbilitiesStream.org's mission is to break down bar- riers and promote inclusivity. Every film on the platform will be equipped with pioneer- ing accessibility features, in- cluding full open captions and audio descriptions.

Additional, innovative ac- cessibility features will be rolled out by the end of the year.

By ensuring that these films are accessible to all, ReelAbilities Stream.org aims to amplify the voices of indi- viduals with disabilities and drive attention to disability perspectives.

"Over the past 15 years, our festival has amassed an in- credible collection of films that deserve wider recognition. Un- fortunately, many of these ex- ceptional works have not been given the attention they de- serve," Isaac Zablocki, director and co-founder of ReelAbilities Film Festival, said.

"With ReelAbilitiesStream. org, we are proud to establish the most comprehensive plat- form, amplifying these voices and providing a well-deserved spotlight for these highly de- manded films."

ReelAbilitiesStream.org will feature an array of capti- vating films that encapsulate the diverse experiences with- in the disability community. Some of the highlighted films available on the platform in- clude Tribeca Film Festival's award-winning "Keep the Change," a comedy following a program of young adults on the autistic spectrum, and the Hungarian Academy Award-nominated "Kills on Wheels," about wheelchair users who team up with a hit- man.

Short films, including "4 Quarters of Silence," about a deaf high school football team; and "Jmaxx and the Universal Language," about an autistic young man who expresses himself through dance, are included in the col- lection.

Streaming is available on a pay-per-view model, with prices ranging from \$1.99 to \$3.99 per film.

Additional information about ReelAbilities and the films is available by visiting www.reelabilitiesstream.org.

Need Affordable Housing?



**Check Able's
Website Homepage
at
www.ablenews.com
For the Latest Listings.**

Celebrating ADA Anniversary At SILO



Attendees at the Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO) ADA celebration gather around CEO Joseph Delgado. SILO welcomed approximately 350 guests to its celebration of the 33rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The event was attended by many public officials, organizations and members of the community. Those who attended enjoyed food, information tables, games and speeches.



Able-Ride is Proudly Serving Nassau County

**Providing quality transportation
for the disabled community.**

To apply for service or to find out
more information, please call 516.228.4000
or visit us at www.nicebus.com



nice™ **NASSAU
INTER-COUNTY
EXPRESS**

Able-Ride is a service of NICE, which is owned by Nassau County and operated by Veolia Transportation

OBITUARY**Central Islip Advocate, Douglas King, Dies****Douglas King****By Allison Howe**

Douglas King, who dedicated most of his adult life helping disability organizations throughout Long Island, recently died at the age of 50.

The Central Islip resident was born in Manhasset and raised in Franklin Square. He was born with spina bifida and has been a lifelong wheelchair user. King advocated for many disability causes, including accessible transportation on

the Long Island Railroad. He competed in the Games for the Physically Challenged from childhood and went on to volunteer with the Games after aging out.

Volunteer

He volunteered for many organizations and was a member of several boards, including the Town of Islip Disability Advisory Board. King was also the legislative chairman of the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Committee.

"People with disabilities can have a voice within Islip," he told *Newsday* in an interview. "I want it to be helpful for people with disabilities in the Town of Islip and also show the other townships on Long Island to step up to the plate."

"Doug was concerned about accessible voting and physical access to places like county buildings," said Roy Probeyahn, chair of the Suffolk County Disability Advisory Board. "He was very active in advocating elected officials, and he was good at it."

King was a committee member of the New York Kiwan-

is Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation and belonged to the Kiwanis Club of Islip/Bayshore. In addition, he was involved in the Town of Islip Disability Task Force as well as the Marty Lyons Foundation.

Both King and his wife Erin King have been involved in the Bike for MS event for years.

According to Erin King, who also has spina bifida, this was an important fundraiser for them, as two close family members have multiple sclerosis. She said her husband will be a virtual biker in this year's upcoming event.

Advocate

"He felt it was important to advocate for people with disabilities, because when you're disabled, people look at your differences. We may do things differently, but we get them done," she said. "He was a loving brother-in-law, son-in-law and uncle. My parents and family adored him."

She also said he was an active volunteer with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Hockey team and the Suffolk County Police Department Hockey Team. In his free time, King liked to perform comedy routines, bowl, attend sporting events, and spend time with his family and friends.

"I had the good fortune to know Doug for many, many years through competitive wheelchair sports," said Cari Faith Besserman, director of the division of Community Mental Hygiene Services. "Simply a good human. His loss will be felt by many, but none more than his loving wife Erin. Thanks for the years of laughter, Doug."

"Terrible news. I have known Doug for 20-plus years, and he was always a gentleman, a passionate advocate and a truly good man," said Thomas Ronayne, director of the Office of the Suffolk County Executive Veterans Service Agency. "Doug had an irrepressible spirit. I felt like he was always positive, despite the issue he was working on

and his advocacy benefited from that."

"Doug was a giant when it came to advocacy," said Suffolk County Leg. Leslie Kennedy. "He let nothing or no one stand in his way. He was a believer in good, honest and open government, and fought for what was guaranteed in our laws and for new laws to be passed when present bills were lacking."

"He believed in citizen involvement at all levels of government and worked on the Suffolk County Disability Task Force and the Citizens Police Academy Board for years – educating, training and seeking solutions on issues. He never stopped pushing for adequate sidewalks for the handicapped over the years, and we can all see great strides from his persistent efforts."

"He worked with SILO (Suffolk Independent Living Organization) for about a year," said Joseph Delgado, CEO of SILO. "Doug was the kind of guy who was so impassioned about people with disabilities having civil rights. If there was an important issue, his passion was there all the time. He was an amazing advocate."

"Doug was a strong and vocal advocate for people with disabilities," said Frank Krotzschinsky, director of the Suffolk Office for People with Disabilities. "He was very interested in equal rights for voting, SCAT paratransit and accessible parking issues. It was also very clear to me that Doug cared deeply about his family and his wife Erin."

A wake and funeral mass were held and he was interred at Pinelawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

A GoFundme page was set up to support Erin with funeral expenses.

Donations in his memory may be made to Angela's House or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In addition to his wife Erin King he is survived by his mother Dorothy Filshie, a brother-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

NJS ELECTRIC LLC

**** Specializing in
home monitoring
systems for the safety of
the disabled ****

**"We don't just
Keep intruders out -
We keep loved ones in"**

NJS ELECTRIC LLC

New York State Licensed Alarm Contractors
Nassau and Suffolk Licensed Electrical Contractors

516 596-1895www.njswiringsolutions.com

New Release By Musicians With Disabilities

"Just Call Me By My Name," a new record label for musicians with disabilities launched by New York-based Daniel's Music Foundation in partnership with The Orchard, has been released.

The new EP features five respected artists ranging from blues to folk rock to opera and more. Musicians on the label are sourced through the Danny

Awards, an annual award show each November that recognizes musicians with disabilities, produced by Daniel's Music.

The EP includes James Ian, singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and actor/model; Devin Gutierrez, piano man, singer/songwriter, vocal coach and mixer/arranger; Iolanta Mamatka zina, 12-year-old opera singer;

Jake Nielsen, rocker, blues-guitarist and international recording artist, and Daniel Trush and Gerard Powers, Singer/songwriter and co-founder of Daniel's Music Foundation, with songwriting partner Gerard Powers.

With the formation of the label, artists gain an expanded platform as they help shape a mindset of mutual understand-

ing and respect through the universal language of music. Since 2006, when DMF was founded, the organization has used music to foster inclusion, diversity and the indelible ability of all individuals to creatively express their best selves.

For information, those interested should visit www.danielsmusic.org/recordlabel.

National Endowment For The Arts Creates Toolkit

Careers in the Arts Toolkit, created by the National Endowment for the Arts, is an online resource promoting equity, access and inclusion for people with disabilities seeking careers in the arts.

Every day, people with disabilities add significant value and talent across the spectrum of

arts careers. They are performers, visual artists, teaching artists, cultural workers, administrators and more, who have not had access to the same career opportunities as people without disabilities. Reasons for this range from inaccessible facilities to disability benefit-earning limitations to misconceptions about

the skills and talents of people with disabilities.

The toolkit empowers individuals with disabilities to explore arts careers and access resources to support their success. It also educates arts employers, educators, and grant makers about the critical role they play in fostering disability inclusion

and the resources available to help them successfully do so. It includes resources for artists, cultural workers, youth with disabilities, arts employers, educators and grant makers.

Information is available by visiting www.arts.gov/impact/accessibility/careers-in-the-arts-toolkit.

Jewish Braille Institute Provides Free Materials

For more than 90 years JBI (The Jewish Braille Institute) has provided people of all ages who are blind or print-disabled with free braille, audio and large print specific to Jewish and related interests.

It offers 13,000 circulating audio books, braille titles and large print materials, including popular fiction, history, poetry, Jewish studies, memoirs, cookbooks and more.

Free customized accessible materials are available on demand to help patrons participate fully in Jewish life and learning. The organization also has accessible liturgical material, prayer books and

Jewish calendars for all denominations.

It also stocks periodicals from a variety of news sources, offered in English or Russian audio, or braille.

JBI presents concerts and lectures as well as Jewish-themed twin-view children's books and kits of a print copy with large print or audio accompaniment.

Materials may be delivered by mail all over the world and are available in English, Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish and Spanish.

Ahead of the upcoming Jewish High Holidays, JBI

is making accessible Jewish calendars, prayer books and other materials available so everyone who wants to, can participate. Anyone can order free calendars and other High

Holiday materials by visiting www.jbilibrary.org/high-holidays.

Registration is available by visiting www.jbilibrary.org/register.

National ADAPT Fall Action Set For Late September

ADAPT's next Fall National Action has been scheduled for Sept. 26 through 29.

Travel dates are Monday, Sept. 25 and Saturday, Sept. 30. Anyone interested in attending should contact Brandon Heinrich at 917 590-2944, ext. 100 or by email at heinb40@gmail.com.

To see more, anyone may visit the Real National ADAPT on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=adapt%20national>.

The National ADAPT monthly meeting on housing,

employment and more is usually on the last Wednesday of the month. Anyone interested in attending should email dnyadapt@gmail.com. A link will be set on the Wednesday afternoon on the day of the meeting.

Downstate NY ADAPT's quarterly meeting is via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14. The link to attend is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88946330852?pwd=Z-FILQUNjUWxjRDlqYmZyY-3dYZnJrdz09;meetingID88946330852;passcode111151>.

SAVE A TREE Read Able Online for FREE



Email Us- Abledeb@aol.com
Call Us- 516 939-2253

SPORTS SCENE

Goalball Team Takes Gold In Berlin



After dropping their opening match, the USA Goalball Men's Team reeled off six consecutive victories to claim the gold medal at the June 9-11 Nations Cup in Berlin, Germany.

The American squad outscored its opponents 78-37 and reached double-digits in goals in five of their seven games.

USDGA Championship To Return To Ryder Course

The PGA of America will serve as presenting partner of the U.S. Disabled Golf Open Championship (USDGA).

"It's a proud moment for the PGA of America to build upon our partnership with the USDGA, as we once again present the USDGA Championship at PGA Golf Club next April," said PGA Pres. John Lindert, PGA director of golf at Country Club of Lansing (Michigan). "Personally, I have a staff member who has competed in adaptive golf championships and witnessed the tremendous positive impact they have on the game. The USDGA Championship is a premier event for golfers who have shown that they can overcome any hurdle to play golf at a competitive level, as they embrace their love of the game."

"PGA Golf Club is thrilled to

again serve as the host site for such an amazing event as the USDGA Championship," said PGA Director of Golf/Head Professional Holly Taylor. "This is part of our tradition and commitment to reach out to golfers everywhere to experience and enjoy the game. The event will present golfers from across America who play the game at an impressive level, as they have overcome great challenges and serve as an inspiration to us all."

Known as "The Ultimate Golf Experience," PGA Golf Club is owned and operated by the PGA of America. The facility features 54 holes of championship golf designed by legends Tom Fazio and Pete Dye. PGA Golf Club also features the best in golf instruction taught by PGA Professionals and the PGA Gallery, with memorabilia exhibits that

trace the history of the game, all within one spectacular golf destination.

The USDGA mission is to provide people with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities an opportunity to showcase their ability in a golf championship at a high level.

Designed by Tom Fazio, the Ryder Course in Port St. Lucie, Fla. is named in honor of Samuel Ryder, the namesake and founder of the Ryder Cup.

Player registration for the 6th USDGA Championship will

open in December, with the field scheduled to be announced in January. Golfers must have a handicap index of 36.4 or lower and a WR4GD pass in order to register.

Chad Pfeifer of Nampa, Idaho and Bailey Bish of Tucson, Ariz., won the 2023 championship in May World Golf Hall of Fame Member and Honorary PGA Member Dennis Walters won the Seated Division, and Eliseo Villanueva of Fayetteville, North Carolina won the Senior Division (50 and over).

Track Paralympian Adds Cycling



Two-time Paralympic track and field athlete Kym Crosby, 30, is training in Paracycling in addition to track and field for 2024.

"My goal is to get back on the podium in track and field and do better than a bronze," said Crosby, who has three

Paralympic bronze medals as a sprinter. "But I want to be different. I want to be able to medal not only in track and field, but also cycling. My goal is to always show the kids, the young, aspiring athletes who have visual impairments, that they can do anything they put their mind to," she said.

In visually impaired cycling, the sighted guide rides in front on a tandem bicycle and pedals, steers and gives commands such as when to sit up and down in the saddle and when to add power depending on where they're at on the track and how the race is going. The visually impaired athlete rides in the back and pedals.

"I'm the engine," Crosby said. "I'm just giving it everything I've got."

Long Island

2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Answers.

Nassau and Suffolk Counties

<p>Free comprehensive information on local programs and referrals to available services by phone. Call 7 days a week or online 24/7.</p>	<p>Linea completa de información gratis de programas locales y referencias de servicios disponibles por teléfono. Llamas 7 dias de la semana o en internet 24/7.</p>
--	--

2-1-1 or 1-888-774-7633

2-1-1 service is available in more than 200 languages

INFORMATION FORUM

PHYSICIANS HOLD ZOOM TO DISCUSS NY HEALTH ACT

Physicians for a National Health Program will hold an informative session, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, via Zoom.

The program is to build support for the newly re-introduced New York Health Act (S7590 | A07897).

Closed captions in English will be available.

A recording will be distributed to all registrants following the forum.

New York Health Act champion Sen. Gustavo Rivera, who is anchoring the revised bill, will speak as well as Assemblymember Amy Paulin and the new Executive Director of the Campaign for NY Health Melanie D'Arrigo.

Registration may be done by visiting <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrde6tqDwiGNMe5V2xgeJRtFDyumqU-Ti-r#/registration>.

INDEPENDENT SUPPORT SERVICES FORMS FOUNDATION

ISS has formed the Independent Support Services Self-Direction Community Foundation.

This new foundation will use all funds received to support self-directing individuals who are experiencing a financial shortfall that cannot be paid through their budget and have no other financial resources.

The inaugural fund-raising event will be a Walk/Roll-athon on Sept. 30 at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, N.Y.

More information will be available at www.issny.org.

ISS will hold a local premier of its documentary, "Make Your Own Path," followed by a talent show at the Cinema Arts Centre, in Huntington, N.Y. on Oct. 14.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WID'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

World Institute on Disability (WID) is celebrating 40 years with a virtual party from noon to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7.

ASL and captioning will be provided. Requests for additional accommodations can be made when registering.

For the past four decades, WID has been committed to advancing inclusion, independence and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

This virtual event will feature special guests and entertainment, and will highlight findings from WID's Global Strategic Planning Sessions.

Those interested may register and receive the Zoom link, by visiting www.wid.org/registration-now-open-wids-40th-anniversary-virtual-celebration/.

PEACE OF MIND AVAILABLE BY SCHEDULING A SCREENING

It only takes ten minutes and a computer, tablet or smartphone to have a virtual memory screening.

A qualified professional evaluates thinking and memory skills instantly.

Participants will be given a confidential report shortly after completion.

Appointments are available by calling 866 232-8484.

RAISING FUNDS FOR ALZHEIMER'S IS A WALK IN THE PARK

The public is asked to take a walk in the park – or anywhere – for Alzheimer's on Sept. 9 and 10.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is sponsoring this nationwide walk. Whether walking, in Central Park, or Long Island, a neighborhood, or even a backyard, participants should register by visiting <https://apps.alzfdn.org/afawalk-2023>.

All funds raised will support the work and programs run by the foundation.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ASL WORKSHOP WEEKEND

ASDC's ASL Weekend is a unique two-day workshop for parents, professionals and anyone interested in learning American Sign Language. It is a fun, interactive weekend full of activities and discussions that will give in-depth support as one learns and masters ASL.

It's a great way to get personalized instruction and meaningful practice to help you sign confidently. All levels and abilities are welcome.

There are two sessions to choose from. Dates are Sept. 16 and 17 in Clarks Summit, Pa. or Oct. 7 and 8 in Gooding, Idaho.

Information or registration are available by visiting www.deafchildren.org/events/asl-weekend/.

DISCOVERING WHAT MAKES FOR WORKPLACE WELL-BEING

Backed by rigorous research, Rutgers' Employer Disability Practices Center and NOD have teamed up to produce this brief that spotlights practices to transform the workplace culture.

Through qualitative and quantitative data, this brief examines key programs and strategies within the Ernst & Young LLP wellbeing program, such as, universal design, leadership accountability, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, employee assistance programs (EAPs) and wellbeing-focused metrics

The document is available by visiting www.nod.org/wellbeing.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CDPAANYS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State Annual Conference, "Leading the Way."

The conference will be held Oct. 23 and 24 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, N.Y. This year CDPAANYS is offering a hybrid conference option for those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person. Make sure to specify when registering whether attendance will be in person or virtual.

The conference will feature educational sessions targeting fiscal intermediaries and providers, as well as sessions geared toward consumers and advocates.

A block of hotel rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn has been reserved for \$129 a night. For more information and to register for the conference and discounted hotel rooms, visit cdpaanys.org.

GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT VISCARDI CENTER SET FOR SEPT.

All are welcome to swing into action on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at the 11th annual Golf Outing benefiting The Viscardi Center, to be held at the Fresh Meadow Country Club, 255 Lakeville Road, Lake Success.

The club features a new and challenging course that will delight golfers of all levels.

The day includes a round of golf and on-course enhancements; brunch, lunch on the turn and a beverage cart; cocktails, dinner and a silent auction.

Those wishing to book a foursome, may do so by visiting www.viscardicenter.org/event/annual-golf-outing-2/.

All proceeds support Viscardi's programs and services that educate, employ and empower children and adults with disabilities.

WORKBOOK SET HELPS ENSURE HEALTH EQUITY FOR ALL

Health equity means that every person in the community, including every person with a disability, has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. A cornerstone to health equity for people with disabilities is ensuring that health-promoting opportunities are accessible.

A series of user-friendly workbooks for Centers for Independent Living and other community-based organizations that prompt and engage readers to think beyond their current knowledge and experience.

These workbooks can be used together or individually and can be shared widely. There are also corresponding workbooks designed for health departments.

Those interested in more information, should visit www.wid.org.

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

TO PLACE AN AD

Just write your ad and mail it with payment and coupon below to Able Personals, P.O. Box 395, Old Bethpage, N.Y. 11804 or email to ableangela@aol.com. We will assign an Able personal number and forward all responses to you. Be sure to include your name and address. Just \$12 for 15 words plus \$1 for each additional word to appear one month.

TO ANSWER AN AD

Put your response letter in an envelope with the A# of the person you are writing on the front. Put this envelope in another envelope addressed to Able personals, P.O. Box 395, Old Bethpage, N.Y. 11804. Enclose \$2 per response to cover the cost of handling and mailing fees. Do not send cash. Checks or money orders only. Be sure to include your address or phone number. For faster response place a postage stamp on envelope.

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

GUIDELINES: Able assumes no liability for the contents of or replies to any personal advertisements, or the actions of any individuals. Any such liability rests exclusively with the advertiser, or a respondent to such advertisements. Able may, in its sole discretion, reject or delete any personal advertisements which it

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

DOJ PROPOSES TITLE II CHANGES

Continued from page 3

that people with disabilities have equal access to these same services is essential. When websites and mobile apps are not accessible, they can be difficult or even impossible for people with disabilities to use. This can block people with disabilities from readily accessing important government services and programs that others can quickly and easily obtain online.

The Department is eager to hear from the public and get input from relevant stakeholders on the regulatory proposal set forth in our

forthcoming proposed rule. The proposed rule will soon be available for review on the Federal Register's website, www.federalregister.gov.

A fact sheet that provides information about the proposed rule will soon be available on www.ada.gov. The Department invites the public to submit their comments on the proposed rule once it is published. The comment period will be open for 60 days from the date the proposed rule is published. Public comments can be submitted on www.regulations.gov.

ACCESSIBLE AIRLINE LAVATORIES

Continued from page 3

ernize airport terminals, including adding wheelchair ramps, accessible restrooms, and more.

Last December, DOT awarded nearly \$700 million through its All Stations Accessibility Program to retrofit old rail and subway stations, adding elevators, ramps and other improvements.

DOT also has begun laying the preliminary groundwork for a potential future rule that would address passengers staying in their own wheelchairs when they fly.

It is working on rules that

would require better training for airline staff who physically assist passengers with disabilities.

The new rule can be found at www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/latest-news and at www.regulations.gov, docket number DOT-OST-2021-0137.

For information about airline passenger rights, as well as DOT's rules, guidance and orders, the department's aviation consumer website can be found by visiting www.transportation.gov/airconsumer.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING



AIDE AVAILABLE

CNA/ HOME HEALTH AIDE

Trained live-in aide/companion for elderly or a disabled person or as a nanny. Caring and compassionate with many years of experience. Great references are available. Call **347 754-2486**.

HAIRDRESSER

HAIRCUTTING IN YOUR HOME

Will travel to your home. For more information call **917 363-6834**.

HAIRDRESSER

HAIRDRESSER FOR SENIORS

Will travel to you, Nassau/Suffolk area. For more information call **516 477-6192**.

TAILOR

SEAMSTRESS AVAILABLE

Tailor, hemming, darning, patches, alterations. This "seamstress" knows sewing. Call **516 799-8716**.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE 516 939-2253

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MAIL-IN FORM

Print my ad as follows
(Use one space per word)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE () _____
 CHECKS ENCLOSED \$ _____
 Make Checks payable to Able Newspaper
 VISA MASTERCARD
 Acct# _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____ Security code _____

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

INDIVIDUAL - \$10 PER 5 WORD LINE
 BUSINESS - \$15 PER 5 WORD LINE

MAIL TO:

ABLE NEWS,
 PO Box 395, Old Bethpage,
 N.Y. 11804
 OR to place your ad with a credit card by
 phone call 516 939-2253
 OR by email to ableangela@aol.com

DEADLINE:

The 10th day of the month prior to
 publication

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Continued from page 4

rights laws prohibit discrimination in educational institutions on the basis of race, national origin, disability, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and age, among other protected classes.

In addition, New York's Dignity for All Students Act, which took effect in 2012 and was updated in 2021, requires that public schools create an educational environment where students are free to learn without fear of discrimination, harassment, or intimidation. In 2021, the Board of Regents adopted a policy urging districts to develop and implement policies and practices advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

James and Rosa identified three core principles that public schools and local education agencies can implement to honor their obligations to their students under the law – ensure teaching and learning reflect the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion; address disproportionately punitive student disciplinary policies and practices; and establish effective policies and procedures to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment.

The guidance also warns schools and local education agencies against actions that may violate the law, including but not limited to: banning books; prohibiting discussions

of slavery, disability, or the LGBTQ+ community; preventing students from joining extracurricular activities or using specific facilities because they may not conform to gender stereotypes;

barring a non-binary student from a single-gender extracurricular program; and forbidding natural hair or hairstyles most closely associated with Black people.

U.S. Access Board Town Hall Holds Meeting Virtually

The public is welcome to virtually attend the U.S. Access Board's in-person public town hall meeting at the national headquarters of the National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore, Maryland from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., on Tuesday, July 25. Virtual attendees may only listen and not comment.

The board will hear from

the local community about the state of accessibility in Baltimore and the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area. Representatives from the Maryland governor's office will be present.

The livestream link to join the Zoom is www.zoomgov.com/j/1616172171. The meeting ID is 161 617 2171 and the passcode is 067497.

THE ACCESS INDEX

ATTORNEY

BRANDOW LAW- REGINA BRANDOW
 Planning for Families and PWD
*Supplemental Needs Trusts, Guardianships,
 Wills, Elderlaw Planning and Real Estate*
631 675-2540-www.brandowlaw.com

YOUR AD COULD
 BE HERE
 Call 516 939-2253

ADVOCATES FOR PWD

INNERSIGHT FREEDOM PODCAST
 8:00 PM TO 9:00 PM Weeknights
*Covering Accessible Housing
 Striving for Equality*
www.BlogTalkradio.com/innersightinfo

SPORTS SCENE

Islanders' Staff Faces Off Against Viscardi Alumni



Alumni, staff and athletes join together.

The space at the Henry Viscardi School (HVS) was transformed into an adaptive floor hockey rink when the Viscardi Alumni welcomed a team made up of Islanders staff

Class of 2016, put the first goal in the net for the home team to tie the game before the end of period one.

For the past 47 years, The Viscardi Center and the New York Islanders have had a close relationship.

Viscardi alum, Clinton Brown echoed how special the bond between the two organizations has been over the decades, "Our partnership turned into a friendship with the New York Islanders and is also a big part of our storied traditions here." Playing hockey games in the gym against Islanders players is often recalled by students, past and present, as some of their favorite school days activities.

Sparky, the Islanders' mascot was on the sidelines offering his team support and even joined the action as goalie for a portion of the game. A competitive game that seesawed back and forth and was tied up often throughout the three periods, ended with a final score of 4 to 3, in favor of the Viscardi alumni. Viscardi's goalie, Frankie Roberto displayed his athleticism when he stopped not one, but two shots on goal with less than 20 seconds left in the game.

A special presentation of the Cougars Cup was awarded to Viscardi at the end of the evening. The Cup will be prominently displayed in the Henry Viscardi School.



Clinton Brown defends against Islander Alumni Pat Flatley.

and two of their own alumni players, Pat Flatley and Radek Martinek.

The two teams came together for a friendly, competitive game of adaptive hockey spearheaded by HVS alum, Todd Decker.

"Hockey Night at Viscardi was great," said Decker. "It was nice to be back in the gym for a hockey game again." Decker wasn't the only one who felt that way, as Team Viscardi drew alumni who graduated in 2022 and throughout the decades. Chris Alvarez,



Viscardi Alum Christopher Alvarez faces former Islander Radek Martinek while Hillary Barber comes from behind.



Islander mascot 'Sparky' defends the goal.