



**CID-NY**

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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

**December 2016**

## Join Us to Protect Our Rights

After the election, many of us feel worried about the future. We know that the President-elect says that he will do away with at least some parts of Obamacare and change the way Medicaid and Medicare work. Some in Congress want to change Social Security. Changes to the safety-net could risk our health and our lives in the community.



**CID-NY**

We have disabilities and we are also women, people of color, LGBTQ, and immigrants. We struggle against discrimination in education, health care, jobs, housing, transportation and more. We are worried about whether civil rights laws will be enforced. We have felt police violence and we are worried about whether there will be accountability.

We've made gains that we want to protect to improve schools and get jobs, but we don't know whether the Department of Education will strongly defend civil rights. We don't know if programs that have produced job gains will continue.

What we do know is that we will work hard to protect the rights of all people with disabilities. This is the time for everyone to weigh in. We will work to make sure that we can hold on to the gains we've made. We'll join together with other groups in the same boat.

You can help. Join CIDNY's Consumer Action Network (CAN) and help us make the case for how changes will affect us. CAN members explain how safety-net programs work to help, how discrimination hurts, why better education, jobs and housing make a difference. Work with us to write letters, make phone calls, send emails, and make visits.

Call Monica at 646-442-4142 or [mbartley@cidny.org](mailto:mbartley@cidny.org) to join. Together, we can make a difference.

Susan M. Dooha  
Executive Director

## Support "Right to Counsel" for New York City residents going to housing court

On Tuesday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a press conference on the steps of City Hall to call on the Mayor to pass "Right to Counsel." Right to Counsel would ensure that people going to housing court to protect their rights will have access to licensed, qualified and experienced legal counsel. If you'd like to go to the press conference, you can contact Monica Bartley at [mbartley@cidny.org](mailto:mbartley@cidny.org) or 646-442-4152. You can also register directly with Right to Counsel NYC, by going to <http://www.righttocounselnyc.org/>.



## DID YOU KNOW? Fair Housing Facts

- A landlord CANNOT ask you about your disability, unless: you are applying for housing only open to persons with certain disabilities, or you are asking for a reasonable accommodation.
- You CANNOT be denied housing or be treated differently from other tenants because you have a disability.



For more information on the Fair Housing Act, go to the Fair Housing tab at [www.CIDNY.org](http://www.CIDNY.org) or call us at 212-674-2300 and ask to speak to someone about your housing rights.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

As 2016 draws to a close, we want to wish you all a happy holiday season and hopes for a good New Year. We'll be working to make 2017 a good year for people with disabilities, their families and friends—we hope you will join us.

**Quick Takes**

## CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING

Wednesday, December 21 — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, New York

**Subways:** 4, 5, 6, L, N, Q, R to **14<sup>th</sup> Street Union Square**. Station is accessible for the L, N, Q and R lines.

### FAIR HOUSING ACT—WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Join us for a presentation about the Fair Housing Act. You'll learn about what rights are protected, your rights as tenants, how to ask for an accommodation, how to recognize discrimination and resources when you have a complaint.

### LEY DE VIVIENDA JUSTA ¿QUÉ DICE LA LEY?

Únase a nosotros para una presentación sobre la Ley de Vivienda Justa. Usted aprenderá sobre qué derechos están protegidos, Sus derechos como inquilinos, Cómo solicitar una acomodación, Cómo reconocer la discriminación y los recursos cuando usted tiene una queja.

Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services (ASL), please let us know by Wednesday, December 14.

### CIDNY's Poll Site Accessibility Surveys: Access still blocked for voters with disabilities.

On Election Day CIDNY surveys show once again that New York City's Board of Elections is not accommodating people with disabilities who have the right to vote privately and independently like every other voter. With surveys done at 64 polling sites, we found that 50, or 78%, of the sites had at least one physical access barrier. Those barriers included narrow doorways, inadequate signage, non-ADA compliant ramps, and poorly placed machines.



For example, surveyors photographed an accessible entrance to a polling site in Queens with no curb cut and an unstable board at the curb.

At another site, surveyors photographed pizza boxes piled up in front of the Ballot Marking Device blocking access for voters, particularly those using wheelchairs or scooters.



If you have a story about your voting experience on Election Day, you can still fill out the individual voter survey. To fill in the survey contact Monica at the number below. To see the full report, go to our website at [www.cidny.org](http://www.cidny.org). To receive the report in accessible format, contact Monica at 646-442-4154 or email [mbartley@cidny.org](mailto:mbartley@cidny.org).

### What Will Happen to the Affordable Care Act?



There are a number of questions about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in light of last month's election. While there is uncertainty, there are a few things that are absolutely clear.

- 1. The ACA is still the law and open enrollment will continue.** People can still enroll in health coverage through the Marketplace, Medicaid, or the Essential Plan. Open enrollment continues through January 31, 2017; but you must enroll by December 15 if you want coverage to begin on January 1. Financial help is also available.
- 2. In-person enrollment assistance may be more important than ever.** Navigators and assisters provide free, unbiased, in-person assistance for anyone looking for health insurance. You can get help with the application, selecting a plan, and understanding coverage. To get in-person help, contact Community Service Society's navigator program at (888) 614-5400 to schedule an appointment.

- 3. Any significant efforts to repeal the ACA will not happen overnight.** If a repeal succeeds in 2017, we believe it will include a transition period so that people who currently have coverage do not experience a sudden disruption in care.

The ACA has brought coverage and protections to millions, including access to free preventive care, the elimination of lifetime and annual caps on health care, and protections for people with pre-existing conditions. CIDNY will be working with other health care advocates in a Keep America Covered Campaign and an anticipated Keep New York Covered campaign to make sure these coverage gains continue.

# December 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	2	3
4	5 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	6 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	7	8 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	9 RSVP 646-442-4156 for the Signature Theatre tour on the 15th	10
11	12 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	13 <b>Right to Counsel Press Conference</b> , City Hall, 11 a.m. <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	14	15 <b>Tour of Signature Theatre; 12 noon</b> <b>Walk-in Day</b> <b>Writer's Workshop</b>	16 <b>Movie Night</b> <b>Central Intelligence</b> 3:00 to 5:00 pm	17
18	19 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	20 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	21 <b>CAN Meeting-Manhattan</b> 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	22 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	23	24 First night of Chanukah 
25 <i>Happy Holidays</i> 	26 <b>Christmas Holiday Observed</b> <b>CIDNY IS CLOSED</b>	27 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	28	29 <b>Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	30	31

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003 unless otherwise stated. To RSVP for events, contact Eva Burgess at 646-442-4156 or [eeason@cidny.org](mailto:eeason@cidny.org).

If you need an accommodation, please let Eva know. For ASL interpreters, let us know one week in advance. We cannot guarantee accommodations like ASL interpreters if we do not have advanced notice.

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CIDNY

# December 2016 Events

Join CIDNY for Education and Fun

**Need help?** Walk in to get the help you need. Staff will be available during these times for housing and benefits-related help.

## **Walk-In Days—Manhattan**

Every Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  
Every Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## **Walk-In Day—Queens**

Every Monday  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## **Our Popular Writer's Workshop—Manhattan**

Every Thursday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

## **Monday, December 26**

CIDNY is closed, Christmas Holiday is observed.

## **CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK (CAN)—Manhattan**

Wednesday, December 21, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

## **FAIR HOUSING ACT—WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?**

Join us for a presentation about the Fair Housing Act. You'll learn about what rights are protected; your rights as tenants; how to ask for an accommodation; how to recognize discrimination and resources when you have a complaint.

## **LEY DE VIVIENDA JUSTA ¿QUÉ DICE LA LEY?**

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## **A Tour of the Signature Theatre 12 noon Thursday, December 15 480 West 42nd Street (between 9th & 10th Avenues)**

Founded in 1991 by James Houghton, Signature makes an extended commitment to a playwright's body of work. In 2014, Signature became the first New York City theatre to receive the Regional Theatre Tony Award®. Signature serves its mission at The Pershing Square Signature Center, a three-theatre facility on West 42nd Street designed by Frank Gehry Architects. The Theatres are fully accessible.

Through the [Signature Ticket Initiative: A Generation of Access](#), Signature is also committed to making its productions accessible by underwriting the cost of initial run tickets, currently priced at \$30.

Join us for a tour of the theatres and to learn more about the plays and playwrights that they are featuring this year. Please RSVP by December 9 at 646-442-4156 to ensure a space.

## **Movie Night—Central Intelligence**

Friday, December 16, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

A one-time bullied geek who is now a lethal CIA agent comes home for his high school reunion. Claiming to be on a top-secret case, he enlists the help of the former "big man on campus," now an accountant, who misses his glory days. But before the staid numbers-cruncher realizes what he's getting into, it's too late to get out, as his increasingly unpredictable new friend drags him through a world of shoot-outs, double-crosses and espionage that could get them both killed in more ways than he can count.

