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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

January 2017

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

**Celebrate...  
then join us to protect our rights.**

We wish all of you a very happy New Year. This year we'll be working hard together to make sure that the rights of people with disabilities and the laws that protect us remain solid and intact.



### PROGRAMS PROTECTING US ARE THREATENED

As January begins, we know that Congress and the President-elect are looking at ways to cut money from and change rules of programs like Medicaid, Medicare, housing, and SNAP benefits, among others. One of the ways they may do this is to give states a set amount of money for these programs. This would be less than what the State is getting now and could push the State to consider deep cuts. Congress and the President-elect may also try to change civil rights laws and cut back on enforcement.

### CIDNY WILL BE TELLING NY STATE TO HOLD THE LINE

We will be working at the State level to ensure that New York State will not reduce benefits to people with disabilities. We'll also be looking at other groups we can join with to make sure that New Yorkers who are low income are not made to suffer because of changes at the federal level. We'll be fighting for our rights.

### YOU CAN HELP—TELL YOUR STORY!

We're in this for the long haul and you can help. You can tell your story about what would happen to your life if your benefits are cut. For example, "If my Medicaid is cut, it means that I will not be able to get the therapy I need to maintain my independence..." "If my SNAP benefits are cut, I will have to decide whether to feed my family or pay my utilities bill—I won't be able to do both."

We need to show legislators what their actions mean to our community. If you can help, we'll help you tell your story. We can work with you to write up your story for testimony, videotape your story, or have you join us as we visit legislators.

### JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF CIDNY ADVOCATES

A good New Year's resolution would be to join our Consumer Action Network (CAN) to make sure your voice

will be heard as the federal government and New York State and City consider changes to benefits and disability rights.

You can also help by working on mailings, phone calls, alerts, joining rallies and performing other tasks to make sure our advocacy works.

To join us or find out more about what you can do, contact Monica Bartley at 646-442-4142 or email [mbartley@cidny.org](mailto:mbartley@cidny.org).

### TOGETHER WE CAN PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

Join CIDNY. Together, we can protect our rights and make a difference for New Yorkers with disabilities!

### DID YOU KNOW? Fair Housing Facts

♦ It is your responsibility to request an accommodation or modification. If you do not make the request, you may not receive what you need. That's a Fair Housing Fact.

♦ You can request an accommodation/modification at any point, even after the lease has been signed and you have moved into your home. That's a Fair Housing Fact.



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.

### CIDNY advocates joined "Right to Counsel" rally at City Hall

A bill in the New York City Council would provide low-income tenants with a right to have legal representation in housing court. CIDNY advocates joined tenant association members, community members, legal services groups and others active in the coalition for a rally at City Hall that delivered over 7,000 names on petitions to the Mayor to urge him to sign the bill into law.

Pictured at right are Monica Bartley & Dustin Jones at the rally.



Quick Takes

## CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING

**Wednesday, January 18** Queens — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Queens

**Subway:** E or the F train to Union Turnpike/Kew Gardens **Bus:** Q10, Q37, Q46, Q60, Q74, x63, x68 to Union Turnpike – Kew Gardens Station.

**Wednesday, January 25** Manhattan — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, 841 Broadway, Suite 301

**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.

### Training for Albany Lobby Day

This year, our voices on issues that affect us are more important than ever. We will tell our legislators that New York State must hold the line on any attempts to change our rights and benefits. Join CIDNY to meet with legislators on lobby day. We'll meet in Queens and Manhattan to talk about our goals and strategies and how to prepare for the meetings.

Este año, nuestras voces sobre temas que nos afectan son más importantes que nunca. Le diremos a nuestros legisladores que el Estado de Nueva York que deben mantener la línea en cualquier intento de cambiar nuestros derechos y beneficios. Únete con CIDNY para reunirse con los legisladores el día del lobby. Nos reuniremos en Queens y Manhattan para hablar sobre nuestras metas y estrategias y cómo prepararnos para las reuniones. Usted debe asistir a uno de estos entrenamientos para ir a Albany.

### CIDNY Celebrates Ombuds Volunteers

Volunteers (pictured on right) are at the heart of CIDNY's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).



These folks go through 42 hours of New York State Certification training and are managed by CIDNY. Once trained, they go into nursing homes and other facilities to help people understand their rights and get the resources they need—whether for issues in the nursing home or for transitioning back into the community.



This year, we celebrated our volunteers at an Appreciation Event that featured a breakfast, a citation from Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, and a general good time. CIDNY staff (pictured above) were there to congratulate our volunteers and Executive Director Susan Dooha accepted the Citation on behalf of CIDNY and the program. Congratulations to LTCOP volunteers! If you would like to find out more about this program, contact Mary Jane Wolper at [mwolper@cidny.org](mailto:mwolper@cidny.org) or phone: 212-812-2913.

### New Year Health Insurance Checkup

Although your future health benefits are under threat, it is important to check their status today, particularly as we enter a new year. Health

insurance benefits usually reset on January 1 with new and possibly higher copays, deductibles, and premiums. Your Medicare Part D drugs may be subject to new prior approval restrictions.

Let us know if you need any help navigating your health benefits so that you get the care you need at a cost you can afford. Call our intake line at 646-442-4186 to have a benefits counselor be in touch with you.

### A Trip to Signature Theatre by Tashia Lerebours

On December 15th, CIDNY had a tour of the Signature Theatre on W. 42nd, designed by architect Frank Gehry. The Signature Theatre Company celebrates and embraces the creativity of playwrights and their bodies of work. On one floor alone, the 75,000 square foot Center has three studio theatres, rehearsal studios, dressing rooms, a café bar, and bookstore. With an open floor plan there is a seating area by the café bar and bookstore that is open to the public, audiences and actors. There is also a piano in the area for live entertainment. The entire space, including theatres, is accessible.

CIDNY participants at Signature's Café pictured at right.



During the tour, we got an idea of what it is like to stand on the stage and to learn about the ways playwrights and their works are chosen and produced. Signature Theatre is dedicated to the Signature Ticket Initiative, which allows them to offer all tickets for every show, performance, and theater at \$30 during the first 6 weeks of the run. CIDNY will set up another tour in the spring so that more consumers can experience the Theatre for themselves.