



Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
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Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #400
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March 2018

Oral Arguments on Subway Elevator Case

Our case [<https://www.cidny.org/litigation-updates/>] is scheduled for oral argument on March 5th at 10am at the New York Supreme Court located at 60 Center Street. The MTA wants to dismiss our case against them that would require them to install new elevators. Judge Shlomo Hagler set a time for all the parties to appear and argue why or why not the case should be dismissed. A large presence in court will convey to the Judge the importance of this issue to the disability community.

What to expect: state court can be quite unpredictable. Our case could be heard very briefly (or not at all) or we could have the floor for well over an hour. Please note that no signs or disruptions are permitted. Cell phones are not allowed and will be returned when you exit the court. Please join us if you can and spread the word!



[Image description: Drawing of different people with disabilities, a wheelchair user, a person with a service dog, etc.]

Lobby Day 2018

Forty people from CIDNY including board members, staff, and participants traveled to Albany on February 12th to join Centers for Independent Living from around the state to talk about the issues in the State budget that affect them.

At 27 appointments with legislators or their staff, we discussed funding increases for Independent Living Centers (ILCs), the Community Health Advocates (CHA) Program, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Participants also shared their stories about how they were affected by the 20-visit limit on Medicaid Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy. We discussed the need for more elevators at subway stations and more seats on the station platforms. Attendees were very pleased to meet with their District representative as well as other legislators and used the opportunity to remind them that they are voters.

Elizabeth Melas, one of the CIDNY participants, had this to say: "Although I have spoken to crowds of thousands [at rallies] before, I realized how different it is, to talk directly to the staffer of someone specific... Our group visited Katherine Nolan's staffer. Assembly member

Nolan focuses on education. I was in my groove!... Liz Krueger's staffer was next. By then, I became so completely comfortable, that I spoke about making the MTA accessible, making NY accessible, education, and voting rights. Thank you to everyone I met."

Pass the Child Victims Act

Each year, 40,000 children are sexually abused in New York State—1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men—yet New York is one of the worst states in the nation for survivors of childhood sexual abuse who wish to seek justice in court. The vast majority of childhood sex abuse survivors only have until the relatively young age of 23 to bring criminal charges or to seek civil relief. Once that age is reached, the doors to justice are closed forever.

Children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused. Children with intellectual or mental health disabilities appear to be more at risk, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual abuse as their peers without disabilities. Many survivors delay reporting and are less likely to be believed when they do report.

Please join us in thanking Governor Cuomo for including the Child Victims Act in his State budget and urge our State Senators to support the Governor's bill on CVA. If you have a story about how you have been affected by this issue, please contact Jess Powers, Director of Communications & Education, at jpowers@cidny.org or 646/428-4481.

Creative Writing Workshops

Please join us for writing and sharing work in a supportive and respectful environment. Writers of all genres and levels of experience are welcome. No prior writing experience is necessary. Participants should sign up in advance.

We partner with NY Writers Coalition, a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for people who have been historically deprived of voice in our society to be heard through the art of writing, to host the workshop. Avra Wing, the facilitator for CIDNY's workshop, said she was, "amazed and astounded and fascinated by the directions people's creativity takes them." Avra is a poet, essayist, and novelist and is also a person with a disability.



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Samaris Ayala, a long time CIDNY participant and volunteer for our newsletter, shared this poem on our blog:

- the community
 - may help
 - people with
 - benefits
-
- the community
 - heals itself
 - by helping
 - the most
 - unfortunate
-
- nothing
 - wrong
- with helping
- those who
 - receive
 - benefits

Read more here: [<https://www.cidny.org/writers-workshop/>]



[Image description: Two women signing.]

Our NY Connects counselors can help! Call 1-844/862-7930. Learn more at: www.nyconnects.ny.gov/about.



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CIDNY's Benefits Check-Up

Eligibility for public benefits change frequently. Are you getting the benefits you need?

Find out if you are eligible for:

- * Health Insurance Options
- * Housing: DRIE/SCRIE, HEAP
- * Transportation: Access-A-Ride, 1/2 Fare Card
- * SNAP
- * SSDI

And more....

For more information call CIDNY and ask to speak to a benefits counselor.

ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish-speaking counselors are available.

New York Must Pass the Child Victims Act

Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrassquillo, Director of Advocacy at CIDNY, gave testimony to the New York State Joint Budget Committee in support of the Child Victims Act. The Act would extend the statute of limitations against perpetrators and institutions by victims of sexual abuse. We are part of a coalition of advocates working to get the CVA passed. Here's an excerpt from her powerful testimony:

"Sexual abuse of children is not a new phenomenon. One can look back at Willowbrook where many children with disabilities were abused in unmentionable ways. Today's society is under the misunderstanding that such atrocities no longer occur.

A 2012 study states that children with disabilities are 2.9 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused. The percentage rises dramatically for children with intellectual disabilities or mental health disabilities. These children face more than 4.6 times the risk of sexual abuse as t



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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 am to 1:30 pm
Every Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm



Walk-In Day—Queens

Every Monday 10 am to 3 pm

Important Dates in February

February 12th – Lobby Day – Manhattan office closed

February 13th – Mardi Gras

February 14th – Ash Wednesday

February 16th – Chinese New Year

February 19th – Presidents' Day – **Office Closed**

CIDNY Action Network (CAN) Meeting

Lobby Day is February 12th, 2018!

There is no CAN meeting in February.

The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) and member groups like CIDNY are going to Albany on February 12th. CIDNY participants and CAN members travel to Albany to talk to lawmakers about the issues that are most important to us. It's a chance to get our voices heard!

You must attend the training to go to Albany. Training will be held from 1-3 pm on January 17th, at the Queens Office, and 1-3pm on January 31st, at the Manhattan Office.

Please RSVP (details below). Refreshments will be served.



Housing Workshop - Queens

Wednesday, December 31st, 10 am to 2 pm

CIDNY's housing workshop covers housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; in-come and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report. CIDNY is a full-service center and other benefits will be discussed; we don't offer housing, but can provide information and assist with applications.

Space is limited. You must call John Rivera at 646/442-1520 to reserve a spot and to let us know if you need an accommodation.

CIDNY's Writers' Group



This group meets every Thursday at CIDNY's Manhattan office, 841 Broadway. The writers' group is a facilitated, non-judgmental writing group that promotes individual expression and creativity in a supportive atmosphere. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact CIDNY at 212/674-2300.

Movie Night is Back!

Wednesday, February 21st, FENCES, 3 pm to 5:30pm

Set in 1950s Pittsburgh, the film adaptation of August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play takes a passionate look at former baseball player Troy Maxson as he fights to provide for those he loves in a world that threatens to push him down.



Starring:

Denzel Washington, Viola Davis,
Stephen McKinley Henderson

Runtime:

2 hours, 18 minutes

The screening will start promptly at 3pm. Snacks will be served.

All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003 unless otherwise stated. To RSVP for events, contact Laurette Hamilton at 212/674-2300 or info@cidny.org.

If you need an accommodation, please let the receptionist 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.

FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	2	3
4	5  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	6  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	7	8  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	9	10
11	12 Manhattan office closed  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	13 Mardi Gras   Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	14 Ash Wednesday	15  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	16 Chinese New Year 	17
18	19 Office Closed - President's Day 	20  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	21 Movie Night 3-5pm Fences	22  Walk-in Day 10 am-3 pm  Writer's Workshop 3:30-5:30 pm	23	24
25	26  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm  Walk-in Day - Queens 10 am-3 pm	27  Walk-in Day 10 am-1:30 pm	28 Queens Housing Workshop 10 am-12 pm		 CID-NY <small>Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY</small>	