

AccessLetter

Cambridge Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Obama's Disability Plan: Accessibility Writ Large



In his transition to the presidency, Barack Obama is speaking loudly in behalf of all persons with disabilities. His words have the promise of becoming more than rhetoric, as he is speaking to all Americans.

In his "Commitment to Accessibility" for Americans with disabilities, Obama's four part plan addresses education, discrimination, employment, and independent, community-based living.

The first, **education**, would fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and work to improve opportunities for all, most notably children and high school graduates.

The second, **ending discrimination**, would focus on restoration of the Americans with Disabilities Act by increased funding for enforcement and support for the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. Rounding out this push for equal opportunity would be the implementation of affordable, accessible health care for all and improved mental health care.

The third, **employment**, would work to boost the job rate in the disability community by implementing regulations that compel the federal government and its contractors to employ more persons with disabilities. Growth in the private sector would come from the provision of resources to accommodate employees with disabilities and promoting the use of tax incentives.

(More on Obama Disability Plan, page 2)

State Budget Cuts Hurt Mental Health Services



State budget cuts announced this fall by Governor Deval Patrick have affected some health and human service organizations and programs more than others. Mental health services appear to be some of the hardest hit.

Commissioner of Mental Health, Barbara Leadholm, said she was forced to cut 7% of her budget, and in an effort to save in-hospital care and housing for people with the most severe mental illness, many of the day treatment and psychiatric rehabilitation programs have paid the price.

"The programs that are being cut are the ones that help people with persistent mental illness rejoin the world and stay in it," said Toby Fisher, Massachusetts policy director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). "You are going to see more people going to the emergency room and more people hospitalized." Day treatment programs offer support groups, free meals, recreational activities, a place to socialize, use a computer, get some vocational rehabilitation, and talk with a counselor.

Susan Geronimus, Director of the Cambridge-Somerville Social Club, was worried about how people who use the club would deal with their loneliness when it closed in December. They will not have the structure and purpose the Club provides, and will be much more isolated. The clubs have provided a lifeline, a way to reconnect to school, work and other people.

(More on Budget Cuts, page 2)

Obama Disability Plan (cont'd)

The fourth, **independent, community-based living**, would enforce the Community Choice Act, to promote independent living in the community, not in institutions, and to create a voluntary, budget-neutral national health insurance program in support of independent living participants.

Obama's full agenda for people with disabilities can be viewed at

<www.change.gov>, the website for the President-elect. The longer version of Obama's plan for the disability community can be reached by clicking on "Agenda" at the top of the website, then clicking on "Disabilities". Perhaps even more interestingly, by clicking on "Accessibility" at the bottom of the website, a shorter version of Obama's disability agenda concludes with the following statement: "This [Obama administration] commitment to accessibility for all begins with this site and our efforts to ensure all functionality and all content is accessible to all Americans."

You have to wonder, or do you have to wonder at all, why, of all twenty three agenda issues, the Obama Administration has chosen "accessibility" to set its table for change.

Could it be, from this website inviting the public at-large to "be part of this administration," that we who are already access-minded will have the chance to lead those who have yet to find the mindset?

--Bobby Vilinsky

[Ed. Note: a more detailed description of Barack Obama's plan to empower Americans with disabilities (in PDF format) can be viewed at his campaign website: <www.barackobama.com/pdf/DisabilityPlanFactSheet.pdf>.]

State Budget Cuts (cont'd)

Additional budget cuts are still a possibility later in the spring. (WBUR interview on Nov. 19, 2008) Ultimately, the cost to the Commonwealth will be greater than the "savings" from these cuts.

"We must build a world free of unnecessary barriers, stereotypes, and discrimination.... policies must be developed, attitudes must be shaped, and buildings and organizations must be designed to ensure that everyone has a chance to get the education they need and live independently as full citizens in their communities."

-- Barack Obama, April 11, 2008

Voice your concern and protest these cuts in services vital to people with psychiatric disabilities. You can join M-POWER (Massachusetts People/Patients Organizing for Wellness, Empowerment & Rights) by contacting the organization's president, Ruthie Poole, at <RuthiePoole44@yahoo.com> or 617-442-4111, x324, or 877-769-7693. Call or

write to Commissioner Leadholm and Gov. Patrick.

Commissioner Barbara Leadholm
Department of Mental Health
25 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114

Gov. Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133
617-725-4005, 888-870-7770 voice
617-727-3666 TTY

Bet MacArthur Receives Peace & Justice Award

There are many people who work for justice and human rights in a particular segment of life. Over the years, Bet MacArthur has been an advocate for many different causes and understands the connections between them whether the focus is on racial discrimination, economic oppression, mandatory conscription, or exclusion of people with disabilities.

In recognition of her passionate advocacy, Bet MacArthur – social worker, community organizer, and former Chair of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities – was recently honored with

a Peace and Justice Award by the Cambridge Peace Commission. Bet was among ten individuals and four organizations to receive the award this year.

In accepting the award, MacArthur said, “I want to

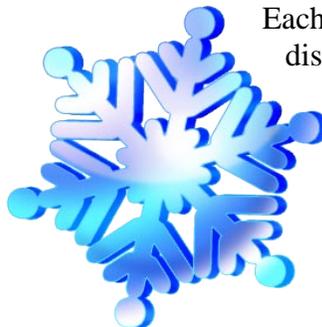
dedicate this distinguished honor to the memory of my parents who taught me the imperative to voice one’s conscience, to the countless Americans who found the courage to stand up (for various causes), to my brothers and sisters with disabilities and their allies as they courageously follow those earlier liberation movements by pushing for universal access in the world, and to my two sons, who as people of color, faced down [the evil of Jim Crow] many times, literally took the hits, and did not ever give in to the temptation to hate back.”

In the 1960s during her undergraduate years at Duke University, Ms. MacArthur worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) canvassing in rural counties to register African-American voters. They also picketed segregated stores, restaurants, theaters and bus stations where they were often threatened by the Ku Klux Klan.

The 1970s and 1980s brought more involvement with justice issues in the mental health field. Ms. MacArthur helped form a radical alternative mental health collective called “Pequod” that was housed in the basement of Old Cambridge Baptist Church, and worked there for 12 years as a therapist, trainer and organizational consultant to other progressive groups, like the Mental Patients Liberation Front (MPLF).

(More on Peace & Justice Award, page 4)

Sidewalk Snow/Ice Task Force Update



Each winter, people with disabilities, particularly those with mobility impairments, face a daunting obstacle: navigating the City’s sidewalks through snow, slush, and ice.

With a new catchphrase, “Let’s all dig in and dig out: Ice and snow free sidewalks are everyone’s responsibility,” the Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) has launched a new public awareness campaign. The overall goal of the campaign is to increase effectiveness of the City’s sidewalk snow and ice clearance program. Property owners are reminded of their obligation to promptly remove snow from their sidewalks after a storm, and to keep their sidewalks clear of snow and ice throughout the winter.

At the December Commission meeting, DPW representatives presented recent measures the City has undertaken to improve sidewalk conditions during the winter months. DPW unveiled a redesigned snow website: <www.cambridgema.gov/snow>, which will allow Cambridge residents to easily report unshoveled sidewalks using an online form. The website should streamline complaint tracking and make it easier for complaints to be delegated to appropriate staff, according to DPW officials.

The December presentation, which included Lisa Peterson, DPW Commissioner, and Rebecca Fuentes, Community Relations Manager, outlined specific steps recommended by the Sidewalk Snow/Ice Removal Task Force, which has been meeting since May 2008. The Task Force set the following priority goals:

1. Foster a sense of community & shared norms around sidewalk clearance
2. Review enforcement structure
3. Review enforcement operations
4. Improve education & outreach

5. Connect people who need/ want help clearing their sidewalk with resources
6. Develop measurement & evaluation system for changes to program

Task Force members heard from representatives of the disability community about the difficulty people with mobility impairments faced in trying to negotiate snowy or icy sidewalks to get to their destinations.

As a result of the Task Force's efforts, DPW has increased the fine from \$35 a day to \$50 a day for property owners that fail to shovel their sidewalks. Patrols by parking control officers will be beefed up this winter, using a revamped citywide priority enforcement patrol map developed jointly by DPW and the Traffic Department.

The City's publicity efforts include:

- Using the City's "Reverse 911" system to remind property owners about their obligation to remove snow/ice after a storm
- Distributing a revised snow information brochure with water/sewer bills
- Publicizing the City's snow/ice ordinance in newsletters and on the web

Peace & Justice Award (Continued)

Ms. MacArthur provided similar training to the new Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, and then to the North Cambridge Community Health Center founded by poor mothers in public housing.

She became a charter supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Birmingham, and worked at one of Boston's most stressed public psychiatric facilities where 80% of the staff and client population were African American. Along with a small contingent of radicals and progressives, Ms. MacArthur worked quietly "in the belly of the beast" to reduce overmedication and physical restraints; get more accurate diagnoses, and introduce underused, proven treatment modalities like group therapy.

She even upset hospital protocol by trying to arrange a van schedule so her 90 inpatients could get to the polls to vote. She thought she was just doing her job

as a social worker. In 1981 when millions of disabled people were dumped off Supplemental Security Income (SSI), it became Ms. MacArthur's job to write up each case and personally escort each frightened, hungry client downtown to the Social Security Administration's Administrative Law Judge to plead their case. This effort to reinstate severely disabled people on SSI ended up costing the government far more than the savings it was supposed to have realized.

Back home, networking with friends who have disabilities, soon Ms. MacArthur was at the first-ever Disability and the Arts conference in Ann Arbor and helping organize the first-ever Disability Pride March in Boston. Since then, Ms. MacArthur continues to write about media treatment of disability in every genre – generally trotting out all the old tactics from two prior civil rights movements – to affect and support Americans with disabilities, their families, their employers, and our society's infrastructure in countless ways.

There are a lot of people who love to talk about peace and justice. Bet MacArthur is a woman who knows how to "do justice" and she is not deterred by the danger this work may impose. Throughout her life she has taken the lessons learned in one arena and applied them in others, always seeing similarities in the oppression of any disenfranchised group.

In the 1990's MacArthur's own family endured three racial attacks in Boston/Cambridge on her sons, two young men of color. One involved a brutal beating of her son and two of the attacks resulted in arrests and criminal trials, though the charges were eventually dismissed. Later, her sons said the most important thing to come from these terrible experiences was their family's non-violent response and ongoing work to counsel them at home about not acting like or becoming like the people who tried to oppress them.

Overall, Ms. MacArthur believes that the contributions she and her husband have made to their sons' sense of identity, pride, and confidence, as young men of color and multi-cultural heritage, is their most important accomplishment for the future.

Homeownership Units Available

Just-A-Start, a nonprofit housing development corporation based in Cambridge, recently announced they are taking applications for 10 affordable homes at 823 Main Street.

These homeownership units (which include one wheelchair-accessible unit) range in size from 1-bedroom to 3-bedrooms are available to moderate income households. For an application or more information, go to <www.justastart.org>, or call 617-494-0444 x340. Completed applications are due Wednesday, January 28, 2009.



Opening on CCPD Board

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities needs to fill a vacancy on its volunteer advisory board. This person must be a resident of Cambridge and will be expected to attend regular monthly meetings. Application deadline has been extended until January 16, 2009.

The Commission is made up of individuals with and without disabilities who are interested in raising awareness, eliminating discrimination and promoting equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities. Members serve 3-year terms and should be willing to work on various short or long-term projects.

For more information, contact a the Commission office, 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or check our website at <www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm>.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Disability Community

- January 3 **Accessible ice skating begins – at Brockton’s John G. Asiaf Skating Rink**, 2:30-4:30 pm on Saturday, Jan. 3, 17, 31, and Feb. 21. All programs take place during public skating hours with instruction and support provided as needed. Sponsored by the Universal Access Program of the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Fees are usually less than \$5/person. For more information contact Gigi Ranno, Project Director, at 617-626-1294 office, 781-254-4720 Cell or <gigi.ranno@state.ma.us>. Other dates and locations are listed below. By February many rinks will have ice sleds available for seated skating. Also check website: <www.mass.gov/dcr/universal_access>
- Jan. 5-11 **War Memorial Recreation Center now ACCESSIBLE and Open** – Enjoy FREE activities throughout the Open House week, sample classes, and celebrate with Cambridge City and School officials who will host a Grand Reopening Ceremony on January 7 at 3 pm. Renovations to this late 1950’s era building included making it fully wheelchair accessible. Located at 1640 Cambridge St. next to Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School, the 78,000 square foot facility is climate controlled and houses three pools, a gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts, a state-of-the-art fitness room, and separate locker facilities for school and public use. Call 617-349-6237 for a copy of the program booklet or view it online at <www.cambridgema.gov/dhsp2/open.cfm>.
- January 6 **People with Disabilities in Cambridge** – a Cambridge Community Television (CCTV) *Easy Access Program* that will initially air on Channel 10 at 8 am, features interviews with individuals from several Cambridge organizations that help make life more accessible for people with disabilities. Tina Raimo describes how the NE Regional Office of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic provides textbooks for area students, Nicole Horton relates how the DHSP Inclusion Initiative provides training

and support to staff in the Departments out of school programs, Jens Rybo talks about Tunefoolery Concert Ensembles, a booking service for musicians with psychiatric disabilities, and Laura Brelsford discusses the work of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. This program (#9330) will be rebroadcast on Jan. 8 at 9 pm and Jan. 11 at 7 pm, and on Channel 9 at 10:30 pm on Jan 13, 8 pm on Jan. 16, and 9 pm on Jan. 31. (Please note that these times are subject to change.) For more information, call 617-661-6900 or go to <www.cctvcambridge.org/programming>. Produced by CCTV with a grant from the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

- Jan. 6 & 8 **MDDA (Manic Depression & Depressive Association) Support Group** at Mass. General Hospital meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795.
- January 7 **Injured Worker Support Meetings** – *(previously listed as RSI – repetitive strain injury)* Meetings will now scheduled by appointment, often the first Wednesday of each month, 5:15 - 6:45 pm; call RSI Action at 617-247-6827 to set up a meeting. Meetings/appointments usually take place at 650 Beacon Street, Kenmore Square, Boston, 4th Floor Conference Room, near Kenmore Square. Volunteers provide resources and support. For more information, call 617-247-6827, or go to <www.rsiaction.org>.
- January 7 **Weekly support group for adults with LD/ADHD** (learning disabilities & attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) meets in Cambridge near Harvard Square, 6-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. If you are interested, contact Angelica Sawyer at 617- 661-3117.
- January 7 **NAMI Connection** – a support group for adults with mental illness, meets every Wednesday evening, 7- 8:30 pm at Cambridge Hospital, 3rd Floor, Learning Center rooms C & D. The group is **free** and open to all who self-identify as having a mental illness, regardless of diagnosis. For more information, contact Carter at 617-776-7972 or <stbosal@arczip.com>.
- January 7 **Manic Depression & Depressive Association (MDDA) Bipolar Support Group** meets every Wednesday evening, 7 - 9 p.m. at McLean Hospital in Belmont (Demarneffe Building, 1st floor lobby). Includes a lecture; 7 - 8 p.m., on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Call 617-855-3665 for more information.
- January 8 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) monthly meeting** – 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment.
- January 11 **Art of Africa and Oceania**, part of the Feeling for Form series at Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) – See the Feb. 15 listing for a complete description of this series for blind and low vision visitors to the museum. For more information, contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or <access@mfa.org> or visit <www.mfa.org>. The MFA can be reached via the MBTA Green Line to MFA bus stop, or Orange Line to Ruggles Station and walk to Museum Road. Parking is available for a fee.
- January 13 **Boston Voice Users is a group for people who use speech recognition or dictation software.** They meet 7:30 – 9:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at MIT in Building 2, Rm.135. To find out more about meetings and discussions go to <www.bostonvoiceusers.org>. They will meet on Nov. 11.
- January 14 **Basic Rights workshop in Watertown** – provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child. Workshop materials are also available in Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. Presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN), this workshop will be offered at the Lowell School Library, 175 Orchard Street, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Register by contacting FCSN at 617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688 or online at <register@fscn.org>.
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- January 15 **Autism Support Group** – meets 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Central Square Branch of Cambridge Public Library, 45 Pearl Street in Cambridge. For more information contact Lorraine Iacopucci at <liacopucci@nsarc.org> or 978-624-2304.
- January 16 **A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls** – 8 week program sponsored by Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) will meet 10 am – 12 noon on Fridays at SCES, 61 Medford Street in Somerville. Program will help attendees deal with their fear of falling, improve balance, flexibility and strength, and make changes to reduce risks of falls at home. Class size is limited; for more information contact Deb McLean at 617-628-2601, x3172 or <dmclean@eldercare.org>.
- January 16 **What in the World is Autism? A Cultural Perspective** by anthropologist Roy Richard Grinker for adults with Asperger Syndrome or on the autism spectrum, parents, educators and professionals. Program, sponsored by the Asperger's Association of New England (AANE), will be held at the Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road in Lexington, 9:30 am – 12 noon. Advanced registration by Jan. 9 is required; \$50 – AANE members, \$65 nonmembers. Note that no refreshments will be served; food and drink are allowed only in the lobby, not the auditorium. For more information go to <www.aane.org> or call 617-393-3824.
- January 19 **Martin Luther King Day Open House at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA)** – FREE admission and inclusive events for all ages and abilities, including sign language (ASL) interpreted tours and events, a captioned film program and inclusive tours for blind and low vision visitors. Hours: 10 am – 4:45 pm. The theme for the day is “Defining Images: Truth and Propaganda - Photography, Portraiture and Life.” For more information, see January 11 listing for **Art of Africa and Oceania** at the MFA.
- January 21 **Senior Support Group for caregivers over 60** – meets monthly at the Family Resource Center, 20 Gould Street in Reading, 10 am - 12 noon on Wednesdays; also on Feb. 18 and March 18. Share and learn with other seniors who have adult family members with developmental disabilities. For more information contact Michelle Faugno at <fam2fam@theemarc.org> or Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, 16 Warwick Road, Melrose, MA 02176.
- January 21 **Panel on Summer Camps for Children with Autism** – part of a parent lecture series sponsored by the Ladders Program, 6:30-8 pm at Charles River Arc, 59 E. Melitia Heights Road in Needham; \$5 fee. For more information contact Julie O'Brien at 781-860-1726 or <jobrien20@partners.org>.
- January 25 **Accessible Indoor Ice Skating, Shea Rink in Quincy**, 2 -3:50 pm on Sunday. Sponsored by DCR Universal Access Program. See Jan. 3 listing for Brockton for details.
- January 28 **Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA** meets 1 to 3 p.m. at State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, 2nd floor Conference Room #4. Call 617-973-7507 voice, or 617-973-7089 TTY for more information or request interpreters. Security measures require proper ID for access to meetings.
- February 1 **Accessible cross country skiing, kicksledding, and snowshoeing at Weston Ski Track** – Sundays, 12- 4 pm; also on Feb. 8, 15, 22, and March 1. Sponsored by Outdoor Access and Universal Access Program of the DCR; nominal fees for equipment rental. Call 413-269-0009 to register.
- Feb. 3 & 5 **MDDA (Manic Depression & Depressive Association) Support Group** at Mass. General Hospital meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795.
- February 4 **Injured Worker Support Meetings** – (*previously listed as RSI – repetitive strain injury*) Meetings are scheduled by appointment, often on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:15 - 6:45 pm but other times can be arranged. See listing for Nov. 5 for details.
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- February 4 **Manic Depression & Depressive Association (MDDA) Bipolar Support Group** meets every Wednesday evening, 7 to 9 p.m. at McLean Hospital in Belmont (See Sept. 3 for details.)
- February 10 **Boston Voice Users** meets 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at MIT. See listing on Jan. 13 for details.
- February 12 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) monthly meeting** – 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment.
- February 15 **Feeling for Form Introductory Series: Orientation to Museum & Major Collections** –The Accessibility Department of the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston offers a series of introductory tours to the Museum and its permanent collections for blind and low vision individuals who want to build a deeper relationship with the museum. Each monthly session focuses on a different collection and will include wayfinding and verbal description of spaces. For contact information and directions, see January 11 listing for **Art of Africa and Oceania** at the MFA.
- February 17 **Switch to DTV – This is the last day of full-power analog television broadcasting.** After this date you will either need a cable hookup, DTV converter box for an old analog television or a television that accepts digital broadcasts. For more information call 888-225-5322 voice, 888-835-5322 TTY or go to <www.dtv.gov/consumercorner.html>.
- February 17 **Accessible Indoor Ice Skating, Steriri Rink in Boston** (North End), 1-3 pm on Sunday; also on March 8, 2-5 pm. Sponsored by DCR Universal Access Program. See Jan. 3 listing for details.
- February 17 **Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) meeting** 1-3 p.m. at the State House, Room A-1.
- February 19 **Autism Support Group in Cambridge** – meets 3rd Thursday of month. See Nov. 20 for details.
- February 22 **Accessible Indoor Ice Skating, Bajko Rink in Hyde Park**, 12 -3:30 pm on Sunday. Sponsored by DCR Universal Access Program. See Jan. 3 listing for Brockton for details.
- February 25 **Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA** meets 1 to 3 p.m. See Jan. 28 listing for details.
- March 1 **Accessible Indoor Ice Skating, Flynn Rink in Medford**, 12 -1:50 pm on Sunday. Sponsored by DCR Universal Access Program. See Jan. 3 listing for Brockton for details.
- March 4 **Annual Legislative Reception at State House** – Sponsored by the Arc and Mass. Developmental Disabilities, this is a time to rally with other consumers. Meet at the Grand Staircase at 10 am for presentations, and then make visits to legislative offices.
- March 8 **Art of the Ancient World** – See the Feb. 15 listing for a complete description of this series for blind and low vision visitors to the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA). For more information, contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or <access@mfa.org> or visit <www.mfa.org>. The MFA can be reached via the MBTA Green Line to MFA stop, or Orange Line to Ruggles Station and walk to Museum Road. Parking is available for a fee.
- March 12 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) monthly meeting** – 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment.
- March 14 **Visions of Community: Conference for Professionals and Families of Children with Special Needs** at Seaport/World Trade Center-Boston, 7:30 am – 5 pm. The conference features information covering Early Childhood, Special Education, No Child Left Behind, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Spanish, Portuguese, and Cantonese translation is available. **Registration fee is \$70 per person on or before February 13; after this date it is \$85.** For more information, contact FCSN at 617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688 or check the website at <www.fcsn.org>.
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Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

The Commission was established in 1979 to act as a clearinghouse on disability and access issues throughout the City of Cambridge. We strive to raise awareness of disability matters, to eliminate discrimination, and to promote equal opportunity for people with all types of disabilities – physical, mental and sensory. The Commission provides information, referral, guidance, and technical assistance to individuals and their families, employers, public agencies, businesses and private non-profit organizations.

The goal of our 11-member citizen advisory board, comprised primarily of individuals with disabilities, is to maximize access to all aspects of Cambridge community life. Our regularly scheduled Commission meetings, which always include an opportunity for public comment, are held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Access Notice: The City of Cambridge and Commission for Persons with Disabilities do not discriminate on the basis of disability. This newsletter is available in e-mail, large print and other alternative formats upon request. To add your name to our mailing list, to inquire about alternative formats, or for information about other auxiliary aids and services or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, contact CCPD.

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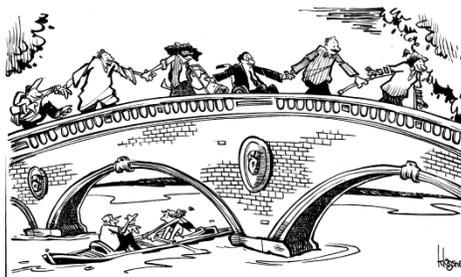
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AccessLetter is produced by the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities,
part of the Department of Human Service Programs,

51 Inman Street, second floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139

We welcome your articles, comments, criticisms, and suggestions. Write us!

Read past issues on our website: www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm

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Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street, second floor
Cambridge, MA 02139