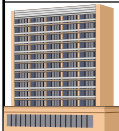


JPAC Action Report

Published by the Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC)
Volume 9, Issue 2 February 2007



Your Pet or Your Apartment? New Yorkers Should Not be Forced to Choose!



Many New Yorkers face the difficult choice of keeping their pet and being forced to move *or* giving up a pet to stay in an apartment because it is impossible to find another one due to the lack of affordable housing. Sometimes pet owners choose neither and risk eviction by a landlord. For the isolated elderly, many of whom have lived in their communities with pets for many years, it can be traumatic to be without one. The loss of a pet as a companion is a situation that affects the health and well-being of a vulnerable population.

Legislation, known as the “Pets in Housing Bill,” Intro Number 13, has been introduced in the New York City Council by Council Member Tony Avella of Queens. It is a Local Law to amend the administrative code of New York City by clarifying the rights of pet owners in multiple dwellings. This bill states that once a landlord waives a no-pet clause, it is waived for the duration of the tenancy, not just the lifetime of an individual pet. Under the bill, if a tenant’s pet dies, the tenant has the automatic right to adopt a new animal of the same species. If a no-pet clause was waived and a tenant has had a pet for a period of time, and the pet dies or was relocated, the tenant can automatically adopt a new animal of the same species. The following Council members are co-sponsors: Gonzalez, James, Martinez, Palma, Mendez, Jackson, Brewer, Lappin, Nelson, Mark-Viverito, Gentile, Vacca, Garodnick, Koppell, Arroyo, McMahon, Weprin, Gerson and Mealy.

Presently, Intro 13 applies to rental tenants only. Since co-op owners raised some objections which might preclude passage, Intro 13 is somewhat of a compromise. Intro 13 is an important first step in protecting the rights of people to share their lives with companion animals and opening up countless homes for homeless animals. Animal lovers are quite passionate about the way they feel about their animals, but they must respect and understand that everyone does not feel the same way. *Based on information from League of Humane Voters of New York City (LOHV-NYC)*

Take Action: Contact your City Council Member (if you do not know the name of your council member, call The League of Women Voters, 212-788-3541), as well as Christine Quinn, Speaker of the City Council 212-788-7210, and Council Member Erik Martin Dilan, Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee, 212-788-7284. Request that they support Intro Number 13!
- Adele Bender
Queens Coordinator

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The Institute for Senior Action (IFSA)



It is never too late to learn so sharpen those pencils, pick up a brand new note pad, polish your shoes and get ready for school again. Except this time it is a unique opportunity not only to learn but to reach out and meet older adults from all over the New York City area from all sorts of senior organizations. This training is offered by the Institute for Senior Action (IFSA). The brain child of Dorothy Epstein, renowned civic leader of The Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC), a program of the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged, it was the first-of-its-kind leadership and advocacy training program for older adults. Dorothy, at the age of 72, saw the need to expand the senior leadership base and effect local and national change. This hard working, gracious lady passed away this past May at the age of 92, active to the very end. She was a shining example that life is not over when one becomes a senior citizen.

Since the spring of 1994, IFSA has held 25 sessions, graduating close to 600 senior leaders. SAGE has had 24 graduating members, 3 of them were valedictorians of their classes and a fourth was elected to emcee the graduation ceremonies. *Not a bad track record.* Each training semester, two per year, runs for a total of ten weeks, meeting one day a week. The day is divided into two sessions, thus a total of 20 different training sessions are held, each of them led by a leading person in that particular field. These sessions cover everything from public speaking, gaining media attention, lobbying in Albany and understanding the New York City budget, to how you, as an individual, can do the most for your particular organization.

And, most importantly, you learn how to listen to your fellow seniors, to cooperate and work together to solve any task which might arise. It is a challenging, and fascinating, way to expand one's horizon. You will meet senior men and women from every borough who represent hundreds of diverse senior and community groups. These include, among others, senior centers, school boards, organized groups such as SAGE, OWL and the Gray Panthers, veterans groups and labor unions. Personally, I met many fascinating seniors and it also gave me the opportunity to present an understanding of SAGE as the only openly gay senior in my group. I learned to listen and respect different views and agendas. I learned a lot about the makeup and needs of various communities of this great city and how they were addressed in different locales. Frankly, I was so proud to be a participant.

- Garrison Phillips, S'04 IFSA Graduate

(This article appeared in the Fall 2006 Issue of SAGE MATTERS, the newspaper on GLBT Aging)

IFSA Update



Recruitment is underway for IFSA Spring 2007. Classes start on Thursday, March 15th. There continues to be many important issues on the plate this year – follow-up to the mid-term elections that were held in November, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and EPIC – Take Charge!

Learn the skills, become familiar with the issues and get involved! If you have not taken the class, give us a call and fill out the application.

IFSA Graduates - please call me at 212-273-5261 with new students to recommend – you are our best recruiting source!

- Steve Swidler
IFSA Project Director

March 2007 is JPAC Advisory Month

The JPAC staff, in coordination with the Advisory Committee, is in the process of planning our advocacy action for March.

This year, we will make legislative visits throughout the month to the **local** offices of our elected officials. Visits will be accomplished in ALL boroughs to a variety of New York City, State and Federal representatives.

Schedule updates will be provided for JPAC members as soon as they are available. There will be mandatory lobbying training in early March. We anticipate an effective lobbying campaign by conducting the meetings in the district offices of our representatives.



- Steve Swidler
IFSA Project Director

JPAC '07 Membership Recognition Page...

JPAC continues to thank and recognize all of our members and organizations that continue to support JPAC by paying their annual dues.

Abbott, Betty
Alpert, Emanuel & Rose
Altman, Janet
Andriani, Dominick
Arbeiter, Abe
Bardach, Joan
Beach, Dianne
Beden, Emily
Bernstein, Muriel
Blayer, Rose
Boles, Vera
Bonagura, Joan
Brewer, Francine
Bucknavage, Miriam
Cammarata, Fannie
Campana, Carole, Dr.
Cohen, Shirley
Condes, James
Crispin, Pedro

Degutz, Iris
DiPietro, Eugenia
Dumont, Dorothy
Farbstein, Minnie
Fleming, Leroy (Lifetime)
Glatz, George
Grandi, Barbara
Greenberg, Ann
Grossman, Carol
Gruder, Herman & Josephine
Hunter, B. Junahli
Jaffe, Jacob & Irma
Kamaiko, Manny & Florence
Karr, Barbara & Emanuel
Kessler, Aline
Lessinger, Natalie
Liss, George
London, Jean
Lord, Rita

Maurice, Carolyn
Myrick, Rosa
Ramsey, Marlene
Reeves, Pearl
Rich, Bernard (Lifetime)
Rivera, Jorge
Rothstein, Annabelle
Schmall, Rosalind
Selikson, Shirley
Sheinfeld, Helen
Silverman, Pearl
Singer, Leon
Slader, Millicent
Slader, Moses
Small, Shirley
Tarantola, Selma
Tono, Helen
Tuff, Arlene
Weiner, Leona
Will, David

JPAC Membership Renewal

Final Notice!

It's February 2007, and we are asking anyone who has not yet renewed their JPAC membership, to please do so.

Your commitment to JPAC allows us to maintain our vital presence in the public policy arena. We encourage you to continue to participate in JPAC's advocacy activities and look forward to hearing from you and seeing you more this coming year.

Checks/Money Orders can be made out to JPAC/JASA and mailed to our central office, 132 West 31st Street, 10th Floor. NYC. If you would like to check your current membership status, please call, Tasha Forsythe at 212-273-5262 or email her at tforsythe@jasa.org

Questionable Approval of VNS (Vagus Nerve Stimulation)



*For many, the acronym VNS stands for Visiting Nurse Services;
However, for the purpose of this article VNS stands for Vagus Nerve Stimulation.*

Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) is a medical device surgically implanted beneath the left collarbone during an outpatient surgery. The original purpose of this device was to treat epilepsy. It was detected that people who received VNS for the treatment of epilepsy were happier than others with similar condition on other forms of treatments. From this observation, Cyberonics, the manufacturer of VNS, petitioned the FDA for its approval for using VNS to treat severe depression. The VNS device is about the size of a pacemaker; theoretically, it “sends electrical stimuli across a thin wire leading to the left vagus nerve in the neck, which then carries the stimuli to areas of the brain associated with depression” (Keeling, 2006). It cost about \$25,000 per patient, which including the cost of the device and its implantation (Public Citizen Newsletter).

VNS is a controversial form of therapy because although it received FDA approval, clinical tests do not support any claims that VNS is effective in treating severe depression. A three months clinical trial, conducted by Cyberonics, showed no significant changes between the outcomes of participants whose VNS devices were turned off and those whose devices were turned on (Public Citizen Newsletter). Furthermore, Cyberonics has been accused of misleading readers of *Neuropsychopharmacology*, a journal, through an article submitted by a “ghostwriter” in support of the VNS device. It was later revealed that the article was actually written by eight authors who received financial support from Cyberonics. One of the authors was actually an editor of *Neuropsychopharmacology* (Public Citizen Newsletter). Moreover, Cyberonics was almost delisted by NASDAQ because the company is under federal investigation for “timing option grants to coincide with share price lows to inflate profits” (Yahoo Finance).

In February 2006, the Senate Committee on Finance launched an investigation on the procedure used by the FDA to approve VNS for the treatment of severe depression. The committee found that VNS devices gained FDA approval from the director of FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health after 20 senior FDA staffs voiced their oppositions (Public Citizen Action Alert). The VNS device continues to have FDA approval, for the treatment of major depression, after this finding. This clearly calls for a review of how the FDA grants its approvals because if 20 **senior** FDA staffers were against the device, how did it ever get FDA approval? Should there have been, maybe, 21 senior staffers and an intervention from a deity for this device to be rejected by the FDA?

Cyberonics has petitioned CMS for Medicare reimbursement for the use of this device for the treatment of severe depression (Public Citizen Action Alert). On September 6th, Public Citizen became the first advocacy group to ask CMS to deny Medicare reimbursement for the use of VNS to treat major depression. Public Citizen contends that “FDA approval of VNS for severe depression was an embarrassment, both scientifically and procedurally” (Public Citizen Action Alert). The group would like to see the FDA revoke its approval, but in the mean time, it does not want Medicare to allocate money to a therapy that does not work. The decision on whether or not Medicare will reimburse this therapy will be determined in early 2007.

Information for this article was taken from the following articles and websites:
Action Alert from Public Citizen. <http://www.citizen.org>. September 6, 2006.
Cyberonics Sees 1Q Sales Shy of Estimates printed in *Yahoo Finance* on August 1, 2006.
Keeling, Libby. “Insurance Companies Resist Paying for Special Therapy.” <http://www.courierpress.com>.

- Bola Aribidesi
Bronx Coordinator

Credit Reports and Identity Theft



It's a New Year. . . time to take new steps. . . be your own advocate, and begin the journey to efficiency, simplicity and peace of mind. Here's the first step: Order your credit report: Call Toll Free: 1-877-322-8228 or go to www.annualcreditreport.com Or, mail an official request form, available to www.ftc.gov/credit to Annual Credit Report Request Service, PO Box 105281 - Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

There are currently 3 credit reporting agencies, and Federal Law gives you the right to request a free report from each of the 3 agencies each year. There is no need for you to pay for your "credit score", just start by ordering your credit "report".

Why is it important for your credit report to be accurate? Today, credit reports are not just used to apply for a mortgage---they are also used by landlords, banks, insurance companies, and other institutions. By ordering your report, you'll find out what is on file about you. Furthermore, you may be the victim of a crime, and not even know it. Examining your credit report is a way to discover if someone else has been using your personal identification.

The 3 credit reporting agencies are: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. But don't order from all 3 credit reports at the same time! Here is a suggestion to save money: In January order a report from Equifax. When you get that report, examine it, and if there are any errors, report them immediately, in writing. Rather than paying Experian for a new report just to find out if they corrected the errors, order a report from the second company: Experian. Report any errors on that report.

Do NOT reply to any email, or click on any ads on the internet offering a credit report. Go directly to the source. If you are ordering your report to be delivered by mail, have it sent to a secure mailbox, and ask that only the last 4 digits of your social security number be printed on the report.

- Aliza S. Felix
F'06 IFSA Graduate
Practicing Attorney in NYC

Migration Patterns of Older Americans



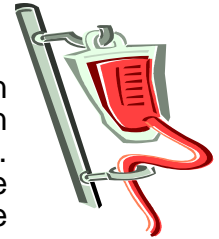
As many of you may be aware, a large number of affluent older New Yorkers spend their winters in other parts of the United States and then return to New York in the spring. People who do this are known as "snow birds". Of course the first place that comes to mind when thinking of this seasonal migration is Florida as a destination for the New Yorkers in this category. There are also many New Yorkers who move permanently to Florida when they retire. In recent years however, there is been a slight pattern of "reverse migration" from Florida back to NYC among 80 year old and older people as they begin to stop driving, need more intensive health care and generally become frailer. This oldest group of older adults is returning to be close to relatives, for better transportation, better health care and of course the great cultural life that one can experience in NYC.

However, the reality is that older adults, and particularly the baby boomers, some 77 million strong, will be moving around the country as they start searching for the perfect place to spend their golden years. In fact, many states and towns are competing for the baby boomers to move to their localities. According to the SeniorJournal.Com, approximately 50% of boomers between the ages of 50 and 59 plan to purchase new homes for their retirement where they can enjoy lifestyles that allow them to remain physically fit and socially active.

According to the Senior Journal, "instead of beating paths to Florida and Arizona, aging boomers already are opting for unconventional, far-flung U.S. locations primarily in the South and West." Economists are predicting that at least 400,000 boomers a year "will choose greener pastures beyond their state borders". With their social security checks and pensions, boomers can spur economic development in these rural areas. Rather than attracting business first, many of these communities in rural America have embarked on a path of attracting these retirees. The planners believe that businesses will follow. As the boomer retirement accelerates, according to the SeniorJournal.Com "what has seemed like a trickle of retirees to out-of-the-way towns and communities will suddenly become meaningful."

- Woody Goldberg
Brooklyn Coordinator

Blood Substitute Poses Potential Risks



Blood substitutes pose danger to patients. Testing risky blood substitutes on unconscious trauma victims is unethical. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should not approve a proposed experiment to be conducted by the U.S. Navy in which unconscious trauma victims would, without their knowledge, be given a potentially dangerous blood substitute, which is derived from cows. The Navy proposed testing Hemopure to see if it could prevent trauma victims from bleeding to death in an ambulance prior to reaching the hospital.

In testimony delivered to the FDA's Blood Products Advisory Committee, Dr. Sidney Wolf, Director of the consumer advocate group Public Citizen, warned that data showed patients given Hemopure, also known as HBOC-201, a blood substitute manufactured by Biopure Corp., are at increased risk for cardiovascular events such as congestive heart failure and death than patients given blood.

The data indicated increased adverse events experienced by patients during earlier now-abandoned attempts to approve HBOC-201 for elective surgery. In people younger than 70 who received either human blood or standard intravenous solutions, there were three deaths, 16 serious cardiovascular events and 28 serious adverse events out of 422 patients randomly selected to get these therapies. By contrast, in the groups which received Hemopure, there were nine deaths, a total of 41 serious cardiovascular events and a total of 76 serious adverse events in the 476 patients.

The original Advisory Committee meeting to consider the blood product was scheduled for July. The FDA announced that the discussion would be closed to the public. Public Citizen sued, arguing that closing the meeting violated federal law. Subsequently, the FDA cancelled the initial meeting and the recent meeting was open to the public. In response to Biopure's request for the Navy to conduct the clinical trial with Hemopure, the FDA's Blood Products Advisory Committee declined authorization by a vote of 11 to 8, with one abstention. Due to the current battlefield needs of the military, the Navy argued strongly for approval. It was determined by the FDA panel that the benefits did not outweigh the risks for individual subjects in the Navy's proposed trial, based on available data on for the product. However, the panel's finding is not binding on the FDA. In fact, its members suggested that a pre-hospital Phase II study be designed to provide both safety and efficacy data in a smaller patient population.

Take Action: This is an issue that requires monitoring. In order to voice your concern regarding the testing and use of blood substitutes, contact the appropriate committee chairs in the new 110th Congress via the United States Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121: Representatives John Dingell (D-MI), Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Chair of the Subcommittee on Health; Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Chair of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Chair of the Subcommittee on Health.

- Adele Bender
Queens Coordinator

Medicare General Enrollment Period



The Medicare General Enrollment Period for 2007 runs from January 1 through March 31, 2007. General Enrollment is an annual opportunity for individuals who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, Medicare Parts A and/or B to enroll. Enrollment in Part A, for those not entitled to premium-free Part A, is necessary for individuals wishing to enroll in a private health plan under Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) and for low income individuals wishing to participate in the Medicare Savings Program.

Part A – covering hospitalization, skilled nursing facility services, some home health and hospice – is available to most beneficiaries premium-free beginning at their 65th birthday or when they have been receiving Social Security disability benefits for 24 months. Those beneficiaries who are not entitled to premium-free Part A, because their employment was not sufficiently covered by Social Security or Railroad Retirement, can pay a premium (for 2007 either \$226 or \$410 per month, depending on how many quarters of Social Security coverage the individual has) to enroll, but they must have Part B to do so. A time-limited penalty is imposed on those enrolling in Part A after their first opportunity to do so. Part A is necessary, but not sufficient, to enroll in Part C (private managed care plans) and sufficient to enroll in Part D (private prescription drug plans). General enrollment for Part A is available January through March of each year, with benefits starting July 1 of that year.

Part B – covering physicians' services, outpatient therapies, durable medical equipment, long-term home health services and other outpatient services – is voluntary and available to beneficiaries at the same time they are eligible for Part A. The monthly premium, \$93.50 per month for most people in 2007, is generally deducted from a beneficiary's Social Security or Railroad Retirement check. A non-time-limited penalty is imposed for late enrollment. Part B is necessary for Part A enrollment for those not entitled to premium-free Part A, is necessary but not sufficient for Part C enrollment, and is sufficient to enroll in Part D. The general enrollment period is the same as for Part A.

Part C (Medicare Advantage) – provided through private managed care plans most commonly organized as health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and required to cover all the services covered under Parts A and B - is voluntary and available at the same time a beneficiary is first entitled to Parts A and B. A beneficiary must have both Parts A and B to be eligible to enroll in Part C. General enrollment is from November 15 through December 31 of each year, with benefits starting January 1 of the following year. Beginning in 2007, beneficiaries are able to change plans once during the first three months of the year. Part C plans can offer a prescription drug plan under Part D. There is no late enrollment penalty for Part C.

Part D – provided through private plans offering prescription drug coverage - is voluntary and available at the same time a beneficiary is receiving Part A or Part B. General enrollment is from November 15 through December 31 each year. A beneficiary must have either Part A or Part B to enroll in Part D. Otherwise coverable Part D drugs that are covered under Part A or Part B will not be covered under Part D, regardless of whether the beneficiary has Part A or Part B coverage.

General Enrollment Period. As noted above, January through March each year is the Medicare General Enrollment period for Parts A and B for those who have not enrolled in the program during the seven months surrounding their 65th birthday, when they have received Social Security disability payments for 24 months or during a special enrollment period to which they may be entitled. Beneficiaries enrolling during a general enrollment period are entitled to benefits beginning the July following their enrollment.

Plan to enroll early in 2007! The general enrollment period for Medicare Parts A and B ends March 31 for 2007. For assistance, contact the New York City Department for the Aging at 212-442-0922 or via e-mail: abernstein@aging.nyc.gov. Their office is located at Two Lafayette Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10007-1392.

Above information was obtained from the Center for Medicare Advocacy.org

Steve Swidler
IFSA Project Director

Safe Routes for Seniors

Walking is one of the most important things you can do to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Thousands of New Yorkers recognize this and choose to walk to their destinations instead of using cars, buses, or subways. These people are improving their health and saving money. They are also contributing to a reduction in congestion and pollution in our City. Walking should no doubt be encouraged, but many people choose to avoid it because of the potential dangers and conflicts that can occur due to mobility or visual impairments.



Transportation Alternatives, a non-profit citizens group who work for safer streets, recognizes that these dangers present challenges especially for seniors. The New York State Department of Health is funding one of Transportation Alternative's projects entitled Safe Routes for Seniors. The project advocates for changes in design standards that should be done in order to make streets more senior friendly. These changes take the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) one step further. They are common sense adjustments to an aging population.

One goal of the Safe Routes for Seniors project is to make certain areas of the City "Elder Districts." This title would describe areas with a large presence of senior centers and senior services or a higher than average number of senior residents. The Elder District Campaign is trying to improve the pedestrian environment of these areas as well as the fifteen streets in the City which make up a very disproportionate amount of traffic incidents. The fifteen streets are 14, 23, 34, 42, 57, 72, 79, 86, 96, 106, 116, 125, 135, 145 and 155. Four types of improvements are being pushed: 1- a walk signal of five to nine seconds where no vehicle can move from any direction, 2- crossings free of trip hazards like potholes, 3- consistent crosswalk markings to guide people across the street, 4- curb cuts or pedestrian ramps that are in line with the crosswalk markings.

Other improvements that the Safe Routes for Seniors campaign are pushing for include well maintained sidewalks, benches for resting, and bicycling lanes. So far the 15 Streets campaign is supported by State Senators Liz Krueger and Tom Duane, Assembly Members Pete Grannis, Daniel O'Donnell, Richard Gottfried and Deborah Glick and City Council members Daniel Garodnick, Jessica Lappin and Rosie Mendez. They have all written to Mayor Bloomberg asking him to adopt a policy to immediately improve safety measures around these streets.

Take Action: Use the letter on page 11 to promote safer streets in the City by writing to your local elected officials and Mayor Bloomberg and asking them to support improvements of our streets on behalf of seniors.



- Julie Green
JPAC Intern



OWL NEWSLETTER

The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
February 2007

Greater NY Chapter Older Women's League
Box 1242, Ansonia Station
New York, NY 10023
Tel . 212-663-2932

H.R. 676

H.R. 676 (like Social Security and Medicare) is a single – payer plan which would provide health care to every person residing in the U.S. H.R. 676 would allow patients their choice of doctors whose traditional fees for service would be paid for by the government. It is entitled: "The United States National Health Insurance Act," (Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Act"). H.R. 676, introduced by Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), now has 78 co-signers.

As of November 29, 2006, H.R. 676 is listed as being endorsed by 212 union organizations including 53 Central Labor Councils and area Labor Federations and 15 state AFL-CIO's (KY, PA, CT, OH, DE, ND, WA, SC, WY, VT, FL, WI, WV, SD, & NC).

The ball is in the people's court. The fate of H.R. 676 – national health insurance (Medicare for All) is in our hands. We the people everywhere should feel obligated to urge all members of Congress, state legislative bodies and city councils to sign on to effect passage of H.R. 676 as quickly as possible.

Save The Date

The OWL/GNY Steering Committee decided at the December meeting to hold meetings every other month following the JPAC Citywide meeting.

The topic of the next meeting will be "Are You Ready Legally?" The speaker will be a lawyer who works in the field to assist seniors in getting their "Personal Affairs in Order".

We hope to have a good turnout for this meeting. More information will follow in the March issue of the OWL/GNY newsletter. Please plan to attend this meeting. It will provide you with important information.

Yogurt Improves Gut Instincts...



STOMACH ache? Try some yogurt to sooth the pain. Lactobacillus acidophilus, a "friendly" bacterium often found in yogurt is the synthesis of receptors for opioids and cannabionoids, our natural painkillers, in gut cells.

A team led by Christel Rousseaux of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Lille saw the effect in human intestinal cells.

The team believe that bacteria could be a cheap, safe treatment for the 20 percent of people who get serious abdominal pain.

Source: New Scientist, December 2006



Membership Renewals

Below is an application for your 2007 membership renewal. We urge you to support the important work of the Older Women's League by continuing to pay your national and local dues. If you feel unable to afford the \$25 national and \$10 local membership fee, you may pay whatever can. If you have questions about your membership status, please call 212-663-2932.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN!

OWL 2007 Membership Dues Renewal

OWL dues from most of our members are due in January. Some few of you are due at different times of the year on your Anniversary date. Those members will be sent a notice in advance of that. If you have questions, please call Juanita Doares at (212) 663-2932.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP – WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

OWL '07 Membership Application

\$35 Annual Chapter Dues (\$10) – Provides opportunity for members to meet on issues of mutual concern, for education and advocacy, emphasizing local, state and regional activity. Members receive the OWL Newsletter.

Annual National Dues (\$25) – Supports national advocacy campaigns and network for chapters. Members receive the OWL Observer, the Field Advocate and discounts on OWL publication.

Since membership dues do not adequately support all OWL activities, I enclose an additional donation of: \$100 ___ \$75___ \$50 ___ \$25___ Other ___

\$___ Total Amount Enclosed. Please make checks payable to: Older Women's League (OWL).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

February 2007

Dear City Council Member _____:

It is extremely important that residents of New York City have the option to walk to their destinations instead of using other methods of transportation such as subways or buses. This includes the increasing number of seniors who live in the City. Walking not only promotes a healthy population, but it also contributes to less congestion and pollution. Unfortunately, the safety of our streets affects senior citizens' decision to walk.

Much can be done to improve the pedestrian environment of New York City. Transportation Alternatives has identified improvements with their Safe Routes for Seniors program which is being funded by the New York State Department of Health.

I urge you to support legislation that would improve the safety of our streets.

Respectfully,

Name _____

Address _____



Please keep this handy



February 2007 JPAC Calendar of Events

<p>1 Thursday</p>	<p>1 p.m. - Membership Committee Meeting - @ JPAC for Older Adults, 132 West 31st Street, 10th Floor, (between 6th & 7th Avenues). Please RSVP to Bola at (718) 365-4044.</p>
<p>2 Friday</p>	<p>1 p.m. - Mental Health Committee Meeting - @ JPAC for Older Adults, 132 West 31st Street, 10th Floor, (between 6th & 7th Avenues). Please RSVP to Woody at (718) 934-7718.</p>
<p>20 Tuesday</p>	<p>1 p.m. - Housing Committee Meeting - @ JPAC for Older Adults, 132 West 31st Street, 10th Floor, (between 6th & 7th Avenues). Please RSVP to Adele at (718) 286-1528.</p>
<p>21 Wednesday</p>	<p>10:30 a.m. - Bronx Borough Meeting - @ Mosholu-Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 Dekalb Avenue (near East Gunhill Road) Bronx, NY. Please RSVP to Bola at (718) 365-4044.</p>
<p>26 Monday</p>	<p>10 a.m. - Manhattan Borough Meeting - @ Community Church of NY, 40 East 35th Street, (between Park & Madison). Please RSVP to Tasha at (212) 273-5262.</p>
<p>27 Tuesday</p>	<p>1:30 p.m. - Queens Borough Meeting - @ Flushing Library, 41-17 Main Street, Flushing. Please RSVP to Adele at (718) 286-1528.</p>
<p>27 Tuesday</p>	<p>2 p.m. - Brooklyn Borough Meeting - @ St. Francis College, 180-182 Remsen Street, (Downtown Brooklyn). Please RSVP to Woody at (718) 934-7718.</p>

Jewish Association for Services for the Aged
JPAC for Older Adults
132 W. 31st St. - 10th Floor
New York, NY 10001

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JPAC Action Report

Molly Krakowski, *JPAC Director*,
Steve Swidler, *IFSA Director &*
Tasha Forsythe, Administrative Assistant
☎ (212) 273-5262 ☎

JPAC is funded by the NYC Department for the Aging with additional support from the Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; State Senators Tom Duane, Liz Krueger, and Eric Schneiderman; City Council Members Christine Quinn, Gale Brewer, Jessica Lappin and the Manhattan Delegation.

JPAC is sponsored by the
Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA).

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