

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**COMMITTEE FOR CONCERNS OF THE AGING**  
**April 1, 2021**

**Committee Members:** Mary Anderson [Chair], Richard Allman, Glennis Aquino-Gil, Maria Luna, Cindy Matos, Fern Hertzberg {Public Member}

**Committee Members Absent:** Yosef Kalinsky {Assistant Chair}, Carol Weeks {Public Member}

**Elected Officials:** Mariel De La Cruz [Comptroller Stringer], Joselinne Minaya [DA Vance]

**Guests:** Ilana Dunner, Leah Ferster, Yolanda Rodriguez [Josephine Herrick Project], Marilyn Pacheco

**Staff:** Ebenezer Smith

The Meeting was called to order at 10:40 AM by Chair Mary Anderson. Attendees introduced themselves.

### **Presentations**

#### **Josephine Herrick Project**

Yolanda Rodriguez, Outreach Director, Josephine Herrick Project, presented. JHP offers photography classes to underserved NYC communities. JHP work as a healing modality dates to 1941 with initial working relationships with wounded warriors, Rehabilitation Institute, and others. There is a particular interest at this time in identifying Senior community partners.

Rodriguez showed “F-Stop Project,” a video of JHP’s work at Queensbridge with the Jacob Riis Center and Queens Theatre. The video highlighted that “you don’t have to be a professional photographer to take great pictures, and:

- Why people like photography, take pictures and what kinds they may take;
- Photography’s ability to connect with history, culture, and community;
- How photography enhances people’s ability to see in more ways; and
- Exhibits and displays.

JHP brings teachers and cameras to sites, and makes cameras available to students.

Discussion covered the possibility of cameras being permanently available to Seniors/students and the need for multilingual presentation.

#### **Elder Abuse/District Attorney**

Joselinne Minaya presented on a) elder abuse work by the DA’s District Office and its Elder Abuse Unit and b) the willingness to do community presentations.

It is important to understand that “Elder Abuse” is a term and not a statute in NYS Penal Law. The DA’s classification of elder abuse includes assault, burglary, and other crimes that endanger people 60+, disabled, and/or physically incapacitated. Crimes also include Domestic Violence, financial exploitation, fiduciary abuse, and a wide range of scams (lottery, IRS, charity, COVID, grandchildren, Social Security, sweethearts, and others).

Discussion included varying roles of home health aides, need to monitor changes in senior behavior, and appreciation for how Minaya’s office handles people.

## **Program Updates**

NYP's vaccination program at the Armory has upcoming reduced hours, possible departure from the Armory, and search for potential community vaccination sites.

Fern Hertzberg presented initial information on new Dual Eligibility Advantage program protocols, potential impact on Seniors, and need for readiness to provide needed information to be able to respond to upcoming correspondence.

## **Announcement**

Edith Prentiss, long-time Community Board 12 Member and community leader, died March 16. An obituary and story of her activism is at <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/28/nyregion/edith-prentiss-dead.html>.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

The May meeting should include a discussion of Capital Expense Budget. A further presentation on new imperatives for Dual Eligibility/Advantage plans would be timely. Presentation from Alzheimers Association will be considered at a future time. Additional ideas are welcome.

The next meeting will be May 6, 10:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.