



Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



Resources for Older Adults 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

You may be wondering why you are getting my newsletter for older adults. I've found that many older adults don't take advantage of benefits and resources available to them, so I'm committed to sharing information early on - and far and wide. It may surprise you that some groups start providing services to people as young as 50! I also want to ensure that you have this information for older adults in your household or in your life.

I am very excited to invite you to my annual Older Adult Resource Fair on Friday, June 12th from 10am - 2pm, in Downtown Brooklyn at St. Francis College, 179 Livingston Street. You can speak with non-profit groups and government agencies that provide cultural events, legal services, housing resources, social activities, and more. Last year, we had a yoga class, a craft area where people learned to crochet, and a dynamic Town Hall on "Staying Connected."

The resource fair will feature groups that can provide you with information about public benefits to help you buy groceries, lower your MetroCard fare, freeze your rent, or reduce your Medicare costs. Too often, people miss the chance to receive public benefits simply because they are unaware of their eligibility. I want to make sure that you know about the benefits you have earned throughout your life to which you are entitled.

Many of the groups featured in this newsletter will be at my resource fair so you can connect with them in-person on June 12th.

Right now, I'm spending most of my time in Albany for the legislative session. I am working to pass vital mental health and health care reforms, improve literacy rates for students, and end tax exemptions for the highly profitable fossil fuel industry that is polluting our planet (A3675). I am also pushing my plan to end wage theft for workers and generate over \$200M annually for the Department of Labor (A4278), among many other initiatives.

My local district office is bustling, as usual. I've also hosted immigrants rights workshops, mammogram screenings, flu shot events, Earth Day celebrations, and clothing drives. I'm also partnering with local elected officials to provide a free bus that picks up adults from Downtown Brooklyn and brings them back and forth to Wegmans in Ft. Greene to get groceries.

I am also focused on ensuring that affordable housing is delivered at Atlantic Yards, that the Gowanus Canal clean-up continues to move forward, and that the city's new plan for the Brooklyn Marine Terminal includes community input and a modern working waterfront that protects and expands access to good-paying jobs. There are lots of developments on these projects so make sure to get on my email alert so I can keep you updated.

I hope you'll join me at one of my Java with Jo Anne events, where we meet at local coffee shops to discuss community issues and policy priorities. It's a great chance to speak with me, my staff, and your neighbors.

On June 29th the MTA MetroCard Van is coming to my office at 341 Smith Street, from 10am - 2pm. MTA staff can assist you with reduced fare applications, adding money to your OMNY card (the new MetroCard), and answering OMNY-related questions.

I'm honored to be your Assemblymember and continue to have the opportunity to serve you.

Please feel free to contact my office via simonj@nyassembly.gov or call 718-246-4889. You can also stop by my office in Carroll Gardens, Monday to Friday, during usual business hours.

Very truly yours,

Jo Anne Simon
Member of the Assembly

Stay in Touch:

Sign-up for my bi-weekly email alerts so that I can keep you apprised of policy updates and community issues.

Email simonj@nyassembly.gov or sign-up on my website.



Policy Spotlight

I am honored to be named the NY League of Conservation Voters 2025 Assembly Environmental Champion. I fought against unjustifiable rate increases from utility companies, in addition to fighting new fracked gas pipelines. Pipelines keep us hooked on polluting fossil fuels, which are not only bad for the planet but they are expensive to build and repair - and the main driver of sky-high utility bills. Renewable energy is the cheapest and most easily scalable; it would also blunt the impacts of the global oil markets' volatility - which we are seeing now at the gas pump.

In major environmental news, the Governor signed my bill (A9462) to repeal the outdated 100-foot rule. This ends a hidden subsidy that allows utility companies to pass the cost of new gas infrastructure to ratepayers. This repeal will save New Yorkers nearly \$600 million annually and help us achieve our clean energy goals.

I am also proud that my bill was signed into law to protect monarch butterflies (A9436). Monarch populations have sharply declined, and this bill ensures that DEC takes steps to preserve butterflies and the ecosystem that depends on them.

You may be aware that we are facing unprecedented challenges from a federal administration that slashed funding to states and localities and is actively undermining our state's renewable energy plans, targeting the hardworking immigrants who power our economy and communities, and ignoring the pain of families struggling against inflation, price-hiking tariffs, and spiking gas costs from the war with Iran.

Half a million New Yorkers are set to lose their health care this July due to the federal government's budget bill - including over 75,000 people right here in Brooklyn. While the state cannot address all of the federal cuts, I strongly believe this potential loss of health care coverage must be addressed in our state budget or through a state bill. The legislative health committee chairs have introduced such a bill and I am actively supporting it (A10926).

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Brooklyn Lifelong Learning through CUNY Brooklyn College offers classes and lectures, plus access to concerts, the Brooklyn College Library, bus trips, and museum tours.

718-951-5647. brooklyn.edu/bll

Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) helps older adults use technology to improve their lives. They provide digital literacy training and programs, both online and in-person, to help older adults acquire new skills, connect with others, and stay engaged.

718-360-1707. oats.org

ADVOCACY

AARP New York is a non-profit organization that advocates for people aged 50 and older. AARP works to protect Social Security, improve health care and Medicare, fight age discrimination, and advocate for helpful state-level policies.

1-888-687-2277. states.aarp.org/new-york

LiveOn is a coalition of service organizations that improves the lives of older adults. Through advocacy, they advance systemic change to ensure that New York is an equitable place to age regardless of wealth, racial disparities and other barriers.

212-398-6565. liveon-ny.org

The Independent Consumer Advocacy Network ICAN is the NY State Ombuds Program for individuals with Medicaid who require long-term care or behavioral health services. They assist New Yorkers with enrolling in and using managed care plans that cover long-term care or behavioral health services.

814-644-8800. <https://icannys.org>

NY StateWide Senior Action Council works to enhance the quality of life for older adults. They help you access benefits, report Medicare fraud, navigate health care, prescription costs and more.

1-800-333-4374. nysenior.org

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

BRIC supports artists, students, and media makers, and ignites learning in people of all ages, while centering diverse voices that drive culture forward. They host performances and classes.

718-683-5600. bricartsmedia.org

Brooklyn Academy of Music is a multi-arts center that hosts avant-garde performances with theater, dance, music, & film programming. They offer dedicated senior programming and discounts.

718-636-4100 ext 1. bam.org/seniors-at-bam

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music offers accessible music classes to individuals of all ages and hosts over 150 performances every year. These performances are often offered at little to no cost with discounts for seniors.

718-622-3300. bkcm.org

Brooklyn Museum offers pay what you wish admission (exhibits that require tickets have a reduced fee for adults 65+). Wednesday - Sunday, 11am - 6pm.

718-638-5000. brooklynmuseum.org

Old Stone House in Park Slope is dedicated to preserving local and national history. They feature a variety of events and exhibits in their space.

718-768-3195. theoldstonehouse.org

EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) Employment Services offers workshops, career advice, skills and job training.

212-602-6958 or 311. www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/index.page

ReServe matches educated adults 55+ with paying jobs in non-profit and government agencies, including part-time and temporary jobs. They provide jobs in areas like strategic planning, education, administration, event planning, IT, cultural centers, and more.

212-727-4389. reserveinc.org

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP connects adults aged 55 and over with volunteer opportunities in their communities that match their skills, interests, and availability. Volunteers serve in organizations such as soup kitchens and food pantries, hospitals and healthcare facilities, educational settings, community-based organizations, cultural institutions, and more.

800-942-267. cssny.org/pages/rsup-volunteer-form

HOUSING

Rent Freeze: Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)

helps people 62+ stay in their homes by freezing their rent. Once your rent is frozen, you can keep paying what you were paying even if your landlord increases the rent. The landlord gets a property tax credit that covers the difference between the new and original rent amount. This is for people in rent-regulated units who make \$50k or less per year and spend 1/3 of their income on rent.

Call 311 to apply. nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page

Rent Freeze: Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) is similar to SCRIE, except it is for people 18+ who have a disability.

Housing Connects is a portal to find and apply for affordable rental lotteries in NYC.

212-863-7990. housingconnect.nyc.gov

Churches United for Fair Housing provides assistance navigating NYC's affordable housing lottery application process.

718-360-2906. cuffh.org

Stonewall Community Development Corporation helps LGBTQ+ elders navigate the city's affordable housing lotteries and access benefits. They also help create housing.

929-209-4070. stonewallcdc.org

NY Foundation for Senior Citizens is dedicated to helping seniors live healthier, safer, and more dignified lives in their own homes and communities, avoiding premature institutionalization. It manages over 900 units of housing and 35 social service programs.

212-962-7559. nyfsc.org

NYC's Tenant Helpline assists people at risk of eviction or facing a housing-related issue. To learn about tenants' rights and get help, call 311 and say "Tenant Helpline."

nyc.gov/site/mayorspeu/resources/resources.page



Assemblymember Simon rallying to protect New Yorkers' healthcare from federal cuts.

HEALTH CARE

NYC Dept. for the Aging's Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP) can answer your health care questions and help you determine which plan is right for you. 212-244-6469. www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/index.page

Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program helps income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Part D drugs. You can apply for EPIC at any time of the year. You must be enrolled in or eligible to enroll in a Medicare Part D drug plan to receive EPIC benefits and maintain coverage. 1-800-332-3742. health.ny.gov/health_care/epic/index.htm

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people 65+. If you are under 65, you may be eligible if you have a disability or a certain disease. Medicare has four parts:

- Part A is insurance for hospitalization, home or skilled nursing, & hospice.
- Part B is medical insurance.
- Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans) is a private insurance option that covers part A, B, and often D. Plans have different prices and cover different services.
- Part D covers prescription medications.

1-800-633-4227. ssa.gov/medicare

Medicare Rights Center is a non-profit advocacy group that helps you understand Medicare, make enrollment decisions, coordinate Medicare with other insurance, appeal denials of care, and determine eligibility for Medicare cost-saving programs. 1-800-333-4114. www.medicarerights.org

NYS Dept. of Health's Nursing Home & Adult Care Abuse. To file a complaint regarding adult care facilities, including abuse, please visit apps.health.ny.gov/surveyd8/nursing-home-complaint-form or call:

- Adult Home Complaints: 1-866-893-6772
- Home Care/Hospice: 1-800-628-5972
- Nursing Home Ombudsman: 518-417-6587
- Nursing Home Abuse: 1-888-201-4563

LEGAL SERVICES

Brooklyn Bar Association is Brooklyn's oldest and largest attorney referral service on a variety of issues. 718-624-0843. <https://lrs.brooklynbar.org>

Brooklyn Defender Services represents people facing loss of freedom, family separation, housing, benefits, employment, consumer debt, immigration & more. 718-254-0700. bds.org

Brooklyn Legal Services provides free legal services to help people obtain housing, economic security, family and immigration stability, education, health care, and elder law. 917-661-4500, Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm. legalservicesnyc.org

Access Justice Brooklyn provides free civil legal services in areas like aging, deed theft, advance directives, personal finances, housing & more. Free help is based on income. Complete an online intake form or call Mon-Thurs, 10am-4pm. 718-624-3894. www.accessjusticebrooklyn.org

Legal Aid Society helps in areas including foreclosure assistance, government benefits, arrests, employment, domestic violence & more. 212-577-3300. <https://legalaidnyc.org>



Assemblymember Simon with community members at an outdoor luncheon.



Assemblymember Simon with a neighbor at last year's older adult resource fair. This could be you in June!

OLDER ADULT CENTERS

Eileen Dugan Older Adult Center in Carroll Gardens offers community, meals, case management, and various classes. 378 Court St, between President & Carroll St. 718-596-1956

GRIOT Circle is a multigenerational organization serving LGBTQ+ elders of color. They provide health, wellness, advocacy, and leadership activities to remove isolation and build community. 25 Flatbush Ave. 718-246-2775. griotcircle.org

Heights and Hills in Park Slope provides case management, meals, social activities, and family events. 463A 7th Street (at 7th Ave). 718-596-8789. www.heightsandhills.org

SAGE Center at Stonewall House enables LGBTQ+ elders to live as their best selves surrounded by joy. Open to all 60+ regardless of sexual orientation, gender. They offer meals, a CyberCenter, local outings, exercise and more. 271 Myrtle Ave by Ft. Greene Park. 646-518-9744. sageserves.org

Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES Senior Center provides meals, health and wellness activities, case management, educational classes, and social activities. 460 Atlantic Ave (at Nevins). 718-643-0232. <http://griotcircle.org>

St. Charles Jubilee Older Adult Center provides meals, social services, exercise classes, games, art classes, & events. 55 Pierrepont St (at Hicks Street). 718-722-6001



Assemblymember Simon with Warren residents as they prepare for Thanksgiving.

FOOD RESOURCES

Camp Friendship in Park Slope provides a food pantry.
718-965-3695. campfriendshipbrooklyn.org

Citymeals on Wheels delivers meals to people 60+ who are homebound and unable to prepare their own meals. Even if you receive homecare, you may still receive meals. Apply through their local agency, COPO:
718-434-3266. <https://copo.org> / www.citymeals.org

CHiPS has a soup kitchen that provides breakfast & lunch, and a food pantry.
718-237-2962. <https://chipsonline.org>

Food Help NYC is a government website that helps you find food pantries, community kitchens, & greenmarkets.
finder.nyc.gov/foodhelp

God's Love We Deliver provides home-delivered meals to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, & certain illnesses.
212-294-8100. www.glwd.org

Gowanus Mutual Aid (GMA) creates solidarity among community members by supporting each other's needs. They provide food, clothing, and other essentials. To give or get help, email gowanusmutualaid@gmail.com. gowanusmutualaid.org

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Cooling Assistance Program helps eligible households buy and install an air conditioner or fan.
718-557-1399. a069-access.nyc.gov/accessshra

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps people heat their homes. The benefit can pay for fuel, your utility source, and heating equipment repairs. Eligibility is based on income.
718-557-1399. otda.ny.gov/programs/heap

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps people buy food, including working people & older adults. You will receive a card, like a credit card, that you can use to purchase groceries. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income and other factors.
1-800-342-3009. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/index.page>

Social Security is a federal program that provides monthly income to qualifying recipients. Most jobs take Social Security taxes out of your paycheck so you can get the benefit in your 60s. You are eligible if you are 62+ and if you have worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years or more.
1-800-772-1213. secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/rib

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) helps older people, blind and disabled people, who have little or no income. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.
1-800-772-1213 <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-apply-ussi.htm>

Get Help Obtaining Public Benefits

Community Service Society is a nonprofit that provides screening for over 60 government benefit programs (ex. SCRIE, SNAP, SSI, Medicaid), helps fill out applications and recertification forms, and advocates for those having difficulty accessing benefits.
212-614-5552. cssny.org

NY Benefits Center provides assistance determining eligibility and applying for many benefits. Help is available in multiple languages, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.
1-800-829-7005. mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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*Reports
to the People*

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TRANSPORTATION

Access-A-Ride provides transportation on an "as needed" basis for people who cannot use public transportation. One-way fare is the same as full fare on mass transit.
1-877-337-2017 mta.info/accessibility/access-a-ride

Reduced-Fare OMNY Cards offer lower fares, \$1.45, for riders 65+. Apply by mail or in person at the MTA Customer Service Center at 3 Stone Street in lower Manhattan. You will need a valid photo ID with your date of birth, or a Medicare card and another form of photo ID. You can also come to Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon's office on June 29th and an MTA OMNY Card van will be in front of our office from 10am - 2pm (341 Smith st)
1-877-789-6669. mta.info/reduced-fareomny.info

Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island provides transportation services. They offer individual car, shuttle, and ambulette services to people 60+.
718-449-5000 ext 1. www.jccgci.org

PROTECTION FROM SCAMS & FRAUDS

Brooklyn District Attorney Fraud Bureau investigates and prosecutes a variety of white-collar crimes, from scams targeting seniors, immigrants, and homeowners, to wage theft, to healthcare schemes that divert resources from people.
718-250-2340. brooklynda.org/frauds

NYC Dept. of Consumer & Worker Protection helps residents who may have been tricked by unfair selling or renting of goods or services. They use mediation to help resolve complaints against a business.
File a complaint: 311. www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/index.page

NYS Attorney General's Office, Medicaid & Consumer Frauds Bureau investigates fraud, price gouging, stolen personal information and more. If you are a victim of a scam or fraud, file a complaint:
1-800-771-7755. <https://ag.ny.gov>

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