

Sad News – Passing of Anne Emerman



Anne Emerman,
Director of MOPD from 1990 to 1994

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Anne Emerman. Anne served as Director of the New York City Mayor's Office for Disabilities (MOPD) during the Dinkins Administration. She contracted polio in 1944 and became a fierce advocate in support of the rights of people with disabilities.

A DIA member to the end, she was a principal member of the Disabled in Action Singers, along with her husband Sidney Emerman. Access to voting was one of the many causes she championed, and a quick wit was one of her many fine qualities. When she was asked, "If you are unable to use the polling place, why not just file an absentee ballot?", her retort was: "I am not absent, I am not on vacation, I am part of my community".

Carr Massi, DIA Board Member said "I appreciate Anne's dedication to the disability movement through all these years"; Jean Ryan, DIA President said, "Anne was instrumental in ensuring the civil rights of people with disabilities"; and Warren Shaw, historian of the New York City Disability Rights Movement, said, "I had the privilege of recording and performing with Anne for almost twenty years. She was a gracious, elegant and formidable person--you never wanted to run afoul of her!"

Anne's legacy lives on through all of us.