



What's been happening at [Welcome Change](#).....

## Alice and Diana are back from Uzbekistan!

Alice and Diana have returned from their awesome adventure with many stories, videos, and pictures! Please check out their travel [blog](#) to read about their experiences and see some incredible videos of Diana speaking to audiences about inclusion and answering questions about the film.

[www.uzbekadventure.wordpress.com](http://www.uzbekadventure.wordpress.com)



*Meeting with disability activists, families, and participants after a screening of Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy.*

To see more pictures from the trip, please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our flickr site.

Thank you to the [American Documentary Showcase](#), the U.S. Department of State and everyone who helped make this trip happen!

[Become a fan](#) of Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy on Facebook!



[Follow](#) Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy on Twitter!

Keep up with Larry and see his latest fundraising totals



[Follow](#) him on twitter!



As of March 2011, **\$718.60** to the Alzheimers

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## ***The Collector of Bedford Street* at NYU Civic Camp!**

Last month, Alice Elliott screened her Academy Award nominated film, *The Collector of Bedford Street* for students participating in New York University's Civic Camp. Civic Camp is a day-long intensive program designed to prepare students to be social advocates in their communities. "Through Civic Camp, we hope to open students' eyes to different trajectories of creating change, as we provide networking opportunities and enhance skill development."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about NYU's Civic Camp.

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## ***Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy* screens at MIT!**

On March 10th Student Disability Services teamed up with the MIT Program in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) to present *Body & Soul: Diana and Kathy*. Featured as part of the [WGS Women Take the Reel Film Festival](#).



*Welcome Change Outreach Director, Rachel Gordon and Max Rasbold-Gabbard, Policy Associate for The Arc of*

*Massachusetts, lead the discussion. (Background: Sign language interpreter, Aileen O'Neill)*

Read more about the screening and discussion on MIT's Student Newsletter, [The Inside Scoop](#) (scroll about 1/2 down the page)

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## **Annual Summit for [One World: Everybody Eats](#) Community Kitchen Project**

Last January, Denise Cerreta (from Alice's in-progress documentary on community kitchens) gathered an amazing group of chefs and restaurant owners from around the US to talk about the progress of the community kitchen model, share stories and learn from each other's experiences. The event was a great success. [CLICK HERE](#) to read Denise's blog "Community on the Road" and [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about the summit!

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## **Parties for Welcome Change Stars!**

### **Happy Birthday Larry!**

Last Friday, Larry Selman (star of *The Collector of Bedford Street*) was joined by his friends at a local West Village cafe to celebrate his 69th birthday. He can still be found out on the street collecting and has raised almost a million dollars for a



Foundation  
[Join](#) Larry's fanclub  
on Facebook!

number different charities! Way to go Larry!



## Welcome Back

### Diana!



When Alice and Diana returned from Uzbekistan, we thought a proper welcome home party was in order. We had a lovely gathering with many of Diana's New York based friends and played fun games to learn about Central Asian countries! (Congrats to winner, Rose Rosenblatt!)

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## Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift?



[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase [Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase [The Collector of Bedford Street](#)

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### Alice's Blog Recommendation

*Check out this great new (to us) disability blog!*

<http://ndssnationalpolicycenter.blogspot.com/>

"NDSS National Policy Center Blog" is produced by the [National Down Syndrome Society](#) and provides fantastic updates from Washington, D.C. and relevant news items for people with disabilities, their families and direct support providers.

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## In the News...

## Justice Department Fines Houston Bus Company \$55,000 for Violating the ADA

WASHINGTON – A Houston bus company was fined \$55,000 for violating passenger carrier accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), announced the Departments of Justice and Transportation. In addition to the fine, a consent agreement reached with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Justice Department requires Autobuses Ejecutivos LLC dba Omnibus Express to upgrade its fleet to meet ADA requirements by July 2011 or have its operating authority revoked.

An extensive investigation conducted by FMCSA uncovered that Omnibus Express was operating a fleet of 85 leased buses, and none were equipped with wheelchair lifts. In the past 12 months, the bus company leased 22 new buses that were not accessible to individuals with disabilities. ADA regulations require that at least 50 percent of a carrier's buses be accessible, and that all new buses leased or purchased be accessible by individuals with disabilities [Click here](#) to read the full article.

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## Organization of the Month: KASA

### Kids As Self Advocates

KASA aims to model leadership and the power of self advocacy for youth. Check out KASA's "Theory of Change":



**Young people with disabilities and special health care needs will have control over their own lives and futures. This will be achieved through:**

- ~ informing youth about their rights ~
- ~ providing peer support and training ~
- ~ changing systems to include us ~

**Check out their website: <http://fvkasa.org>**