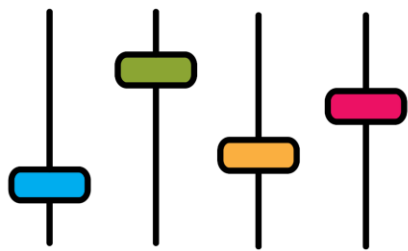


>> SLIDE 1

LEVEL

UP



BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER



**2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ON INDEPENDENT LIVING**

2025 Annual Conference on Independent Living

LEVEL UP: Building Tomorrow Together

Presented by the National Council on Independent Living

>> SLIDE 2

#TeachDisabilityHistory

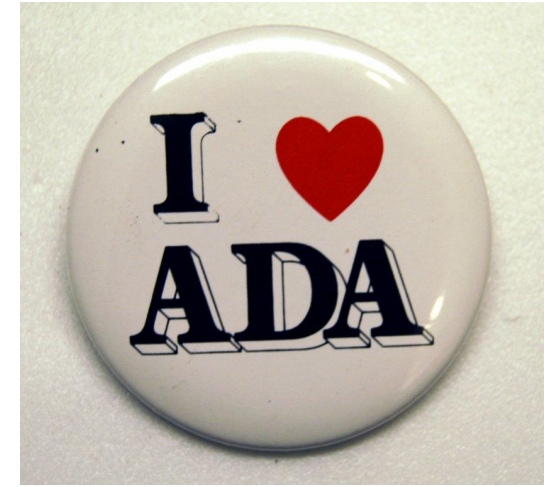
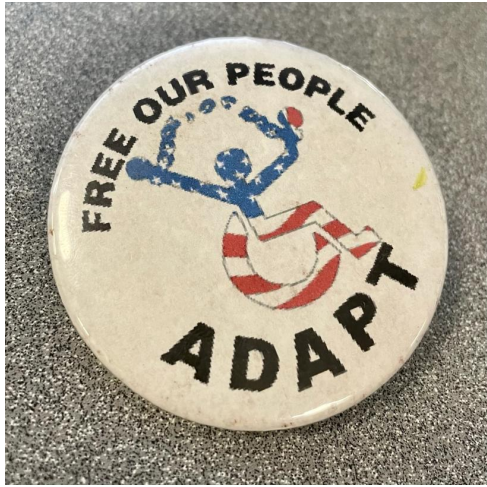
July 23, 2025

Olivia Thompson

Cody Rooney

Desi Forte

>> SLIDE 3:



>> SLIDE 4: Who Are We?

- The #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign is led by a group of young adults with disabilities working with Easterseals Massachusetts.
- Easterseals Massachusetts is a non-profit whose mission is to provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities to live, learn, work, and play.

>> SLIDE 5: Video

- In the next slide is a video to tell you more about the campaign and why it is important to #TeachDisabilityHistory.
- The video is of young adults in front of solid color backgrounds talking about the campaign.



easterseals
Massachusetts



>> SLIDE 7: History of our Campaign

- In 2009, youth advocated to get the governor of Massachusetts to sign a proclamation making October disability history month in Massachusetts.
- This was a great step in the right direction but did not mandate that anything be taught in schools.
- In 2019, youth at Easterseals MA again joined with advocates by writing letters to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) about the disability history curriculum “The Great Fight for Disability Rights”.
- These efforts helped push to make this curriculum available for free to ALL Massachusetts teachers, but the work continues.

>> SLIDE 8: What is Disability History?

- Disability history is the experience, journey and oppression those with disabilities have experienced in the past.
- Including the advocacy and push the disability community has done and continues to do for equal rights.
- Every culture has its own history and people do not often realize that disability is a culture.

>> SLIDE 9: What is #TeachDisabilityHistory

- The goal of the #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign is to spread awareness everywhere about the importance of teaching disability history in schools
- In the video you heard why we think it is important to #TeachDisabilityHistory
- We also want to educate about available curriculums, such as “The Great Fight for Disability Rights” as well as Emerging America’s curriculum, “Reform to Equal Rights”.

>> SLIDE 10: What is the campaign committee?

- The #TeachDisabilityHistory campaign is led by a committee of disabled young adults.
- The committee helps to move the campaign forward by meeting regularly to discuss upcoming events and ways to spread the campaign's message.
- The committee presents both in person and virtually across Massachusetts and beyond promoting the importance of teaching disability history.
- The committee is also continually working to support measures to teach disability history through advocacy.

>> SLIDE 11: The Importance of Our Campaign

- Currently the only states that have any type of legislation that disability history be taught are California, Maryland, Virginia, Massachusetts, Illinois, and New Jersey with some states supporting disability history week.
- Even with legislation, it is often not enforced or built into the curriculum framework.
- Our campaign aims to help change this narrative; teaching disability history are moments in history that could be overlooked.

>> SLIDE 12: Get Involved

Check out our website & join us in spreading the word about teaching disability history by sharing on social media of why you think it is important to
#TeachDisabilityHistory

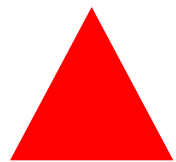
www.tdh.eastersealsma.org

>> SLIDE 13: Game Time!

- We will be playing a multiple-choice game to learn disability history facts.
- Each slide will have a question and image relating to that question. The question will be read aloud, along with an image description.
- Following this, four possible answers will appear on the screen, along with a red triangle, blue heart, yellow circle, and green square associated to each response.
- After the choices are read, we invite you to hold up the card that you think relates to the correct answer. You are welcome to team up or play on your own.
- And remember, we are here to have fun and #TeachDisabilityHistory!

>> SLIDE 14: Question 1

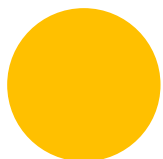
This disabled Asian America activist authored the book *Disability Visibility*.



Dr. Suess



Steven King



Stephanie Mayers

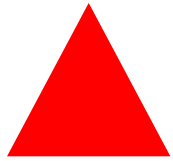


Alice Wong



>> SLIDE 15: Question 2

This President had Polio and downplayed his disability in public because during that time there was stigma, and disability was seen as a weakness.



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Franklin Delano
Roosevelt (FDR)

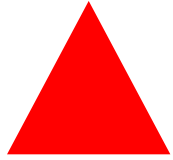


Barack Obama



>> SLIDE 16: Question 3

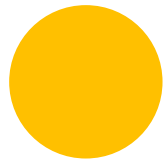
This "conductor" of the Underground Railroad had a traumatic brain injury from a slave owner striking her in the head



Rosa Parks



Frederick Douglass



Harriet Tubman

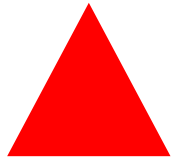


Martin Luther King

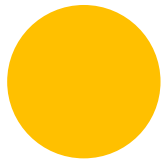


>> SLIDE 17: Question 4

This person created this raised 6-dot system at age 15 that allows the blind to read.



Helen Keller



Louis Braille



Alexander Gram
Bell

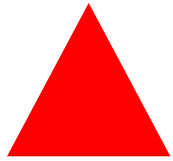


Samuel Gridley
Howe

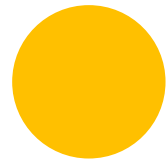


>> SLIDE 18: Question 5

In 1988 students from this Deaf university protested, Deaf President Now, to have the school run by a Deaf president.



Gallaudet
University



Duke University



Boston University

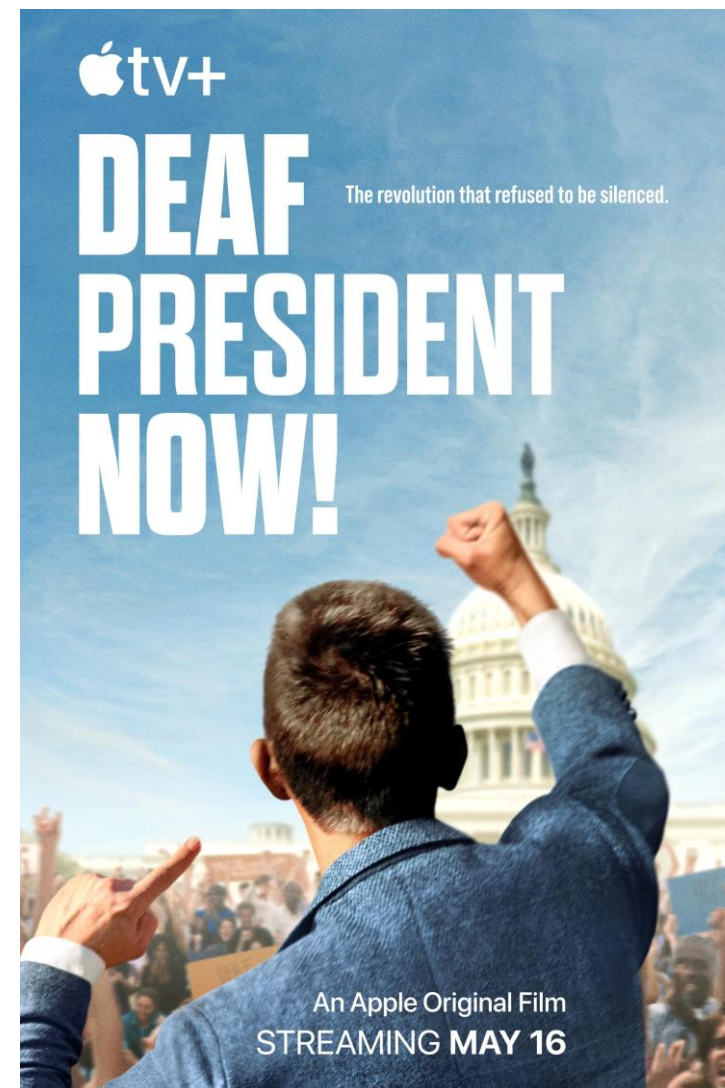


Bridgewater State
University



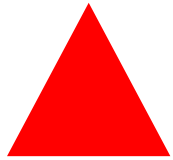
>> SLIDE 19 Fact

A documentary about this event called Deaf President Now is available to watch on Apple TV+



>> SLIDE 20: Question 6

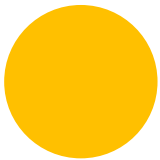
The 504 Sit-ins in April of 1977 San Francisco's HEW building lasted ___ days, demanding enforcement of Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act



1 Hour



2 Days



1 Night

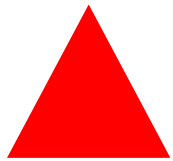


26 Days



>> SLIDE 21: Question 7

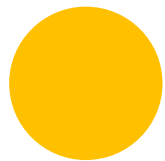
During the 504 Sit-Ins, activist Brad Lomax used his connection to the Black Panther party to provide _____ to the protesters?



Party Decorations



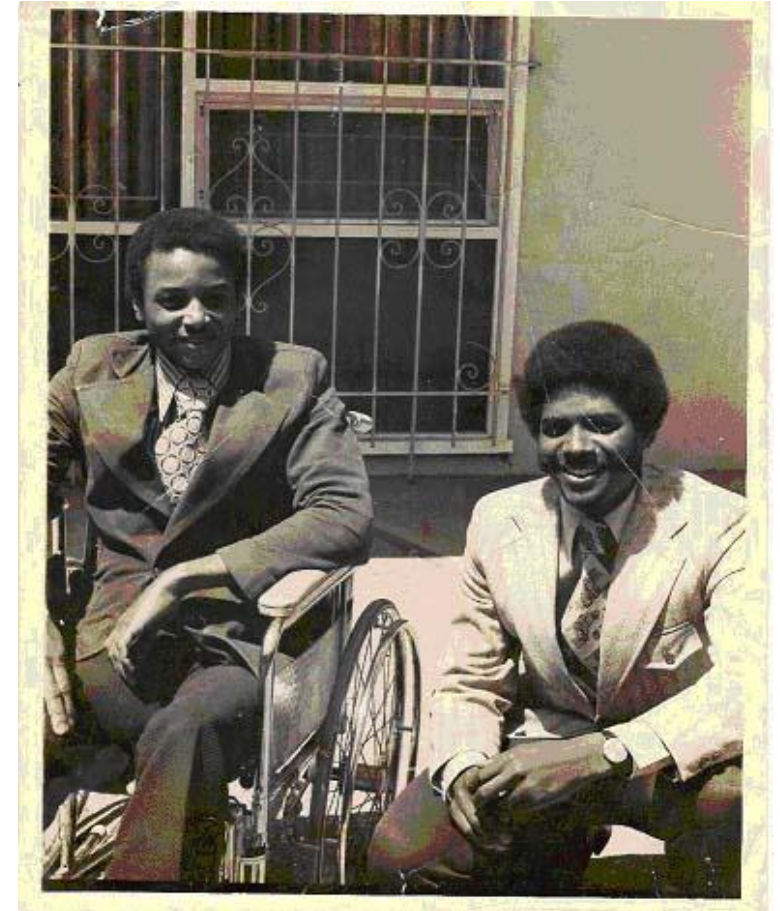
Food



Clothes

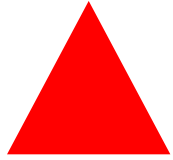


Makeup



>> SLIDE 22: Question 8

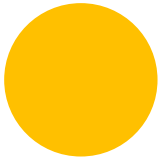
This Oscar nominated documentary on Netflix highlights a summer camp where many disability advocates attended



Best Summer Ever



Forest Gump



Crip Camp

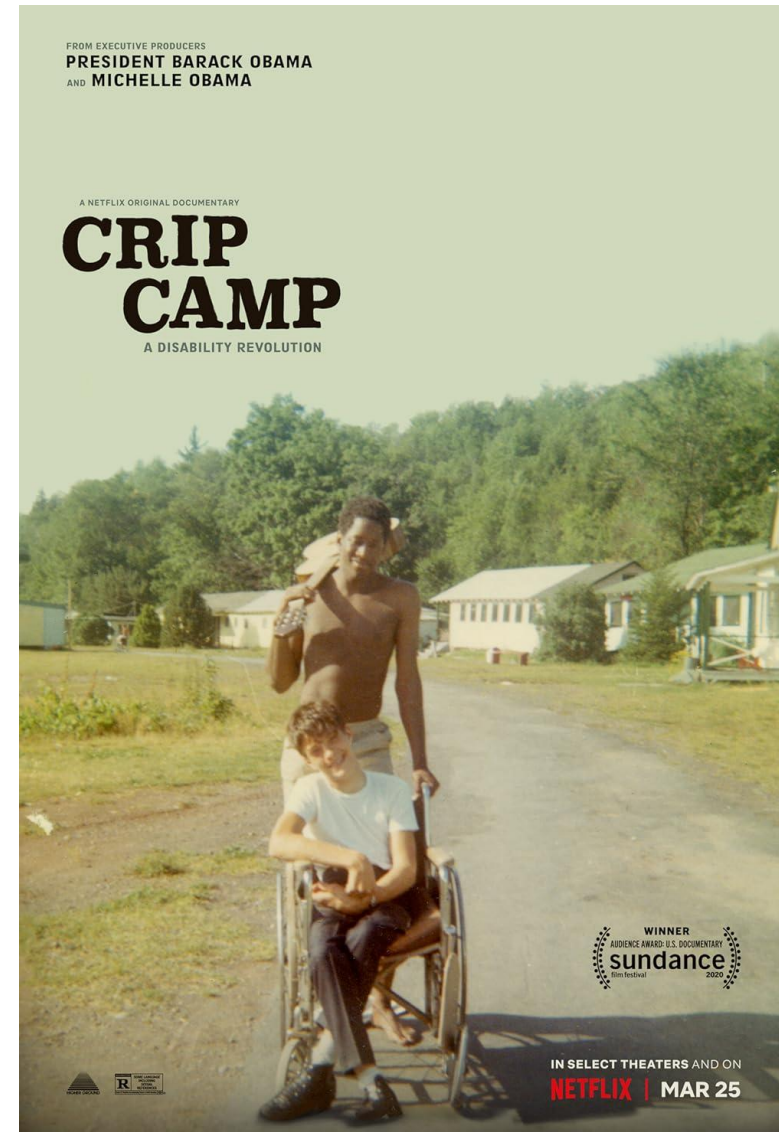


Lives Worth Living



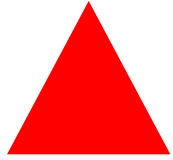
>> SLIDE 23 Fact

The full movie Crip Camp can also be found on YouTube in the Netflix channel for those who do not have access to Netflix



>> SLIDE 24: Question 9

On what date was the Americans with Disabilities Act signed?



April 25, 1999



January 18, 1992



July 26, 1990

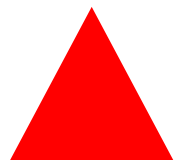


May 4, 2000



>> SLIDE 25: Question 10

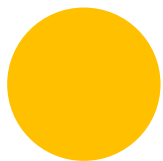
What does ADA stand for?



Americans
Dedicated to Arts



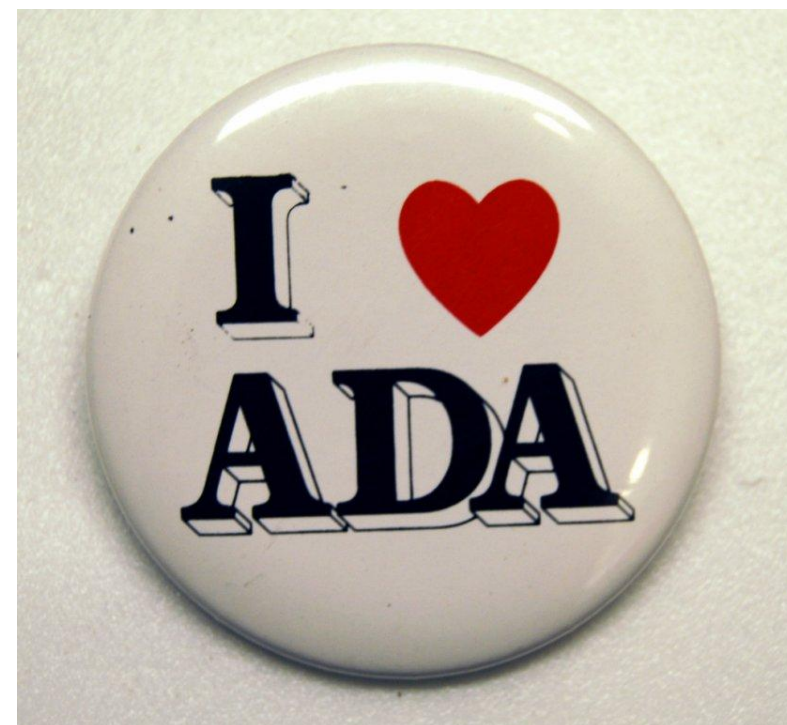
Adults Decide to
Act



Architectural
Demands Act

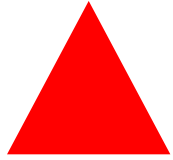


Americans with
Disabilities Act



>> SLIDE 26: Question 11

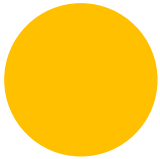
This president signed the Americans with Disabilities Act



George H. W. Bush



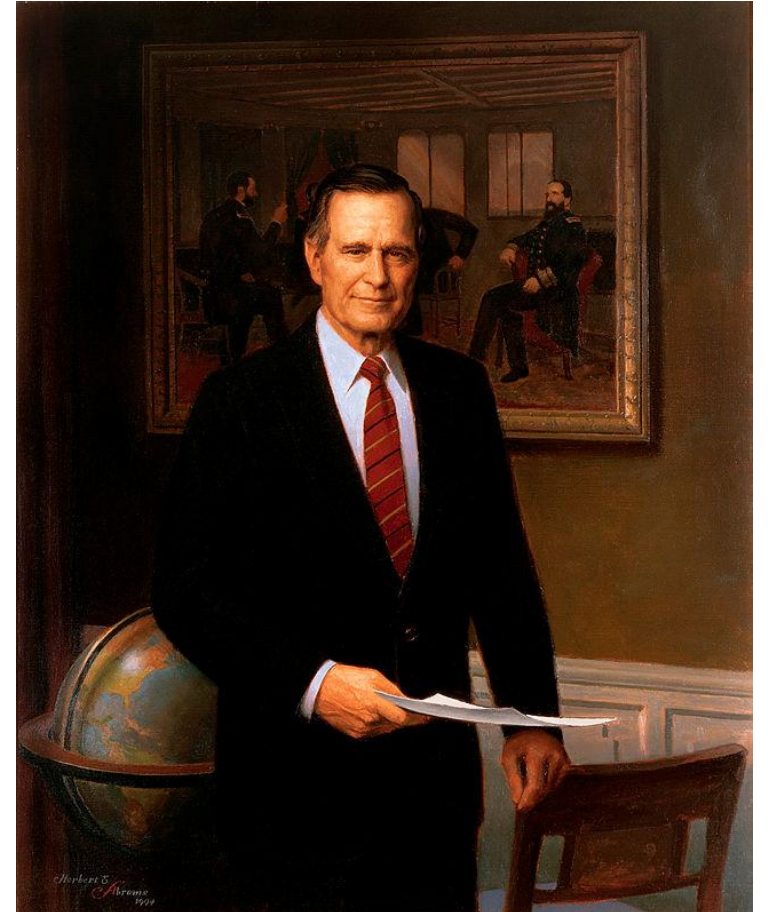
George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



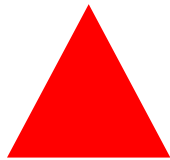
Barack Obama



>> SLIDE 27: Question 11

There are five titles under the ADA: 1 Employment, 2 State and Local Government, 3 Public Accommodations, and 5 Miscellaneous.

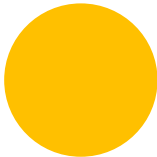
What is the 4th title?



Transportation



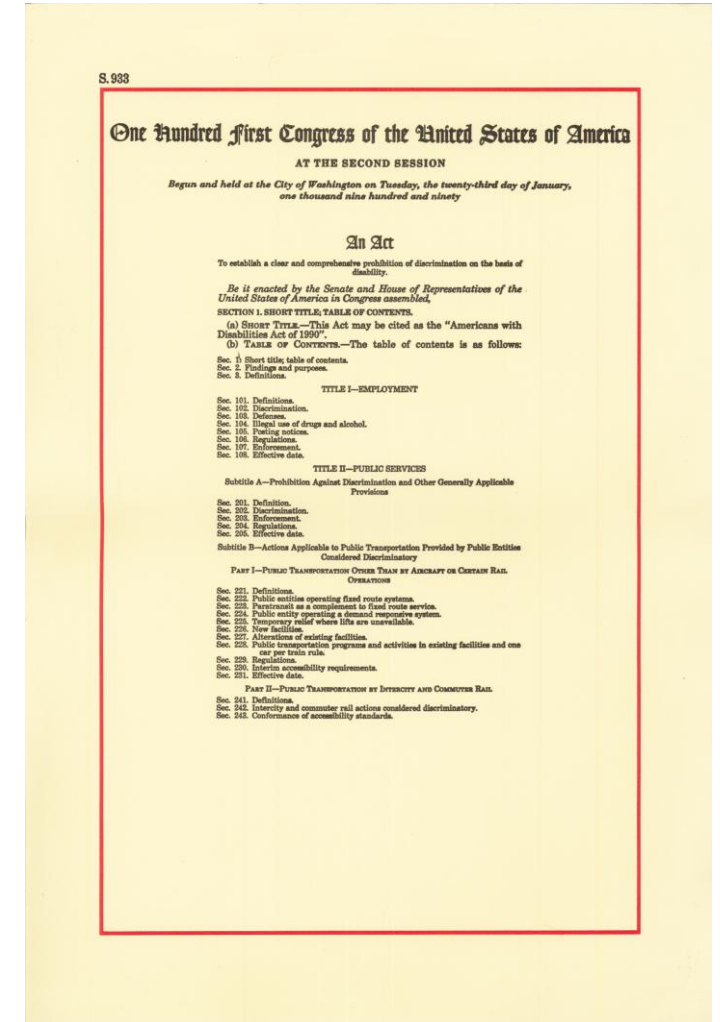
Housing



Research

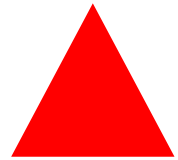


Telecommunications



>> SLIDE 28: Question 12

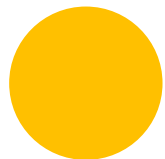
The Education for all Handicapped Children's Act, later changed to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), gave people with disabilities the right to an education. This is first signed in what year?



1960



1990



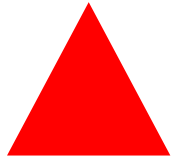
2000



1975

>> SLIDE 29: Question 13

This Mexican woman was a surrealist artist with disabilities; she created much of her artwork while in the hospital.



Frida Kahlo



Alice Wong



Frederick Douglass

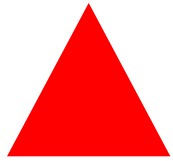


Dua Lipa



>> SLIDE 30: Question 14

Disability activists did this action at the Capitol building in Washington D.C. to push for the passage of the ADA.



Sang at the Capitol



Climbed the steps



Slept at the Capital
building



Danced at the
Capital building



>> SLIDE 31 Fact

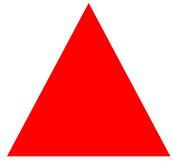
On March 13, 1990, over 1,000 people went to the U.S. Capitol to demand that Congress pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Courtesy of Tom Olin

>> SLIDE 32: Question 15

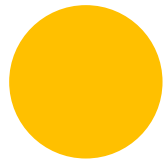
Which major marathon was the first to create a wheelchair division in 1975?



Boston Marathon



Chicago Marathon



London Marathon

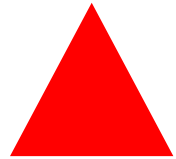


New York City
Marathon



>> SLIDE 33: Question 16

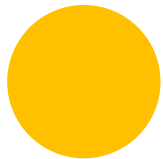
What does the name of the disability activist group ADAPT currently stand for?



Americans Disabled
for Accessible Transit



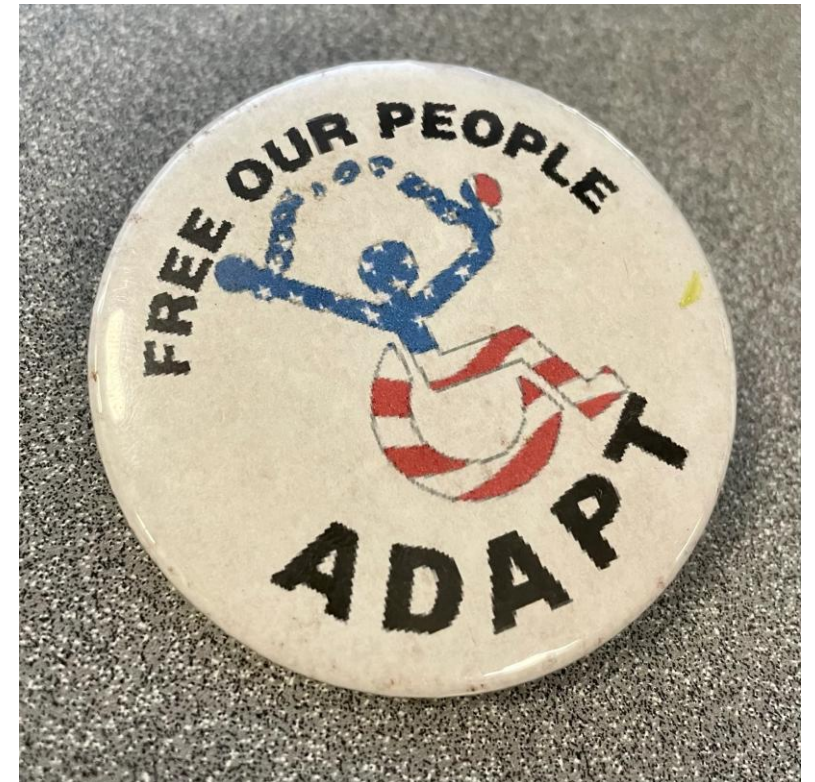
All Disabled Angry
People Together



Always Do As People
Tell

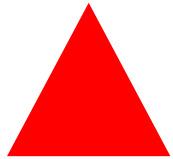


Americans Disabled
for Attendant Program
Today

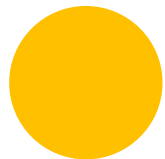


>> SLIDE 34: Question 17

Geraldine Lawhorn was a stage performer at this historic New York City theater



The Boston Garden



Carnegie Hall



Sydney Opera House



The Wilbur



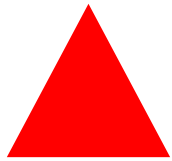
>> SLIDE 35

Geraldine Lawhorn was the first Deaf Blind African American to graduate college.



>> SLIDE 36: Question 18

This Supreme Court decision ruled that people with disabilities have the right to live in the community



Olmstead Decision
v L.C.

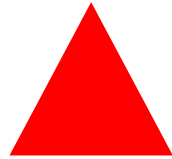


Brown v. Board of
Education



>> SLIDE 37: Question 19

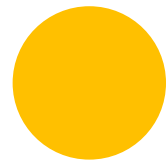
When independent living centers were forming there was no way for them to connect. This organization was started as a way for them to have a unified voice.



ADAPT



NCIL



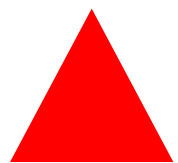
Developmental Disability
Services (DDS)



Easterseals

>> SLIDE 38: Question 20

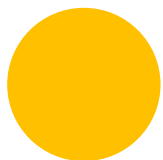
What year was NCIL founded?



1990



2000



1982

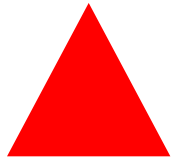


1965



>> SLIDE 39: Question 21

Who was the first Board president of
NCIL



Max Starkloff



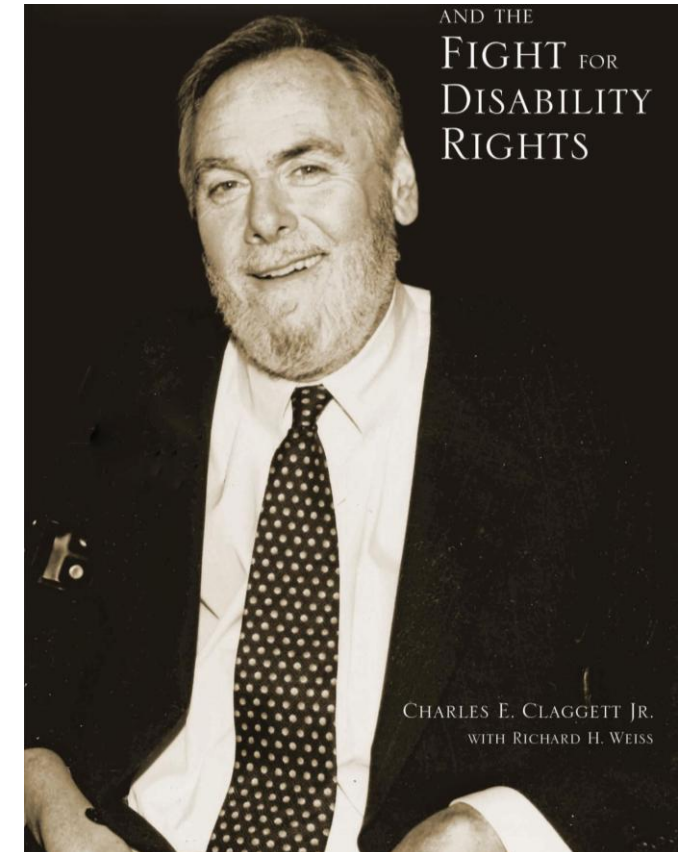
Charlie Carr



Marca Bristo



Judy Heumann



>> SLIDE 40

Questions?