

A DIFFERENT KIND OF GOOD NEWS—WITH BIRTHDAY WISHES

It's not a very well-kept secret that our Founding Director, Kris Glen, writes our weekly Good News texts in addition to all of her other work for SDMNY. Today is her birthday—she's 82!—and we thought the best present we could give her would be to have the day off.

She's accomplished a great deal in those 82 years, as a lawyer, a law school professor and clinician (in 1970, she and RBG started the first two Women & the Law Clinics in the country at NYU and Rutgers, respectively); a trial (Civil Court, Criminal Court, Supreme Court) and appellate judge; Dean of CUNY Law School; Surrogate Judge, NY County; CUNY University Professor; and, of course, founder and first Director of SDMNY.

For us at SDMNY, Kris has brought a lifetime of advocacy and commitment to vulnerable and marginalized communities, including groundbreaking work in civil rights, for women, LGBTQ people, incarcerated persons, and older persons, all of which has been deeply grounded in international human rights, disability rights, and especially the legal and human rights of people with I/DD are the most recent of her passions, but, as she said when receiving an award earlier this year (Good News 4/19/2024) she cannot be more grateful for how she has been welcomed into our community, and the opportunities it has presented to make real and meaningful change in advancing dignity, autonomy and equality for everyone.

Having gone “part time” at age 80, and building on SDMNY's achievements for people with I/DD, she's now working on a new project on the right of legal capacity. She's looking to develop effective supports (our facilitation model is not easily transferable) for older persons with cognitive decline to enable them to live with autonomy and dignity for as long as they can. But, she says, SDMNY will always be her heart's work.

Over the years we've learned of Kris's birthday ritual: the night before, she goes to a local bookstore where she gets to pick out any book she chooses; the actual day, she has a special breakfast (we're not saying what) and then gets to spend the day reading her new book, followed by a swim in the ocean, and a nice dinner overlooking water. So today, on this day off, we wish her

HAPPY READING, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AND MANY MORE PRODUCTIVE YEARS TO COME!