Since the first Elder Arts Photography Workshop four years ago, many of the ladies participating have acquired the basic skills necessary to photograph. In order to use these skills, the program at Freedom House must expand to include more sophisticated use of darkroom equipment. Next year I propose that each participant choose a theme to photograph, for instance, a collective family portrait or a documentation of their neighborhood. Most time would be spent photographing with instamatic or 35 mm cameras (most of the ladies have one of these two types), and developing and printing the results in our makeshift darkroom. In addition, there would be short term, fun projects such as making photo-buttons, photo T-shirts, and possibly a photographic mural.

There are two major obstacles to this program. One is the funding for supplies, approximately $400 worth of photographic materials that in the past have come from the Mayor's Office of Affairs of the Elderly. The only solution at this point is to go to photographic companies for support. The other major problem is setting up a darkroom in the kitchen that works yet can be taken down quickly. The solution to this involves finding an easily accessible storage area for large pieces of equipment.

The ladies in the photography class have accomplished a lot in four years, going from using simple Polaroid cameras to making complex 3 x 5 ft. murals. I hope they have the opportunity to take their photography one step further.