



NET

November 15, 2006

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR
READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY**

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DEAR FRIENDS OF NYDIS:

Welcome to **NYDISnet**, our bi-weekly e-newsletter. We hope this resource will keep you updated about the work of NYDIS and developments in disaster readiness, response and recovery initiatives here in New York City.

When an emergency situation arises in New York City - our office will send out a **NYDISnet ALERT** to all subscribers. The alert will include all official information available through the NYC Office of Emergency Management and news from our members and partners.

Please feel free to copy and distribute any information from **NYDISnet** that you find helpful. If you would like to distribute **NYDISnet** to your agency staff or faith community leaders please let us know - we're happy to provide that service free of charge.

Faithfully, Peter

PETER B. GUDAITIS, M.DIV.
Executive Director & CEO

If you have some news to share or an upcoming event to publicize please contact yperry@nydis.org

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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

- NYDIS & NYCOSH Publicize Worker Comp Deadline

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NYDIS is joining the NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) in collaboration with the NYS AFL-CIO, WTC Medical Monitoring Program, the Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund, the Business and Labor Coalition of NY, workers' compensation law firms, the UCC-National Disaster Ministries, and Wall Street Rising, is mounting a media campaign to inform workers throughout the country about the necessity of registering for workers' compensation. Joel Shufro, NYCOSH Executive Director, said, "We know that tens of thousands of people are at risk of becoming ill as a result of their exposure to toxic air and to psychological trauma while doing rescue, recovery or cleanup work after 9/11. We want to ensure that every one of them registers with the Workers' Compensation Board before the August 14, 2007, deadline. And if they don't know about the program, they won't register, it's that simple."



For guidelines for registering, in English and Spanish, and all the necessary forms:
866.WTC.2556

Download a flyer (pdf):

www.nycosh.org/911info/Flyer-06%20o25.pdf

www.nycosh.org

■ NYDIS ED & HSC Mental Health Leaders in New Orleans

On November 6 and 7, Peter Gudaitis joined 16 leaders from the Human Service Council (HSC) on a consultation trip to New Orleans for meetings at the Institute for Mental Hygiene. The HSC team toured devastated areas of the City and met for two days with 20 government and NGO mental health agency executives to discuss recovery best practices and long-term mental health care strategies for New Orleans. Through a grant from the Black Equity Alliance, these leaders will now begin an advocacy and program development partnership to address mental health needs in storm recovery.



www.humanservicescouncil.org

■ NYDIS ED Guest Lecturer at Metropolitan College

Executive Director Peter Gudaitis was the guest lecturer, along with NYDIS Board Member Ali Gheith of DOHMH Office of Mental Health Disaster and Response, at the Metropolitan College of NY on Saturday, November 4. The class, attended by 18 students in Metropolitan's Masters of Public Administration in Emergency and Disaster Management program, was entitled "Values and Ethics for Administrative Decision Making in Emergency Management." Gudaitis and Gheith spoke specifically about "Ethics of Disaster Spiritual Care and Inter-Religious Engagement."



Get information about the MPA Program:

www.metropolitan.edu/publicaffairs/mpa_emergency.php

www.metropolitan.edu

■ NYDIS Addresses Brooklyn's African American Clergy

On Friday, November 3, Autumn Brown, NYDIS' Community Outreach and Training Coordinator, attended the regularly called meeting of the Brooklyn Coalition of African-American Clergy and Elected Officials, a Brooklyn-based organization which exists to strengthen and empower the parishioners and constituents of Brooklyn through advocacy and participation in areas of social and economic injustice. With over 40 clergy and elected officials in attendance, NYDIS presented partnership information and an overview of our programs and services.

■ NYDIS/LMCC Attends WTC Memorial Meeting

On October 30 eight representatives from the Lower Manhattan Clergy Council met with staff from the WTC Memorial Foundation Memorial Museum, who presented the latest version of site plans for the Memorial quadrant, including a virtual tour of the visitor's path through the Museum. Topics included recognition of the site as a burial ground, recognition and accommodation of requests for above ground placement of the names of the deceased, as well as plans for the placement of remains within the Museum and for ceremonial transfer of remains now held at the Medical Examiner's Office. Also discussed was the importance of creating a welcoming environment within the Museum for religious visitors of all faiths and identifying locations where groups could gather for religious ceremonies and reflection. Future topics of discussion will include: planning for the return of remains and objects, discussion of exhibit planning and planning related to accommodating people of all faiths in the area where remains will be kept.



www.buildthememorial.org

■ NYC 9/11 Recovery Resources Online

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for 9/11 victims and injured recovery workers, updated weekly:

www.nydis.org/recovery/11.php

■ NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates

- **Online 9/11 Client Inquiry Form**

To access the form, go to:

www.nydis.org/unmetneeds/7.php



- **NYC 9/11 In-Service Training for Case Workers**

In-Service Training is required for case workers who have never presented a case at the Roundtable, and is recommended as a refresher for experienced case workers who have previously presented cases. All training sessions take place at NYDIS ([map](#)).

- **Tuesday, November 28 – 3:00-5:00 pm**

- **Monday, December 11 – 1:00-3:30 pm**

- **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Schedule**

The NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable brings together

donors with agencies providing case management to 9/11 victims. Case Workers who would like to present a case must sign-up by Friday prior to the meeting of the Roundtable. Due to the influx of cases which need presenting, the 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable will be adding an additional Wednesday date each month. There will now be three meetings a month, instead of two.

- **Thursday, November 16 – 9:30-12:00 noon**
- **Wednesday, November 29 – 9:30-12:00 noon**
- **Thursday, December 14 – 9:30-12:00 noon**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case:
Maggie Jarry, Moderator
212.669.6105
mjarry@nydis.org

- **NYDIS & UNR Donors Host Meet & Greet Lunch**

Monday, November 20 – 11:30 am-1:30 pm
World Cares Center Lower Manhattan
11 Broadway, 11th Floor
RSVP to Mariam Mahmud by November 10:
mmahmud@nydis.org

- **NYDIS Hosts PTSD Seminar for Caseworkers**

Monday, November 20 – 2:00-4:00 pm
World Cares Center Lower Manhattan
11 Broadway, 11th Floor
RSVP to Mariam Mahmud by November 10:
mmahmud@nydis.org

- **NYC Katrina Evacuee Resources Online**

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for Katrina evacuees in NYC, updated weekly:
www.nydis.org/katrina

- **NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable**

- **NYC Katrina In-Service Training for Case Managers**

Case managers working with Katrina or Rita survivors are required to attend an in-service training prior to presenting at the Roundtable. The purpose of these trainings is to provide case managers with a better understanding of the workings of the Roundtable and to help increase the likelihood that a client's needs could be funded.



- **NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable**

The NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable aids case managers in securing cash assistance and to share resources to best meet the unmet needs of disaster victims so that they may regain self-sufficiency and recover from the impact of a disaster. The Roundtable helps to facilitate long-term recovery by supporting clients' recovery plans. Case managers who would like to present at the NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable may submit a request the Friday prior to the Roundtable meeting.

- **Tuesday, November 21 - 2:30-5:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, December 5 - 2:30-5:00 pm**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case:
Adja Sakho, Moderator
212.669.6108
asakho@nydis.org

■ **Upstate NY Flood Recovery Resources Online**

A comprehensive list of news, updates and resources for upstate NY flood recovery, updated weekly:
www.nydis.org/recovery/12.php

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

■ **HHS Completes Allocation of \$75M for WTC Medical Care**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced on October 27 the completion of the allocation of \$75 million in federal funds for monitoring, screening, analysis and medical treatment of emergency responders and recovery workers at the WTC disaster site. These recent awards build on more than \$125 million that the HHS has administered since 2002. HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said, "Continued screening and monitoring will promote further scientific understanding of the nature of WTC health effects and will inform our work going forward." This announcement highlights the granting of \$40 million to the Fire Department of NY, LI Occupational and Environmental Health Center, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, CUNY's Queens College, Bellevue Hospital/NYU School of Medicine and University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The goal of these funds is to assist workers with everything from medications to specialized diagnostic care and treatment.



www.hhs.gov

■ **More WTC Areas To Be Searched For Human Remains**

On November 6, the NY Post reported that an expanded effort to recover human remains around the WTC site is expected to begin after officials identified more than 300 additional spots to search, including manholes, sewers and utility lines belonging to Con Ed and Verizon. The boundaries will be Murray St. to the north, Rector St. to the south, Broadway to the east, and the Hudson River to the west. The searches will be conducted from midnight to 8:00 am.

To read the NY Post article, [click here](#).

■ **NYC to Hire More Searchers for WTC Remains**

The renewed search for human remains at the WTC site is so massive, the city plans to hire up to 10 additional forensics experts, a project that



could stretch well into next year, Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler said on November 1. "We will make sure we have the appropriate resources to do this job," said Skyler, who is overseeing the recovery. "The mayor's orders were very clear: 'Do what needs to be done.'" Meanwhile, the Families of September 11 rallied at Ground Zero on November 2, calling for federal intervention, a greater expansion of the remains search and a more clearly defined organization of the effort. Some 200 pieces of bone and other remains have been found so far.



www.nyc.gov

www.familiesofseptember11.org

■ **Strong Bond Between 9/11 Families and NYC's ME**

Upon the recent discoveries of more human remains found at Ground Zero, Keith Olberman, host of MSNBC-TV's "Countdown", recently re-aired a special edition program from September 11, 2003, where he interviewed Dr. Robert Shaler of the NY Medical Examiner's Office. They discussed how in this awful process, the ME's office and the victim's families had developed a remarkable bond. As Olberman said, "The families and the scientists have become interconnected in a way no one could have imagined. By some perverse fate, this building, better known as the city morgue, has become a sacred place for many of the loved ones." Shaler responded, "There's concern about our emotions and our well being as we are for theirs, and so it's become a very close working relationship, almost a family type of relationship."



Download the September 11, 2003 transcript:

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15412957

■ **Sign-Up Now – WTC Medical Exams for Responders**

The WTC Medical Monitoring Program offers free, complete medical examinations. To date, 30,000 responders have been screened under the Program, which is open to responders in NY and across the country who served at Ground Zero. Eligible responders who have not yet been screened are urged to enroll in the program. What doctors learn from monitoring the health of thousands of these workers will help future disaster relief workers.



Contact for an exam:

1.888.702.0630 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm

wtcexams@mssm.edu

Download the Brochure (pdf):

www.wtcexams.org/pdfs/wtc_brochure_english_20060828.pdf

www.wtcexams.org

■ **Mayor Urges Need for More WTC Health Funding**

On October 27 Mayor Bloomberg released the following statement about additional Federal funding for NYC WTC health programs: "September 11, 2001 was an attack on our nation that deserves a national response. As NYC expands our efforts to help the men and women who selflessly responded in the days and months following those attacks,

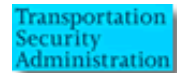


the restoration of these federal funds is crucial help. On behalf of all 8.2 million New Yorkers, I want to thank Congress and especially the NYC Congressional Delegation for their tireless work on this issue. Nonetheless, NYC will continue to seek additional state and federal funds to provide the necessary medical care and treatment to the brave men and women who participated in the recovery work at the WTC, and we look forward to announcing future successes together."

www.nyc.gov

■ **Background Checks May Help 9/11 Families with Lawsuits**

Dozens of 9/11 family members have been striving to get access to information on the attacks. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on November 1 that it intends to do criminal background checks on plaintiffs who have filed suit in federal court to determine if they can have access to restricted aviation information. This move may help family members move forward in litigation against the airlines that carried victims of the attacks, the airports where the attacks originated, air carriers responsible for security at airport gates, security contractors that performed security screening, and Boeing, which made the planes that were attacked. The family members charge that TSA has not divulged materials that may pose no threat, including many documents once openly available.



Read the entire article:

www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35392&dcn=todaysnews

www.tsa.gov

■ **Joseph Daniels is New CEO of WTC Memorial Foundation**

On October 31 the WTC Memorial Foundation named Joseph C. Daniels as President & CEO of the Foundation. Daniels has been Acting President since May 2006, moving the project forward and growing the donor base.



Click on the link below to read the full press release:

www.buildthememorial.org/site/DocServer/JoeDanielsAppointment_5.pdf?docID=2661

www.buildthememorial.org

■ **Avian Flu Conference at Baruch College – December 1**

The Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity at Baruch College will present the "Avian Flu: Ethical, Financial, and Management Implications for Business" conference on Friday, December 1 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm at 55 Lexington Avenue in Room 14-220. The challenges facing businesses that will be discussed include: Under what conditions will you continue to do business? What if your business provides essential goods and services and you need to operate regardless of power failures, mass transit shutdowns, unreliable supplies and deliveries, and absenteeism? Do you have an ethical obligation to allow your employees to stay home? Is it fair to your customers if your staff works from home without the same access to data and



information that they would have at the office? Do you have to pay employees if they're required to stay home? A panel on corporate disaster planning will cover operational, human resource, communications, and financial concerns a business will need to consider.

To register contact Matthew LePere:
646.312.3231

cci@baruch.cuny.edu

zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu/cci-avian-flu

■ **Interfaith Recovery Group Helps NY Snowstorm Survivors**

A new long-term recovery organization has been created in western NY to help people in the wake of last month's snowstorm and flooding. The NY nonprofit, Disaster Recovery Interfaith Network of Western New York, will coordinate interfaith response for long-term recovery, provide spiritual and emotional resources for storm survivors and access to individual assistance to those whose needs are not met by federal or state aid. For now, the group is trying to identify unmet needs in the wake of the extended power outage and flooding. They have also distributed flyers to houses of worship in the area informing people about the new group, and encouraging people to look within their membership and their community for unmet needs. Organized under the incorporation of the Network of Religious Communities.



For more information:

www.religiousnet.org/news/details.asp?Item_ID=460

If you wish to become a partner in the Network group, contact Joanne Hale, Church World Service Emergency Response Program:

jhale@churchworldservice.org

716.773.7935

www.religiousnet.org

■ **GSA Opens Emergency Response Office**

Emergency workers who need General Services Administration (GSA) services in fast-moving disasters have a new resource. GSA has consolidated its emergency procurement services into a new Office of Emergency Response and Recovery (OERR), putting all of GSA's emergency resources into one central office for first responders, emergency workers and recovery teams. OERR is divided into these divisions: Policy and Plans, Training and Exercise, Disaster Support, and Communications and Security. GSA Chief of Staff John Phelps will be acting chief emergency response and recovery officer until GSA finds a permanent head for OERR. Phelps' disaster response experience includes serving as chief operating officer for the Arizona Red Cross and as deputy director of the Arizona Office of Homeland Security. "We have further refined our capabilities so we can do our job, helping government agencies help the American people during disasters, when they count on us most," said Mr. Phelps.



Read the November 6 GSA Press Release:

www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentType=

■ **BENS: Retailers' Role in Disaster Planning**

The US Chamber of Commerce is working with businesses and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create a formal structure in which government leaders and large private sector entities can work together on disaster preparedness and response. Business Executives for National Security (BENS) is a national partnership of over 500 business executives committed to improve the nation's security, in which companies pledge trucks, warehouses and other resources before a disaster, based on needs pre-identified by state officials. Businesses can be quite helpful to governments during disasters: Wal-Mart sent 1,900 truckloads of water and other supplies to the Gulf Coast immediately after Hurricane Katrina; Johnson Controls shipped recreational vehicles to the Gulf Coast to provide their employees with temporary housing; and Home Depot contributed more than \$81 million in reconstruction funds. Systems such as Wal-Mart's, used regularly for supply chain management, can be useful in managing the logistics of delivering supplies from a stockpile to a disaster area.



Read the entire article:

www.govexec.com/features/1006-01/1006-01na6.htm

www.bensbusinessforce.org

■ **Academic Recommends Digital Emergency Communications**

Carnegie Mellon University engineering and public policy professor, Jon Peha, at a forum sponsored by the New America Foundation on October 26, called for the development of a government-run communications network that would enable police, firefighters and other emergency responders from different jurisdictions to talk to each other. After the communications failures on 9/11 and during Hurricane Katrina, a mandatory transition of TV to digital signals will open a door for change in public safety communications. Peha said local governments have the primary responsibility for public safety communications, which has led to the current patchwork quilt of systems and standards that make intercommunication difficult.



Read the entire article:

www.fcw.com/article96598-10-26-06-Web

www.cmu.edu

■ **Though Unprepared Churches Filled Vital Role in Katrina**

Baton Rouge churches, even though they were unprepared, successfully helped thousands of people in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, according to a Louisiana State University (LSU) Public Policy Research Laboratory study, "Tangible and Spiritual Relief after the Storm: The Religious Community's Response to Katrina". The role of disaster relief wasn't new for these congregations, but according to Dr. Daphne Cain, the study's primary investigator and an assistant



professor of social work at LSU, "the churches here in the Baton Rouge area were called upon at a volume that was very different than anything they've ever experienced before." Churches held two keys to successful disaster relief: a lack of red tape and a ready source of volunteers. Observes Cain, "in the event of future disasters, churches across the nation will have the benefit of learning from Baton Rouge's experiences."

To read the November 3 LSU Press Release, [click here](#).

www.survey.lsu.edu

■ NYC Students Design Gulf Coast Info Center/Laundromat

Thirteen architects in training at Parsons the New School for Design volunteered for six weeks in hurricane-ravaged Mississippi to conceive and build a combination Information Center and Laundromat. Named the InfoWash, it has just opened in DeLisle, a small town on the Gulf Coast devastated by Katrina's storm surge. The Information Center is now providing people in the area with material about how to apply for government grants, and local people are flocking to the Laundromat.



To read the November 6 NY Times article, [click here](#).

www.parsons.newschool.edu

■ Enroll in WTC Health Survey

The WTC Health Registry is a comprehensive and confidential health survey of those most directly exposed to the events of 9/11/01, and will give health professionals a clear picture of the health consequences of 9/11/01.



For a copy of the WTC Health Registry Survey:
healthinfo@wtcsurvey.org

Contact the WTC Health Registry:
212.442.1585 or 866.692.9827
wtchr@health.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wtc/about.html

■ Re-Building NO Takes a United Effort

The Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) is the single, comprehensive recovery and rebuilding plan for Post-Katrina New Orleans, and will be implemented under the auspices of the NO Community Support Foundation. Major funders are The Rockefeller Foundation and the Greater NO Foundation. There is a series of 4 district-level meetings and 3 city-wide meetings being held this Fall. Efforts are being made to videotape these meetings so that they can be viewed online and to establish resource centers at public libraries where displaced residents can view the videos and additional materials.



The next meetings are:

Community Congress 2: Dec 2 (Citywide recovery scenarios; this will occur simultaneously in 5-6 cities)

District Meeting 3: Dec 16-17 (Review draft district plans)

District Meeting 4: Jan 6-7 (Final district plans)

Community Congress 3: Jan 13 (Complete draft recovery plan)

For questions about the planning process and rebuilding:
1.877.527.3284

www.unifiedneworleansplan.org

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- **Chadbourne Honored for Work with Katrina Victims**

Chadbourne & Parke attorney Laila Hlass received an award on October 19 from Equal Justice Works on behalf of the Student Hurricane Network (SHN). She co-founded SHN, which works with law students and administrators to create and coordinate volunteer legal opportunities in Gulf Coast communities damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Equal Justice Works, founded by law students seeking equal justice for underserved communities, presented SHN with the LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Exemplary Public Service Award at its 2006 Awards Dinner in Washington, DC. A native of storm-damaged Long Beach, Mississippi, Laila said, "We have sent over 1,000 students to the region to volunteer during their winter and spring breaks. We have more trips planned." The Chadbourne & Parke LLP Foundation has donated \$110,200 to Katrina relief efforts, which included \$60,200 to NYDIS to help purchase clothes and school supplies for evacuees living in NY. Chadbourne & Parke LLP, an international law firm headquartered in NYC, provides pro bono legal services NYDIS.



www.chadbourne.com

www.studenthurricanetwork.org

- **FEMA Offers System to Track Disaster Relief Donations**

Hours after Hurricane Katrina struck, the Aidmatrix Foundation began setting up temporary IT systems to mobilize, warehouse, track and distribute private donations of food and other goods and services. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is interested in setting up similar donation clearinghouse IT capabilities that can interact with federal agencies and private donations systems. Aidmatrix can manage offers and arrivals of disaster material donations, offers of disaster spontaneous volunteers, offers of disaster financial contributions and material inventory and movement. FEMA intends to deploy the new software in



May. VOADs, disaster interfaith organizations, food banks and food rescue organizations, United Ways, volunteer management agencies and centers, Seventh Day Adventist state leaders, and Red Cross and Salvation Army divisions will all have a stake and interest in establishing the use and coordination of Aidmatrix.

Download the Overview and Details (pdf):

www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_52_AidMatrix.pdf

For more information, contact Ken Curtin, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison:

212.680.3664

Ken.Curtin@dhs.gov

www.aidmatrix.org

- **NYC OEM Hosts Roosevelt Tram Field Exercise**

On November 9, the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the NYC Police Department (NYPD), the NYC Fire Department (FDNY), and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) conducted a multi-agency field exercise on the Roosevelt Island Tram. The exercise tested the City's ability to respond to an emergency situation on the tram. They staged different scenarios that could strand the tram: one in which the main motor fails and the backup is used; and two where both motors fail, requiring workers to use a diesel generator to get the cars back to base, or worst case use a third generator to send out a rescue cage. At the debriefing after the exercise, emergency responders said they found no glaring problems.



www.nyc.gov/oem

- **NYC OEM Conducts Waterway Emergency Drill**

On November 1, the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) conducted a series of preparedness drills to gauge the city's ability to respond to a waterway emergency around the Staten Island Ferry. The Fire Department (FDNY), as well as the NYPD and the Coast Guard, conducted several exercises at the Whitehall Ferry Terminal in Manhattan and the St. George Terminal and Stapleton Anchorage on Staten Island. Streets in those areas were closed down and there were plenty of emergency vehicles on hand. Smoke was also simulated to make the drill more realistic.



www.nyc.gov/oem

- **Citizen Corps Introduces Monthly Newsletter**

The first issue of the National Citizen Corps Monthly Newsletter has just been published. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Citizen Corps program helps to prepare and inform non-profits, the private sector, faith-based



organizations, schools, and volunteer groups on community-based strategies for emergency preparedness. Highlighted in this first issue is NYC volunteer Team Chief with CERT 1, Lou Trimboli, who received the President's Volunteer Service Award in September.

Download the November 2006 Inaugural Issue (pdf):
www.citizencorps.gov/pdf/newsletter/cc-newsletter-nov2006.pdf

Contact:
citizencorps@dhs.gov

www.citizencorps.gov

- **ARC-GNY Honors FDNY Disaster Volunteers**

On October 26, 134 active and retired members of the NYC Fire Department were honored at the new headquarters for the American Red Cross in Greater New York (ARC-GNY) for their volunteer service at local and national emergencies as members of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), a partnership between FDNY and ARC-GNY. Following a welcome by Chief Response Officer Scott Graham and an invocation by FDNY Chaplain Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, certificates of service were presented to firefighters by ARC-GNY CEO Theresa Bischoff and FDNY Chief Salvatore Cassano. DART members provide food and supplies, perform damage assessments and help to establish recovery needs. A new DART vehicle was dedicated, which will be staged in Rockland, Putnam, Orange and Sullivan counties to provide emergency logistical support.



www.nyredcross.org

- **ARC-GNY Preparedness Presentation December 7**

Prepare New York is a free 45-minute emergency preparedness presentation teaching NYC residents how to create a plan, build a supply kit, and keep loved ones safe and informed during times of disaster. Participants receive an interactive CD that can be used to create a customized evacuation plan and brochures from the ARC and NYC OEM. The next presentation is on Thursday, December 7 from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm at 520 West 49th Street.



Contact:
212-875-2424
Garcia@arcgny.org

www.nyredcross.org/page.php/prmID/32

- **The Salvation Army-GNY Provides Katrina Assistance**

Help is available to Gulf Coast residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The Salvation Army of Greater New York, as part of Katrina Aid Today, offers assistance to Katrina evacuees living in NY. Help is



provided by trained case managers who receive specialized training in recovery planning and have up-to-date information about services and benefits available to displaced Gulf Coast residents. They can also connect you with appropriate referrals and resources for food, clothing, furniture, legal assistance, medical services, mental health services, financial planning, job training, support groups and other special services.

Contact Diana do Santos:
646.210.2449

Download Flyer (pdf):
[www.nydis.org/recovery/materials/
Katrina_Aid_Today_flyer.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/recovery/materials/Katrina_Aid_Today_flyer.pdf)

www.salvationarmy-newyork.org

- **Sikh Coalition Defending Rights for 5 Years**

The Sikh Coalition has worked hard to defend the rights of Sikhs, providing assistance to over 60 Sikhs concerned that they were victims of employment discrimination. Over the past 5 years the Sikh Coalition has defended the rights of more individual Sikhs in America than any other organization ever. As part of commemorating the Sikh Coalition's five year anniversary this year, they have put together a five-part video highlighting their employment discrimination accomplishments over these past five years. Part 1 is viewable now on the website.



www.sikhcoalition.org

- **Abraham's Day: National Day of Goodwill**

On Saturday, January 6, 2007, ICNA Relief USA will present "Abraham's Day: A National Day of Goodwill Towards Mankind". Local human service and religious organizations will work together to support the needy and homeless in our communities. Volunteers are wanted to collect and distribute new winter clothes such as coats, hats, gloves, warm blankets, and boots. Also collected will be toys and diapers, and non-perishable food items such as canned goods, rice, flour, baby food, and formula. Local drop-off centers will be set up to collect these donations in participating cities, which will then be distributed at local shelters and mosques. NYDIS, a proud co-sponsor of this effort, reminds you that these are the supplies to keep on hand in case of emergencies.



To learn how you can volunteer and to get more information, contact Sr. Malika Rushdan:
718.658.7028

malika@icnarelief.org

Download the Flyer (pdf):
[www.nydis.org/resources/materials/
NYDISnet_52_Abrahams.pdf](http://www.nydis.org/resources/materials/NYDISnet_52_Abrahams.pdf)

www.icnarelief.org

- **NYC Offers Citywide Flu Shots November 18**

The NYC Health Department is offering free Flu Shots to anyone 4 years old and older. They will be administered in all five boroughs on Saturday, November 18 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Select any of the following locations to download a save the date flyer (pdf):



[Mary McLeod Bethune School](#)

222 West 134th Street, Manhattan

[Hillcrest High School](#)

160-05 Highland Avenue, Queens

[William Morris IS 61](#)

445 Castleton Avenue, Staten Island

[Public School 6](#)

43 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn

[Theodore Roosevelt High School](#)

500 E. Fordham Road, The Bronx

For other times and locations to get a Flu Shot:

Call 311

www.nyc.gov/health/flu

www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/home/home.shtml

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PREPAREDNESS CORNER

- **Downloadable Ready NY Preparedness Guides**

OEM's Ready NY preparedness campaign is designed to help New Yorkers better prepare for all types of emergencies. The following preparedness guides and brochures are available online:



- Beat the Heat
- Emergency Planning for Small & Mid-Sized Companies
- Hurricanes and New York City
- Pet Preparedness
- Ready NY Household Preparedness Guide
- Ready NY: Pocket Guide
- Seniors & People with Disabilities

To download these guides, [click here](#).

www.nyc.gov/html/oem

- **Prepare for Heating Season**

As cooler temperatures arrive, NYC OEM



encourages New Yorkers to learn safe heating practices for their homes. Improper heating can lead to gas leaks and fires, and safe heating can prevent such emergencies.



Guidelines:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/hazards/winter_tips.shtml#safeheating

www.nyc.gov/html/oem

- **FEMA's Helpline Telephone Numbers**

Information on the status of disaster assistance and other needs is just a phone call away. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and NYS's toll-free helpline numbers are available for those who have questions once they have registered. Callers may check the status of their application for assistance from the Upstate NY storms and floods; and get answers and referrals to applicable agencies and organizations.



The FEMA Helpline is 800.621.FEMA (3362) and is open 8:00 am-8:00 pm daily.

Learn how to get help:

www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=29719

- **Hurricane Preparedness**

- **Weather Outlook for this Winter Season**

Meteorologists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center expect warmer-than-average temperatures across parts of the West,



Southwest, Plains states, Midwest, parts of the Northeast and northern mid-Atlantic region, as well as most of Alaska for the December 2006 through February 2007 season. Near-average temperatures are favored for parts of the Southeast, while below-average temperatures are anticipated for Hawaii. Maine, the southern mid-Atlantic region, the Tennessee Valley, much of Texas and California, and the intermountain West have equal chances of warmer, cooler, and near-normal temperatures this winter.

www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2724.htm

www.noaa.gov

- **NYC OEM's GIS Receives IT Award**

On November 2, NYC OEM's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department was recognized for its Hurricane



Evacuation Zone Finder. This online tool enables NYC residents to determine if they live in an evacuation zone and in which zone they live, and helps users find local hurricane evacuation centers. Hosted by the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, the Excellence in Technology Awards Program is held each year to salute the dedication of NYC's IT professionals.

To view the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder, [click here](#).

www.nyc.gov/oem

- **Flu Preparedness**

- **In Flu Outbreak Scenario, Americans Willing to Make Changes**

A national survey conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) Project on the Public and Biological Security, presented on October 27 in Washington, DC at the Institute of Medicine workshop, "Modeling Community Containment for Pandemic Influenza", finds that if faced with a serious outbreak of Pandemic Flu, a large majority of Americans would be willing to make major changes in their lives and cooperate with public health officials' recommendations. It also found that many people would face critical work-related problems. This survey was conducted to help public health officials in planning for a possible outbreak of Pandemic Flu, and is the first report to attempt to tap the public's intentions when faced with the specific circumstances of an outbreak.



Read the Survey Report (doc):

www.hsph.harvard.edu/panflu/panflu_release_toplevel.doc

www.hsph.harvard.edu

- **New Research into Evolution of Flu Virus**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that researchers are reporting results of a study that substantially alters the existing understanding of how the influenza virus evolves. This could have important implications for monitoring changes to the virus and predicting which strains should be used for flu vaccine. The study, published in the online journal Biology Direct on October 26, reveals a picture of flu evolution that was different from the prevailing conception of how the virus changes and that "the common view of the evolution of influenza virus as a rapid, positive selection-driven process is, at best, incomplete." NIH is a component of the US Department of Health and Human Services.



Read the "Long Intervals of Stasis Punctuated by Bursts of Positive Selection in the Seasonal Evolution of

Influenza A Virus" Report:

www.biology-direct.com

www.nih.gov

o **New Way to Keep Public Aware of Low Flu Strain**

Because the LPAI H5N1 detections are common and pose no threat to human health, the US Departments of Agriculture and Interior (USDA and DOI) are transitioning to a new method of notifying the public. In an effort to maintain transparency, USDA and DOI will post all suspected LPAI H5N1 detections on the Internet. Low pathogenic strains of avian influenza occur naturally in wild birds and cause only minor sickness or no noticeable signs of disease in birds, and are very different from the more severe highly pathogenic H5N1 circulating in Asia, Europe and Africa, which spread rapidly and are often fatal to chickens and turkeys. (In the event of a presumptive H5N1 test result involving a large number of sick or dead birds, or circumstances that suggest the possibility of a highly pathogenic virus, USDA and DOI will issue a news release to notify the public.)



The low path H5N1 detection list can be accessed at (pdf): <http://wildlifedisease.nbj.gov/ai/LPAITable.pdf>

www.usda.gov/birdflu

www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu

o **Technology Outpaces Pandemic Preparations**

Lack of technology is not the problem when it comes to planning for a Pandemic Flu or other serious disease outbreak, speakers at the ESRI Health Geographic Information Systems (GIS) conference said last week. Instead, they cited a failure to plan across organizational boundaries and anticipate what resources will be necessary when disease suddenly strikes. "Right now, technology is ahead of pandemic influenza planning," said Dave Gruber, senior assistant commissioner of NJ Health Department's Division of Health Infrastructure, Preparedness and Response. He is using GIS to stay abreast of the public health picture, tracking, for instance, the availability of hospital beds and emergency department closings. Philippe Veltsos, from the World Health Organization's IT department, gathers disease data from 193 member countries in many formats and languages. GIS can be a tool for standardizing and replicating such data.



www.govhealthit.com

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SAVE THE DATE

- **Latino Competency Training for Caseworkers/Agencies**

Monday, December 4
9:30 am to 12:30 pm
110 William St. 18th Floor (I.D. required)



Elba Montalvo, Executive Director of Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF) will be providing a cultural competency training for agencies working with Latino clients and families. This half day training will help caseworkers working with 9/11 clients have a better understanding of Latino culture and family dynamics and how that may influence or affect the work.

To RSVP, contact Tamara Velasquez:
212.206.1090

tvelasquez@chcfinc.org

www.chcfinc.org

- **The Salvation Army-GNY's Annual Luncheon in December**

Wednesday, December 6
Hilton NY Grand Ballroom, Manhattan



The 59th Annual Salvation Army of Greater NY Annual Luncheon is on Wednesday, December 6 at the Hilton NY Grand Ballroom. This NYC tradition since 1948 features holiday music performed by the Army's world-renowned NY Staff Band, special speakers and presentations. The "Pinnacle of Achievement Award" honoree is Steven S Reinemund, Executive Chairman of PepsiCo.

Luncheon Information:

www.salvationarmy-newyork.org/luncheon/2006/index.htm

www.salvationarmy-newyork.org

- **HSC Annual Leadership Awards December 7**

Thursday, December 7
5:00 to 7:30 pm
Pace University, Manhattan



The Human Services Council of Greater NY's (HSC) 11th Annual Leadership Awards Reception's honorees are Alan Siskind, Executive President of the Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services, and Charles Wang, President of the China AIDS Fund.

Contact Cecelia Burchett, HSC:

212.836.1230

burchettc@ujafedny.org

www.humanservicescouncil.org

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference**

Wednesday, December 13-Thursday,
December 14
Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC



The Homeland Defense Journal and National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative conference will address emergency management planning and response for people with disabilities, the elderly, pediatrics, and animals. National experts will discuss evacuation, early warning and communication, workplace safety and service animals. You will learn new concepts for addressing disability planning in their jurisdictions and how to incorporate special needs into your emergency management plan.

Contact Katie Smith
703.807.2758
ksmith@marketaccess.org

Download Registration Form (pdf):
www.homelanddefensejournal.com/hdl/regform_prep.pdf

www.homelanddefensejournal.com

- **"The Ripple Effect" Preparedness Conference**

February 6-7, 2007
National Press Club, Washington, DC



"Homeland Security: The Ripple Effect" emergency disaster preparedness conference will explore the cascading impacts of terrorism and natural disasters on smaller communities and address the resources, planning, and training needed to prepare for such an event. Practitioners in emergency and disaster management, and homeland security will mix practice with policy to develop a systematic approach to assist communities in responding to future disasters. Early registration is by November 30.

For registration information:
1.888.767.5561 Toll Free
1.703.683.5561
events@apus.edu

To Register Online:
www.e-ventcentral.com/event.registry/RippleEffectSymposium

www.apus.edu/disaster

- **15th Annual VOAD Conference April 2007**

April 17-20, 2007
Albuquerque, New Mexico



"Partnerships in Motion" is the subject for VOAD's 15th annual conference. The conference will begin with the kick-off reception and dinner the evening of April 17, plenary sessions and workshops April 18 and 19, and a closing plenary the morning of April 20 that will summarize the conference outcomes and declare the priorities for the year. Information on workshops, registration, and agenda schedule will be

coming soon.

www.nvoad.org

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WE RECOMMEND

- **Post Your Resources on NYDIS.org**

Do you have a useful resource for caseworkers, recovery providers and clients that you would like to submit? The [NYDIS Resource Library](#) on our website contains a large compilation of disaster resources including downloadable documents, links to useful websites, and references to printed publications. We welcome your agency's resources, which can be posted on NYDIS.org by clicking on the "Resources" Tab. You will then find directions on how to "[Submit a Resource](#)".



www.nydis.org

- **A Resource for Pediatricians in a Disaster**

"Pediatric Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness: A Resource for Pediatricians" is a practical resource that pediatricians can consult to become informed of their roles in disaster preparedness and response. It will help pediatric responders understand the roles of government agencies in planning for and responding to disasters; recognize and care for mental health needs of children in the aftermath of a disaster; and learn how to develop an emergency preparedness plan for pediatric practices. The report was prepared for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).



Download the Report (pdf):

www.ahrq.gov/research/pedprep/pedresource.pdf

www.ahrq.gov

- **Guide for Schools to Help Children After Disasters**

The RAND Corporation has just issued the first guide that shows how to provide school-based mental health programs for students exposed to violence, natural disasters and other traumatic events. "How Schools Can Help Students Recover From Traumatic Experiences: A Tool-Kit for Supporting Long-Term Recovery" enables schools to help students displaced by natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and moves beyond the short-term responses typically taken by schools after disasters strikes. "We found that following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, schools were in a unique position to help the displaced students they enrolled, but had limited information about how to help," said Lisa Jaycox, the lead author of the guide.



Copies can be ordered from RAND's Distribution Services:
877.584.8642
order@rand.org

www.rand.org

- **Tribute WTC Visitor Center Open Daily**

Daily Walking Tours led by participants in these events provide uniquely personal perspectives on the events of February 26, 1993 and September 11, 2001. The Center will remain in place until the permanent WTC Memorial and Museum are completed.

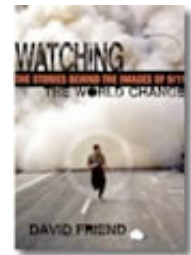


Are you interested in being a volunteer? Contact:
Rachael Grygorcewicz
212.422.3520
volunteer@tributenyc.org

www.tributenyc.org

- **Book Review: *Watching the World Change***

David Friend, an Emmy Award-winning executive director of the documentary, *9/11*, presents an unblemished commentary on the broad political and philosophical implications of 9/11 photography in *Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11*. "Men and women by the hundreds, then thousands - bystanders with point-and-shoots, TV news teams, photojournalists by the score - felt compelled to snap history, fiery and cruel against the blue," he writes. Offering a perspective on the 9/11 attacks from the actions and emotions of photographers on hand that day, Friend explores the controversy over whether the images of 9/11 are exploitative or redemptive - and shows how photographs help us to witness, to grieve, and to understand the unimaginable. A portion of this book's proceeds will go to the Uniformed Firefighters Association Scholarship Fund.



www.fsgbooks.com

- **NY Architect Designs Katrina Cottage**

Marianne Cusato's award-winning design for the Hurricane Katrina Cottage is specifically designed to withstand a hurricane and is an alternative to the trailers supplied by FEMA.



For more information about the Lowe's Katrina Cottage Series:
1.800.44.LOWES

Contact Cusato Cottages:
info@cusatocottages.com

www.cusatocottages.com/index_content.html

- **PlainViews: E-Newsletter for Spiritual Care Providers**

Subscribe to this bi-monthly e-newsletter offering views on Professional Practice, Advocacy, Education & Research, and Spiritual Development. Sponsored by the HealthCare Chaplaincy in NYC and edited by NYDIS Board Member Rev. Martha Jacobs.



Send your email address to:

info@plainviews.org

www.plainviews.org

- **Get the Latest from the Disaster News Network**

The DNN website offers up-to-date news and information on hurricanes and other disasters; and also covers related topics such as preparedness and mitigation, public violence, environmental hazards, and terrorist disasters. A news service, it also facilitates information sharing among disaster responders.



www.disasternews.net

- **Business Roundtable's CEO Clearinghouse**

The Disaster Response Network, a comprehensive clearinghouse of information that helps businesses better prepare for disasters, was formed by a group of CEOs that are members of the Business Roundtable. Nearly 30 CEOs have set up an "emergency protocol" with the US government and charities so they can all respond better to the next natural or manmade disaster.



Contact Maria Schneider, Manager, PDR
212.704.4482

m.schneider@respondtodisaster.org

www.respondtodisaster.com/mambo

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JOB AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **NYDIS, Office Volunteers**

We are seeking office volunteers to support the finance and disaster preparedness/training departments, and to answer phones and perform administrative duties for 20 hours per week. Positions begin immediately.



To apply, please email your Cover Letter and Resume to:

pqudaitis@nydis.org or fax to 212.669.6101.

- **ARC, LA Ready Response Volunteers**

To be ready on very short notice to provide relief in Louisiana if a hurricane hits this year, the American Red Cross is pre-recruiting and training 100 volunteers trained and ready to help if necessary. Louisiana Ready Response Teams may be called upon between now and November 30 and will need to be "on-call", ready to deploy within 24 hours.



Please contact the ARC:
212.875.2255

LAResponseTeam@nyredcross.org

- **LDRNY Needs Volunteers to Wrap Christmas Gifts**

Lutheran Disaster Response of NY (LDRNY) needs volunteers to wrap gifts at Barnes and Noble (Astor Place, Manhattan) in December. All donations received will provide immediate financial assistance to 9/11 recovery workers this Christmas.



If you'd like to volunteer, contact:
Mikki Baloy, Director of Operations
mikki@ldrny.org

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MAKE A GIFT TO NYDIS

- **Support NYDIS - Donate Online**

If you'd like to make a donation to assist NYDIS in its mission of providing faith-based disaster services, [click here](#), or send a check to NYDIS at 22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Fl., New York, NY 10007. NYDIS is a 501(c)(3) corporation and contributions are 100% tax deductible. It is a great way to honor or memorialize someone and we will send an acknowledgement of your gift.



To donate online, go to the NYDIS homepage and click "Make a Donation":

www.nydis.org

Want to receive NYDISnet via email? [Click here](#) for a free subscription!