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Dear Friends of NYDIS:

Here is the latest edition of NYDISnet--our bi-weekly e-newsletter provided as a service to our members, program partners, and the broader faith community. We hope this resource and communication tool will keep you updated about NYDIS and developments within the emergency preparedness and disaster response community.

We also hope that friends, clergy and congregations will feel free to copy and distribute any information from NYDISnet for educational purposes or use in your newsletter or worship bulletin. When appropriate, please credit NYDIS as the source.

Faithfully, Peter

Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div.
Executive Director & CEO

To share news or information, or to distribute NYDISnet to your agency, clergy or congregational list, contact:

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Roundtable Offers Mental Health/Spiritual Care Funding

Starting March 1, the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable will accept applications for funding cases of individuals who have mental health or spiritual care expenses as a result of 9/11 and who lack the financial resources to cover these expenses. The program is available to individuals who worked in the rescue and recovery efforts, residents of Lower Manhattan, displaced workers, those who were injured on 9/11, and those who have worked for a disaster relief agency. The program will cover outstanding mental health expenses and ongoing services that cannot be met by any other source. Applications for re-imburement or ongoing services must be submitted by a mental health or spiritual care provider or case worker and must include proof of relationship to 9/11 and evidence of unmet needs. Applications may be downloaded on the NYDIS website.

For more information, please contact Theresa Hui, 212-669-6107, thui@nydis.org.

To download the application form, go to:
www.nydis.org/unmetneeds/6.htm

Backlash Mitigation Bill Press Conference Set for Feb. 13



A coalition of 19 city-wide and faith-based organizations, including NYDIS, will join the Sikh Coalition for a press conference Sunday, Feb. 13, at 11 am, on the steps of City Hall in support of two city council bills. One bill directs the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the NYPD to create a backlash mitigation plan to identify and protect those groups that are likely to be targets of hate-motivated violence in an emergency situation. NYDIS is offering to assist with the development of these plans. A second bill protects city employees' right to wear religious headdress at work. Council member David Weprin is sponsoring the bills and will present them on the floor of City Council on

 [Download PDF Version](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 16. Supporters are encouraged to attend Sunday's press conference and to contact the Sikh Coalition.

For information, contact:
Amardeep Singh
The Sikh Coalition
212-655-3095
www.sikhcoalition.org

NYDIS Co-Sponsors Wellness Workshop for Brooklyn Imams

A workshop designed for Imams will be held Sunday, Feb.13, 9:30 am-4 pm, at the Muslim Youth Center, Brooklyn, NY. Participants will be introduced to Integrative Psychoeducation (IPE), an intervention that utilizes a combination of education and therapy to facilitate care. The aim of the workshop is to familiarize clergy with IPE, to enhance community strength and resiliency, and to develop partnerships with mental health professionals.



The workshop will be limited to 30 participants.

To register, contact Janet Silverstein:
Phone: 212-543-5625
Fax: 212.543-5625
Email: silvers@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu

The workshop is sponsored by The Center for Family Education & Resilience at NY State Psychiatric Institute, The Muslim Youth Center, Islamic Relief, Lutheran Medical Center, Healthy Connections & Family Support Center, NYDIS, and funded through The September 11th Fund.

Ongoing NYDIS Programs

- **9/11 Transitions Support Group Winter Cycle Continues**



The winter cycle of NYDIS' 9/11 Transitions Support Group began Jan. 12 and will continue through the end of March. Staffed by the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute, the three-month program for transitioning or terminated 9/11 relief workers alternates between a series of intensive career development workshops and support groups addressing topics such as stress, challenges of ending service relationships and leaving the 9/11 community. Meetings take place on consecutive Wednesday afternoons at 74 Trinity Place, Second Floor Parlor, 4-6 pm.

Registration remains open to any interested caseworker.
To register, contact Theresa Hui, 212-669-6107, thui@nydis.org

(All calls and inquiries are confidential)

For more info, check out: www.nydis.org/9-11recovery/4.htm or PSI website at www.mindspirit.org

- **NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Sets Upcoming Sessions**

The NYC 9/11 Roundtable will meet:
9:30 am - Thursday, February 17
9:30 am - Thursday, March 3

9:30 am – Thursday, March 17

9:30 am – Thursday, March 31

Caseworkers who have questions, emergency cases or wish to present should contact Roundtable Moderator, Theresa Hui, 212-669-6107, thui@nydis.org.

NYC Faith Communities Hold Tsunami Relief Events

- **Muslim New Yorkers Sponsor Remembrance & Relief Day on Feb. 13**

Stand Together: A Day for Tsunami Remembrance and Relief, a multi-faith service of remembrance and a benefit for those impacted by the tsunami in Asia and Africa, will be held Sunday, Feb. 13, beginning with prayers at 1 pm, at Riverside Church, 120th and Riverside Dr. in Manhattan. The event is sponsored by Muslim New Yorkers for Tsunami Remembrance & Relief and proceeds will go directly to those impacted by the tsunami through Islamic Circle of North America—ICNA Relief, Islamic Relief, Muslim Foundation of America, and UNICEF.

For information, contact:

Women in Islam, 212-591-1002

info@muslimnytsunamirelief.org

www.muslimnytsunamirelief.org

- **Tsunami Fundraising Concert Feb. 14 at Riverside Church**



Twenty-year-old Amali Premawardhana is a second year music student at Manhattan School of Music. Her parents, The Rev. Dr. Shanta Premawardhana and Dhilanthi Fernando, immigrated to the US in the early 80's from Sri Lanka. Wanting to help

relief efforts following the tsunami, Amali has galvanized support from the music community and has organized a fundraising concert for Monday, Feb. 14, 7:30 pm, at Riverside Church, 120th and Riverside Dr. The concert is being jointly sponsored by the National Council of Churches where The Rev. Dr. Premawardhana serves as Associate General Secretary for Interfaith Relations, and the Riverside Church Office of Justice and Social Action. Donations will go to Church World Service and its relief efforts.

For information/tickets, go to:

www.yesisaworld.org

For information, go to:

www.theriversidechurchny.org

www.councilofchurches.org

www.churchworldservice.org

- **Episcopal Diocese Plans Feb. 19 Service of Remembrance**



The Episcopal Diocese of NY will hold a Service of Remembrance and Solidarity for the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 3 pm in The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 110th and Amsterdam Ave. There will be meditations, prayers and a performance of Faure's *Requiem* by a combined Asian chorus

from the metropolitan area. Donations will be accepted for the relief effort. The service is open to the community at large.

For information, go to: www.diocesenyny.org

Articles Released on Ecological Impact of 9/11

The News Standard has released a series of three articles written by Michelle Chen examining the ecological impact of 9/11. The first in the series, "Ground Zero: The Most Dangerous Workplace," was published Jan. 24; the second, "Caught in the Smoke: Employees, Residents Cope with 9/11 Fallout," was published Jan. 31; and the last in the series, "Lingering Threats: Contamination May Still Lurk Near Ground Zero," was released Feb. 7.

To read the articles, go to:

www.newstandardnews.net/content/index.cfm/items/1448

For archive of articles/documents concerning 9/11 related occupational and environmental safety and health, visit:

www.nyocsh.org/index_environment_wtc.html

From Our Members and Partners

- **NYC Radio Station Airs Interview with LDRNY's John Scibilia**



LDRNY Executive Director Dr. John J. Scibilia was interviewed on radio station WLTW (106.7 Lite FM) recently about the work of LDRNY to help those affected by Sept. 11. On the show, called In the Spotlight, the station's David North asked Scibilia how the survivors of Sept. 11 are doing. He said: "9/11 is still a wound for some, a faded memory for others. LDRNY helps the hidden victims, those who don't have access to mental health care for cultural or financial reasons, or because they're undocumented and fear asking any official for help."

To read more about the interview, or to hear it streaming in the web, go to: www.LDRNY.org and click on Top News.

9/11 Recovery and Resilience Resources

- **Where to Refer 9/11 Victims for Case Management**

Over 80 social services agencies providing resources and case management for 9/11 victims have closed their operations. The following agencies are the last to continue to have case management capacity and the ability to service new clients.

American Red Cross

Call Center: 877-746-4987

Will pre-screen callers and make referrals to case management agencies providing client services

www.redcross.org

Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of New York

Julie Andrade: 212-371-1011 ext. 2096

www.catholiccharitiesny.org

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Brooklyn (and

Queens)

Lester Szymanski: 718-337-6590

www.catholiccharitiesny.org

Islamic Circle of North America - Relief

General: 718-523-5100

Special Needs and Referrals for mental health related cases

www.reliefonline.org

Lutheran Social Services – Project Life

General: 800-729-9209

Elba Felix/Marc Herstein: 212-748-3521 / 3520

www.ldrny.org

Safe Horizon

Toll Free Hotline: 866-689-HELP (4357)

Will pre-screen callers and make referrals to case management agencies providing client services.

www.safehorizon.org

The Salvation Army World Trade Center Recovery Program

Diana DoSantos: 718-523-3315 ext. 15

Email: diana_dosantos@salvationarmy-wtc.org

www.salvationarmy-newyork.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief

General: 212-870-8988

Will accept new clients until 2/28/05

www.gbgm-umc.org/umcor

- **Where to Refer 9/11 Victims for Mental Health Services**

There are a number of services readily accessible for persons who have been impacted emotionally by 9/11 and would benefit from individual or group counseling and support. Below is a list of current programs and contact information.

Islamic Circle of North America - Relief

General: 718-523-5100

Referrals for mental health related cases

Karen Horney Clinic

Dr. Tracy Simon, (212) 838-4333 ext. 218

www.karenhorneycenter.org

Mental Health Association of NYC

General: 800-LIFENET (800-543-3638)

Spanish: 877-AYUDESE (877-298-3373)

Asian: 877-990-8585

www.9-11mentalhealth.org

Provides financial assistance for treatment to downtown residents, rescue and recovery

workers, those who lost a family member, students attending nearby schools, and anyone who worked below Chambers Street or was in the area on 9/11. Funded by the American Red Cross September 11 Recovery Program and administered by the Mental Health Association of New York City.

Safe Horizon 9/11 Counseling and Support Services

Emily Lohman: 212-729-5513

www.safehorizon.org

Confidential counseling services, free or sliding scale, available to anyone affected by events of 9/11, All services are available by appointment at Family Assistance Center, 575 Lexington Ave, 9th Flr, NYC.

- **Child and Adolescent Trauma Treatment Services (CATS Program)** - provides mental health



The 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program



treatment and services to children and adolescents, ages 7-18, affected by trauma, domestic violence, community violence, or physical/sexual abuse.
Contact Karen Manasse, 718-928-6992

- **Counseling Center** - NYS-licensed mental health clinic in downtown Brooklyn specializes in meeting the complex needs of individuals and families who have been victims of crime and abuse or impacted by a traumatic event such as 9/11. Qualified teams of multi-lingual licensed mental health professionals and psychiatrists staff the center.
- **Family Assistance Center 9/11 Counseling and Support Services** - offers counseling and support groups for family members of victims, those injured, evacuated, or displaced and anyone who witnessed the events of 9/11.
- **Project Rescue & Recovery** - provides mental health and psychiatric services to any staff or volunteer involved with 9/11 rescue and recovery efforts and their families.
Call 347-328-8110 and ask to speak to a Project Rescue & Recovery staff member.
- **Safe Horizon 9/11 Recovery Programs** - provide crisis intervention, supportive case management and mental health services to anyone affected by events of 9/11. Services are available to adults, children, families and communities.
- **Safe Harbor at the High School of Economics and Finance** - provides help to students, parents and school staff to cope with the violence, victimization and trauma of 9/11. Contact Stephanie Acruni, 718-624-2111 ext. 30.
- **September 11th Support Hotline** - provides information, support and referral to mental health and case management services for individuals affected by 9/11. Service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Bilingual staff and interpretation services are available.
Call: 866-689-HELP (4357).

St. Vincent WTC Healing Services

General: 212-346-2482

Chinese speaking: 646-286-2686

Offers free and confidential counseling and support services for adults, adolescents, and children who have been impacted by 9/11, located at 170 Broadway Suite 1208, New York, NY 10038

www.svcmc.org



Make a Gift to NYDIS



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 Flr, New York, NY 10007. Contributions are tax

deductible. It is a great way to honor or memorialize someone and we will send an acknowledgement of your gift.

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

Mitigation & Preparedness Corner

- **Emergency Guide Available to Homeowners**

The Department of Homeland Security in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and the Homeownership Alliance has made available The Emergency Preparedness Guide, a resource that gives homeowners practical measures they can take to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for any possible emergencies. Local offices of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) will distribute copies the guide in their closing day materials for new homeowners. The guide includes information on:

- Emergency Supplies
- Effective emergency plans for families
- Various threats homeowners may face
- Resources available to homeowners through DHS, the Homeownership Alliance, and local government and community officials.

To access the guide, go to: www.ready.gov

- **FEMA Updates Citizen's Guide to Readiness**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released an updated, in-depth guide to citizen preparedness, Are You Ready? The guide provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through how to get informed about local emergency plans, how to identify hazards that affect their area, and instructing them on how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and building a disaster supplies kit. Other topics include evacuation, emergency public shelters, animals in disaster, and information specific to people with disabilities.

To access the guide in English or Spanish, go to:
www.fema.gov/areyouready

English-only copies are also available by mail from FEMA's Publications Warehouse at (800) 480-2520.



- **Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities Guide Available**

Congregations can play a significant role in disaster ministry by developing an emergency preparedness plan for people with disabilities, both in the congregation and community. Being able to identify those with special needs in a disaster is extremely important, and then being able to mobilize assistance is the sign of a well-prepared and ministry-oriented congregation.

The Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CID-NY) has produced a useful booklet for emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, based on lessons from 9/11.

For information, contact:
CID-NY, 212-674-2300 x 140
www.cidny.org

If your organization has disaster related job openings, we'll be happy to post them as a new feature of NYDISnet. Notices should be no more than three lines of manuscript copy including contact information, and should be sent electronically to slockwood@nydis.org.

The deadline for the next issue of NYDISnet (Feb. 24) is Monday, Feb. 21.

For information, contact:
The Rev. Susan Lockwood, 212-669-6104
slockwood@nydis.org

We Recommend...

- **New 9/11 Archive at the Library of Congress**
An in-depth account of the Sept. 11 attacks is now online. The Library of Congress has collected nearly 170 audio and video interviews with photos, drawings, written narratives and poems. Some of the interviews were with people who had evacuated the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The accounts were received in response to a "Call for Participation" sent from the library's American Folklife Center on Sept. 12, 2001.

For more, visit:
www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/911_archive

- **Check out the article:**
Port Authorities Ask Congress to Reverse Proposed Security Cuts and other government news at Workforce Week, an e-newsletter:
www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0205/020805cdpm2.htm

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