



NET

March 14, 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-DPO Hold Third Interdisciplinary Event**



LOOKING BACK TO GO FORWARD

Creating Interdisciplinary Ties in
Disaster Recovery



disaster psychiatry outreach

Thursday, March 16, 2006 • 9:00AM - 3:00PM

[Free Online Registration](#) • Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided

NYU Kimmel Center • 60 Washington Square South ([map](#))

Developing ties between disaster spiritual care and mental health providers is essential for providing effective services for those affected by disasters. In this third interdisciplinary event for 9/11 clergy and mental health providers who serve disaster survivors, the focus will be on practical aspects of collaboration, with an emphasis on shared experiences and the development of concrete, real-world resources. The conference will consist of a stimulating keynote presentation, followed by small group discussions arranged by geographical area to foster relationship-building and resource identification, a large group review of lessons learned, and a final presentation to clarify key issues and bring closure to the day. The practical information generated will be compiled and distributed for general use following the conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The Rev. Carol Pepper, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, CUNY
Siddharth Shah, MD, MPH, Psychosocial Assistance Without Borders

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

www.nydis.org/resources/headlines/01-23-06.php

INQUIRIES

Grant H. Brenner, MD, Disaster Psychiatry Outreach:
212.673.2099

Maggie Jarry, NYDIS, Director, Disaster Planning and Advocacy:
212.669.6105

SPONSORED BY:



■ **NYDIS Attends White House Faith-Based Conference**

NYDIS was invited to participate in the White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Washington, DC on March 9. Director of Disaster Recovery and Advocacy, Maggie Jarry, heard President Bush speak about the important role corporations and foundations play in funding social service groups. President Bush highlighted his recently created office of faith-based initiatives within the Department of Homeland Security as a recognition of the important work of faith-based organizations in disaster relief and long-term recovery.



■ **NYDIS Hosts Newly Named FEMA Region II Director**

At a dinner hosted by NYDIS's Board of Directors on March 9, Stephen Kempf, recently appointed Director of FEMA Region II, was introduced to NYDIS's principle program partners of service agencies and religious leaders, and OEM's First Deputy Commissioner, Calvin Drayton and other OEM



senior staff. Held at the law offices of NYDIS's **John Nyhan, Esq., Steve Kempf and Peter Gudaitis** pro bono attorneys, Chadbourne and Parke, LLP at Rockefeller Center, with blessing chanted by Rev. TK Nakagaki of the Buddhist Council, and benediction by Canon Storm Swain of the Episcopal Diocese of NY, the sense of community was reinforced by NYDIS Executive Director, Peter Gudaitis's missive that in unity, we can better prepare New York City in the event of any disaster. The evening offered the opportunity for the 45 people present to introduce themselves and their agency's disaster-related programs to Director Kempf.

■ NYDIS Welcomes 2 New Member Agencies

At NYDIS's March 9 Board Meeting, the Board voted to accept the membership applications of The Muslim Consultative Network (MCN), represented by Adem Carroll, and The Church of God in Christ (COGIC), Eastern NY District, the largest predominantly African-American Protestant denomination in New York City, represented by The Rev. James Pullings. We welcome them as signatories on our partnership agreement.

To view the membership application, which includes the partnership agreement, please [click here](#).

■ NYDIS Hosts Liu's Subway Preparedness Discussion

NYDIS's Planning & Training Program will sponsor a Brown Bag Lunch Wednesday, March 15, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm at NYDIS to discuss preparedness and subway security issues with Queens Council Member John Liu (right) who chairs the Council's Committee on Transportation. Bring your lunch and questions. NYDIS will furnish drinks.



To RSVP:

Adja Sakho, NYDIS, Disaster Planning Program Assistant:
212.669.6100
asakho@nydis.org

For more information on the event:

Adem Carroll
718.658.7028
iamourhaj@aol.com

For more information on Council Member Liu:

www.nyccouncil.info/constituent/member_details.cfm?con_id=49

■ NYDIS at International Conference on Faith and Service

Peter Gudaitis, Executive Director of NYDIS, will join more than 500 leaders from the fields of religion, community service, academia, and public service at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, March 22 from 8:30 am-4:00 pm. The theme, "Building Bridges through Interreligious Dialogue and Youth Civic Engagement", promotes collaboration among leaders of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other



faiths, to emphasize the vital role religious dialogue and youth service plays in reducing conflict throughout the world.

The conference is free. To register online and for more information, go to:

www.faithandserviceconference.org

There is also a printable registration on the website, or you may request a printable form by sending an email to:

secretariat@faithandserviceconference.org

■ NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates

• **Client Inquiry Form Now Available Online**

NYDIS has created an online Unmet Needs Roundtable Client Inquiry Form to assist clients in accessing assistance through the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable. The Roundtable program, funded by a \$1.7M grant from the American Red Cross, addresses the unmet financial needs of direct victims of 9/11 and their dependent family members by providing support while simultaneously assisting in planning for and achieving self-sufficiency.



Individuals must be represented at the Roundtable by caseworkers from organizations that provide case management services.

To access the form, go to:

www.nydis.org/unmetneeds/7.php

• **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, March 21 - 9:30 am-12:00 pm**
- **Monday, April 3 - 1:00-3:30 pm**
- **Tuesday, April 18 - 9:00-12:00 noon**
- **Monday, May 1 - 1:00-3:30 pm**

• **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.

- **Thursday, March 23 - 9:30 am-12:00 noon**
- **Thursday, April 6 - 9:30 am-12:00 noon**
- **Thursday, April 20 - 9:30 am-12:00 noon**
- **Thursday, May 4 - 9:30 am-12:00 noon**

To sign up for In-Service Training or to present a case, contact: Maggie Jarry, Moderator, NYDIS:

212.669.6105

mjarry@nydis.org

■ NYDIS Leads Hispanic Caucus Preparedness Workshop

The Rev. Susan Lockwood, NYDIS Director of Disaster Planning and Training, recently led a workshop on congregational preparedness at a

meeting of the Hispanic Caucus of Presbyterian churches in the northeast at Stony Point Conference Center. The presentation, which was translated into Spanish, focused on four levels of preparedness: personal, congregational, community, and citywide. Elder Betty Jones, NYDIS Board President and Chair of the Disaster Response Task Force of the Presbytery of NY, has been instrumental in providing preparedness training for the regional gatherings of the various ethnic groups within the Presbyterian church through programming funded by the national church's disaster arm, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

For more information on congregational preparedness training, contact Susan Lockwood, NYDIS, Director, Disaster Planning and Training: 212.669.6104

slockwood@nydis.org

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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

■ Katrina Evacuee Updates and Resources

- **FEMA Hotel Update**

FEMA is extending the deadline for hotel/motel stays for Katrina evacuees on a case-by-case basis to wean evacuees off the FEMA-sponsored hotel program. Currently, there are 50 evacuee households staying in 6 hotels across the city. Evacuees who have a plan to move into more permanent housing can request extensions to fill time gaps between their FEMA deadline and their moving-in date. FEMA will continue to extend hotel stays for those evacuees who have not received all of their assistance or have cases pending or in appeal.



- **FEMA Katrina Registration Extended to April 10**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on March 13 that the deadline for registering for assistance as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas has been extended 30 days to April 10. Homeowners, renters and business owners who sustained damage from the hurricanes can apply by calling the FEMA registration number, 800.621.FEMA (3362); TTY 800.462.7585 for the speech- or hearing-impaired, or online at www.fema.gov.



- **Congress Extends Post-Katrina Jobless Benefits**

The House of Representatives unanimously voted to extend jobless benefits by 13 weeks to 165,000 Gulf Coast workers unemployed by the storms. "...[they] are still struggling to get by on their jobless benefits and rebuild their lives," said Maurice Emsellem, Policy Director of the National Employment Law Project (NELP), a non-profit group that assists hurricane evacuees and has advocated for the federal extension. The federally-funded program, called Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), applies to those who were unemployed directly as a result of the storms. Workers eligible to receive the federal extension of jobless benefits will be notified by their state on how to apply for the program.



- **Katrina Evacuees Still Need Your Help**

There are an estimated 2,000 households in the five boroughs. As evacuees progress in their recovery they need the emotional/spiritual and material support that you and your group can provide. NYDIS in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is connecting congregational resources to meet evacuee needs. Evacuee needs are diverse. An evacuee family may need help with one or all of the following:



- Permanent or semi-permanent housing
- Employment
- Furnishings – [download more information](#)
- "Welcome kits" - a complete set of household items – [download more information](#) and [worksheet](#)
- Help with moving
- Pro-bono medical, dental and mental health services
- A sense of belonging or community
- Emotional and spiritual support

Through the Katrina Evacuee Family Assistance Program congregations have the opportunity to help Katrina evacuees with any of the above services. Congregations who are able and willing to provide more comprehensive support can partner with an evacuee family through the Katrina Evacuee Sponsorship Program. Sponsorship is a great way to build a relationship with evacuees and provide them with what congregations do best – ministry, community and spiritual care.

For more information call Gili Chupak, NYDIS, Director, Katrina Evacuee Recovery:
212.669.6108
gchupak@nydis.org

- **Success Story: Your Help Makes a Difference**

A Brooklyn congregation kicks off the Katrina Evacuee Family Assistance Program by collecting and delivering five Welcome Kits to evacuee families. Thank you, New Hope Christian Fellowship. Your generosity eased the evacuee's transition from the FEMA-sponsored hotels to permanent housing.

- **Case Management Referral Helpline for NYC Katrina Evacuees**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of NY provides referrals to all Hurricane Katrina evacuees living in NYC who are seeking a case manager to assist with services and recovery needs. **Call the helpline at 888.744.7900, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am-6:00 pm.**



- **New NYC Katrina Evacuee Update From HSC**

The NYDIS website has an archive of all the weekly Katrina Evacuee updates from the Human Services Council on relief and recovery services being offered locally and through FEMA to evacuees relocated to the city. The most recent update is March 6, [click here](#) to download.



To access archived updates, go to:
www.nydis.org/resources/headlines/02-02-06.php

■ NY/NJ Local Assistance Guide Available Online

In an interagency effort to provide for the needs of Katrina evacuees relocated to the NYC area, members of the Katrina Coordinating Group, which includes NYDIS, have put together a comprehensive list of programs and services being offered locally. This Guide will be updated periodically and is available on the Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN) website and on NYDIS's website. Along with NYDIS, Safe Horizon, FEMA, and Catholic Charities of New York collaborated to produce this important resource. To download the guide, [click here](#).



If your agency is providing assistance to evacuees in NJ or NY and would like to be in the Guide, please contact:

Gili Chupak
Director, Katrina Evacuee Recovery
212.669.6108
gchupak@nydis.org

www.can.org

■ 9/11 Mental Health & Substance Abuse Program's Deadlines

The 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program has been providing financial assistance with treatment costs to thousands of people who were directly affected by the September 11th terrorist attacks. The 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program will be ending in late 2007, nearly two years from now.

Critical deadline dates:

- **Enrollment Deadline: January 2, 2007**
Anyone eligible is encouraged to enroll. Enrolling leaves open the opportunity to access services throughout 2007.
- **Last Date of Service Covered: December 31, 2007**
- **Last Day to File Claims: March 31, 2008**

Aside from these deadlines, there are no changes to the 9/11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program. All treatment covered by the program remains exactly the same and all outpatient and medication claims will continue to be processed by QualCare, Inc.

If you have any questions about how the program works, these deadlines, or how to file claims, please contact a MHA benefit coordinator at 212.614.6383 or 866.807.5994.

www.9-11MentalHealth.org

■ Links for Hurricane-Affected Financial Institutions

The FDIC is working cooperatively with state and federal banking agencies to determine the status of the financial institutions located in the affected areas. To provide information to those affected by the hurricanes, FDIC is



providing information and links. The website will be updated frequently as information is made available.

For FDIC information, go to:

www.fdic.gov/hurricane

■ **Disaster/Trauma Suicide Sensitivity Training**

The Samaritans of New York offers a free Helping Others training session to help those who are in crisis and suicidal. Those who work with disaster survivors who experience trauma that could lead to feelings of suicide will learn about the causes, warning signs and risk factors; and how to provide effective emotional support. Pre-registration is required and breakfast will be served.

The Samaritans logo features the text "The Samaritans" in a stylized, orange and black font.

Thursday, March 30, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Queensborough Community College, Queens

For registration and information, contact Adrienne:
212.677.3009

samaritansnyc@aol.com

■ **DHS Creates Center for Faith-Based Aid**

President Bush signed an Executive Order on March 8 directing the Department of Homeland Security to create a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives within 45 days. This Center will be a part of the Preparedness Directorate and it will help to eliminate regulatory, contracting and programmatic barriers to providing federal funds to religious groups to deliver social services.



DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff stated that, "Faith-based and community organizations played an instrumental role in response to Hurricane Katrina and they continue to be an essential partner in helping victims in the Gulf States region rebuild their lives and communities. I commend their service and look forward to building upon several long-standing relationships, as well as forging new ones, through the department's new Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives."

www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5472

■ **Disability Compensation for Undocumented Workers**

Due to the active intervention of State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, the New York State Supreme Court ruled on February 21 that undocumented immigrants, including 9/11 recovery workers ailing from injuries incurred at ground zero, may be eligible to secure federally funded benefits.

■ **Disaster/Trauma Survivors Treatment Conference**

An all-day event to be held on Friday, April 21 at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and



organized by the Institute for Disaster Mental Health, is recommended for Mental Health Professionals and Interns, Social Services and Spiritual Care Providers, and all those working with trauma/disaster survivors. Supported by a September 11th recovery grant from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund.

For itinerary and registration information, download:
www.nydis.org/resources/materials/DMHI_Conference_Brochure.pdf

For further information, call 845.257.3477 or email:
IDMH@newpaltz.edu

■ **Feel The Music! Offers Workshops for 9/11 Impacted Youth**

Feel the Music!, a project of The World Foundation for Music and Healing, offers workshops for children and teens who lost a parent or close family member on 9/11. Workshops are taught by professional musicians and are available in songwriting, percussion, singing, and jazz. Programs are interactive, age-appropriate, free of charge and require no prior musical experience. A retreat for families in Nassau and Suffolk County is also scheduled for March 17-19.



To sign up for a program or set up a workshop in your area, contact:
Valerie Ghent
212.669.6126
valerie@musicandhealing.org
www.musicandhealing.org

■ **Undoing Racism Workshop Offered Locally**

Hurricane Katrina provides us a platform to engage in a conversation about institutional racism. The National Association of Social Workers-NYC and NYS Chapter-Westchester, Columbia U. School of Social Work, Fordham U. Graduate School of Social Service, Hunter College School of Social Work and the Antiracist Alliance is sponsoring a workshop offered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond to engage participants in a comprehensive exploration of how race shapes American institutions and how to foster local work groups that will continue the conversation and work toward institutional change.



Workshop:
April 9-11 at Westchester

For details, registration and more information, contact:
Sandy Bernabei
914.723.3222
www.antiracistalliance.com

■ **HHS Names 9/11 Health Coordinator**

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt appointed Dr. John Howard, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), to



coordinate the screening and treatment of the rescue personnel exposed to the toxins released at ground zero. Secretary Levitt said there "is a critical need to ensure programs addressing the health of WTC responders and nearby residents as well."

■ NYU Wagner's Series on Katrina Aftermath

Hosted by the Women of Color Policy Network, the Taub Urban Research Center, and the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems at NYU Wagner, these panels bring together researchers, policy experts, and community organizers for a discussion of the factors which contributed to the scope of the disaster, the current situation in New Orleans, and the challenges faced in moving forward. All events are free and open to the public and are from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at NYU Wagner, 2nd Floor Conference Room, the Puck Building, 295 Lafayette St. at Houston St. Seating is limited and advanced registration is required.



- **Tuesday, March 21**
The Hurricane and New Orleans Residents' Mental Health: Comparisons of 9/11 and Katrina
- **Monday, April 3**
The Hurricane and the New Orleans Public Health Systems
- **Tuesday, April 18**
The Hurricane and New Orleans Civil and Environmental Infrastructure

Contact:
Annie Pennola
Director, Special Events, NYU Wagner
212.998.7434
annie.pennola@nyu.edu

Register online at:
www.wagner.nyu.edu/events/katrina.php

■ UCC Calls for Monitoring of Post-Disaster Health Risks

A national reporting system dedicated to tracking post-disaster illnesses is needed in the wake of Katrina, points out Dr. Roger Boe, consultant for the United Methodist Fellowship of Health Care Volunteers. There is a precedent for post-disaster health monitoring. Post-9/11, the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program was created with support from the United Church of Christ (UCC) and other partners. The program continues to provide free, confidential medical exams to workers and volunteers who responded to the terrorist attacks in New York City. Florence Coppola, UCC executive for National Disaster Ministries, echoed Boe's call for a national monitoring program. Coppola cited concerns not only about bacterial infections but exposure to environmental toxins.



www.umvim.org/home.htm

■ Unspent Workers Comp Benefits 9/11 Health Research

Subject of a yearlong tug-of-war between Federal and New York State legislators, Federal authorities announced yesterday that they would return \$75 million in aid to New York State for post-9/11 health treatment and research. The money will be distributed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will go to several screening and treatment programs, including Mount Sinai Medical Center which has examined more than 10,000 ground zero workers.

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- **Salvation Army Offers CISM Training**

The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services training program is offering a two-day training in Critical Incident Stress Management, Individual Crisis Intervention & Peer Support, March 22 & 23, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, at their Divisional HQ, 120 W. 14th St., Manhattan. The training, often referred to as "emotional first-aid," is geared toward emergency responders, volunteers and agency staff without formal mental health training, chaplains and clergy, and individuals who wish to increase their knowledge of individual crisis intervention techniques. Mr. John Berglund, National Disaster Services, Salvation Army National Headquarters, is the instructor.



To register, contact:

Roger Rischawy, Director, Emergency Disaster Services:
212.337.7459

Roger_rischawy@usa.salvationarmy.org
www.salvationarmy-newyork.org

- **September Space Offers Self-Care/Healing Programs**

September Space Midtown and Lower Manhattan (SSMLM) offers free and beneficial healing programs such as Message Therapy, Tai Chi, Acupuncture, a Quilting Circle, Awareness Through Movement Classes, Yoga and a Book Club for those impacted by 9/11.



For more information, contact:

Laura Horowitz
646.289.3098

www.worldcares.org

- **NOVA Awards Nominations Sought**

The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) annually presents awards to recognize extraordinary accomplishments of individuals and programs in the victims' movement during the annual NOVA conference on August 20-25 in Orlando, Florida.



Awards are in recognition of individuals and organizations that have contributed through their vision, action, and leadership to help improve the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime. Nomination deadline is April 1.

Award Nomination Information:

www.trynova.org/conference/2006/awardnominations.html

Conference Information & Registration:

www.trynova.org/conference

- **NAIN Introduces Presentation**

The North American Interfaith Network (NAIN), of which NYDIS is a member and whose programs seek to build communication and mutual understanding among interfaith organizations and diverse religious groups throughout North America, has created a new online PowerPoint presentation to introduce their work to new audiences.



Go to:

www.nain.org

- **DSCS Becomes Disaster Chaplaincy Services**

The Institute for Disaster Spiritual Care and Disaster Spiritual Care Services-NY, which has changed its name to Disaster Chaplaincy Services (DCS), ensures skilled and appropriate nonsectarian and interdisciplinary spiritual care for all people affected by disasters by recruiting, screening, orienting, training, educating, deploying and supervising chaplains on behalf of the religious communities of the tri-state region. This voluntary organization's chaplaincy extends to all major religious communities, working to create collaborative relationships with traditional first-responding agencies and others who provide services to survivors during disaster relief and recovery. They are now located at 520 Eighth Avenue, Manhattan.



Go to DCS's new website:

www.disasterchaplaincy.org

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PREPAREDNESS CORNER

- **NYDIS/OEM Introduce Faith-Based Initiative 2006**



Helping Houses of Worship Better Prepare in the Event of a Disaster



NYDIS has teamed with the NYC Office of Emergency Management to provide six exciting and informative Ready New York events throughout the year on emergency preparedness. These free events focus on an all-hazard approach to personal, congregational, and community preparedness and are open to everyone of all faiths in each community. Refreshments will be served.

Dates, Times, and House of Worship Locations

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 6:30-8:30 pm

Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lubana, Queens
113-01 101 Ave.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 6:30-8:30 pm

Central Synagogue, Manhattan
123 E. 55th St.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 6:30-8:30 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Staten Island
225 St. Paul's Ave.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 6:30-8:30 pm

Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn
6807 5th Ave.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

St. Helena's Roman Catholic Church, Bronx
1315 Olmstead Ave.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6:30-8:30 pm

Salvation Army, Harlem Temple, Manhattan
540 Lenox Ave at 135 St.

To register to attend one of these events, go to:

www.nydis.org/OEM2006

If you require any special accommodations, please contact NYDIS at least five days before the event.

For more information about the events, call NYDIS:
212.669.6100

For more information about the NYC Office of Emergency Management's Ready New York Program, please visit:

www.nyc.gov/readyny

■ **NYC Pocket Preparedness Guide Available Online**

Check out the latest resource from the New York City Office of Emergency Management, including a pocket sized Ready New York Guide!



Information and other preparedness resources are available at:

www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/readynewyork/home.html

■ **Asian Flu Danger Expands Globally**

The total number of people who have died from the Avian Flu H5N1 infection since it was first reported in 2003 is now 96, having spread from the originating Asian countries to 20 new countries, including many in Europe. The checklist provided by the Centers for Disease Control on the government's Pandemic Flu website offers guidance and a checklist for religious organizations, faith-based social service agencies, and community organizations in developing and improving influenza pandemic response and preparedness plans.



For more information, go to:

www.pandemicflu.gov

And for the faith-based preparedness checklist, go to:
www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/faithbasedCommunityChecklist.pdf

■ Is Your House of Worship Prepared?

Susan Lockwood, NYDIS Director of Disaster Planning & Training, is available to discuss disaster preparedness at your house of worship. She can give the OEM Ready New York presentation on household preparedness, show what goes in a Go Bag, discuss how houses of worship can be prepared, or discuss topics of special interest to you, such as self-care, disaster ministry, and disaster spiritual care.

To schedule a talk, contact Susan at 212.669.6104 or slockwood@nydis.org.

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SAVE THE DATE

- **NSIS's First Regional Conference** The National Security & Intelligence Society (NSIS) is hosting "Securing Houses of Worship: Putting on the Full Armor of God" at the East Brunswick, NJ Hilton on March 21-22 and at the Atlanta Hilton on September 6-7. It will address all levels of readiness, response, recovery and security for houses of worship during natural, man-induced and national security emergencies and include 15 sessions, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and a dinner networking reception for \$395.



Register at: www.nsiscorp.com
Contact Ty Fairman at 877.378.0166 toll free.

- **Long Island/New York City Emergency Management Conference** "Back to Basics" on May 31-June 1 at the Huntington Hilton in Melville, NY.



For details, go to:
www.linycemconference.com

- **NYDIS 2006 Clergy Preparedness Summit**
Our third annual one-day conference for clergy and religious leaders will be held on June 1 at NYU's Kimmel Center. Further details will be available in NYDISnet in April and on www.nydis.org.



- **CISM Training**
The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) is holding its 4-day Regional Conference, co-sponsored by DCS, with classes geared to chaplains working in disaster and crisis situations, on June 15 through 18 at 475 Riverside Drive, Manhattan.



For registration details, go to:
www.icisf.org

- **NY State VOAD Conference** The Human Services Conference will be taking place on June 27 and 28 at C.W. Post in Long Island.



For details on the workshops and the registration, contact:
Rebecca Buzon, NYSVOAD Coordinator
585.328.3380 ext. 127
rebecca@foodlinkny.org

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DISASTER SERVICES

- **FEMA Job Openings**

[Program Specialist – Grade 9 \[Headquarters\]](#)

[Program Specialist – Grade 11 \[Headquarters\]](#)

[Program Specialist – Grade 12 \[Headquarters\]](#)



- **Tribute Center Seeks Volunteer Tour Guides**

The Tribute Center, a project of the September 11th Widows and Victims' Families' Association, is seeking volunteers impacted by 9/11 to lead guided tours of the WTC site and share their stories with visitors.

If you are interested in being trained as a Tribute Center Guide, contact:
RachaelG@tributenyc.org

September 11th Families Association

For more info on the volunteer program, go to:
www.tributenyc.org

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WE RECOMMEND...

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

Subscribe to this new 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:
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