



NET

March 28, 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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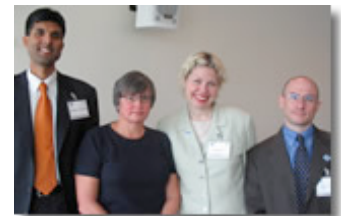
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NYDIS NEWS AND EVENTS

■ NYDIS-DPO Host 9/11 Interdisciplinary Event

On March 16 NYDIS and Disaster Psychiatry Outreach (DPO) hosted *Looking Back to Go Forward: Creating Interdisciplinary Ties in Disaster Recovery*, the third in a series of events assisted sixty 9/11 mental health and spiritual care providers who served at Ground Zero. NYDIS Executive Director, Peter Gudaitis, and Fr. Emile Frische, of Disaster Chaplaincy Services, opened the event with reflections on



Shah, Pepper, Jarry and Brenner

their experience of being "present" for first responders and clean-up workers at the World Trade Center. The Rev. Dr. Carol Pepper, Senior Psychologist, Bellevue Hospital and Dr. Siddharth Shah, Founder and Principal, Psychosocial Assistance Without Borders, discussed their experience of standing in "solidarity" with people in trauma and suggested ways of managing trauma as a caregiver. Conference participants all contributed to a larger discourse on the barriers and successes to mental health and spiritual care collaborations in response to 9/11, led by Maggie

Jarry, NYDIS and Dr. Grant Brenner, DPO. The themes identified by conference participants were:

- Need for more cultural sensitivity in all disciplines when working with diverse client populations
- Interest in cross-disciplinary communication and training
- Recognition that understanding distinction in roles through teamwork was important for successful support of 9/11 disaster victims

If you have any questions please contact:

Maggie Jarry, NYDIS, Director, Disaster Recovery and Advocacy
212.669.6105

mjarry@nydis.org

■ NYDIS/LMCC Support JBFCS WTC Memorial Concerns

NYDIS and the Lower Manhattan Clergy Council is joining with the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services 9/11 Support Group to advocate for the burial concerns of 9/11 family members from the Jewish community. The primary concerns are:

- **Above Ground Marker with Names:** An ancient and universal Jewish requirement is that burial sites be labeled with a marker of some sort (and it ranges from a simple plaque to more imposing monuments), above ground, that indicates who lies beneath. This assures that the sacredness of the site will not be ignored or trampled and that survivors and others have a clearly-delineated place to bring their memories, prayers, and feelings. For the WTC site, some above-ground wall with the names of those who perished clearly indicated, is essential.
- **Interment of Jewish Remains:** Among the material brought to Staten Island were ashes that included the cremated remains of people. NYDIS and the LMCC support the dignified incorporation of some of those remains at the WTC site.

For more information, please contact:

Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, Jewish Healing Center
212.399.2320 x215

■ NYDIS Trains Bethel and Presbytery Leaders

The Rev. Susan Lockwood, Director of Planning & Training, provided congregational preparedness training on March 13 to 75 church leaders at Bethel Gospel Assembly, an East Harlem congregation with over 2,000 congregants. The lay and staff leadership of the church are developing mitigation and preparedness practices and protocols.



On March 18, she trained disaster response liaisons that are being designated in each church in the NY Presbytery as part of the Presbytery's preparedness emergency response plan for coordination and communication. Elder Betty Jones, Chair of the Presbytery's Disaster Response Task Force and NYDIS Board President, is providing leadership for the initiative.

Bethel Gospel Assembly: www.bethelga.org/index.htm

Presbytery of NYC: www.nycpresbytery.org

■ Council Member Liu Discusses Subway Safety

City Council Member John Liu, chair of the Transportation Committee, discussed subway safety and evacuation issues with NYDIS staff and board members at a brown bag lunch on March 15 at NYDIS. The conversation covered topics such as the lack of a good communications system to disseminate as well as receive information from riders, locked train doors, subway evacuation, terrorist attacks on subway tunnels, the difficulty of evacuating the city in the event of a subway shutdown, and backlash mitigation.



For more information on Council Member Liu, go to:

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

For more information on subway safety, go to "The MTA Newsroom":

www.mta.info/mta/news/newsroom/seesomethingnew.htm

■ NYDIS at International Conference on Faith and Service

Peter Gudaitis attended the conference with more than 1,000 leaders from the fields of religion, community service, academia, and public service at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, on March 22. They were addressed by His Majesty King Abdullah II and Ambassador Karen Hughes. The theme, "Building Bridges through Interreligious Dialogue and Youth Civic Engagement", promoted 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.



For more information, go to:

www.faithandserviceconference.org

■ NYDIS/OEM Ready New York Training



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 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable Updates**

● **Client Inquiry Form Now Available Online**

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](#)).

- **Monday, April 3 - 1:00-3:30 pm**
- **Tuesday, April 18 - 9:00-12:00 noon**
- **Monday, May 1 - 1:00-3:30 pm**
- **Tuesday, May 16 - 9:30 am-12:00 noon**

● **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, 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**
- **Thursday, May 18 - 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

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■ Katrina Evacuee Updates and Resources

For the latest information, please visit:

www.nydis.org

- **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 30 evacuee households staying in 5 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.



- **Art for Relief**

Praxis Housing Initiatives is raising money through "Art for Relief" to support the recovery and resettlement of evacuees in NYC. New York's leading artists and galleries are contributing works of art in a Silent Auction and Reception on May 16, "A Night for Katrina Survivors", which will feature over 50 works from artists such as Christo, Chuck Close, William Kentridge, Red Grooms, Joe Brainard, James Sienna, Nancy Chunn and many others. In addition, some artists are contributing limited print editions and an "Art for Relief" poster which are available for purchase.

For information and to support the campaign please visit:

www.nyc4katrina.com

Funds raised will be distributed to a Katrina Evacuee Unmet Needs Roundtable currently being established by NYDIS. For information on the Roundtable, contact:

Gili Chupak, NYDIS, Director, Katrina Evacuee Recovery
212.669.6108

gchupak@nydis.org

- **New Orleans Elections**

Evacuees from New Orleans may be able to vote absentee in the Orleans Parish election for Mayor, City Council and other municipal offices. The election is scheduled for April 22 with a run-off scheduled for May 20. For more information on registering and voting by absentee ballot see the resources below:

- Election Protection Coalition:
1.866.OUR.VOTE (1.866.687.8683)
- The Louisiana Secretary of State:
elections@sos.louisiana.gov
1.800.883.2805
www.sec.state.la.us/elections/elections-index.htm
- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund website:
www.katrinavote.org

- **What Katrina Cleanup Workers Need To Know**

The New York Committee for Occupational Safety



and Health (NYCOSH), in partnership with United Church of Christ Disaster Response Ministries, announces the publication of 5 Fact Sheets for Katrina and Rita cleanup workers and area residents:



- Mold Fact Sheet for Katrina and Rita Cleanup Workers
- Mold Fact Sheet for Katrina and Rita Cleanup Workers (short version)
- Trabajadores De Limpieza De Katrina Y Rita: Hoja De Datos Sobre El Moho
- How to Use a Respirator: A Fact Sheet for Katrina and Rita Cleanup Workers
- Como Usar un Respirador – Hoja Informativa Para Los Trabajadores de Limpieza de Katrina y Rita

All fact sheets are available for download in PDF format at:

www.nycosh.org/environment_wtc/natural_catastrophes_index.htm

■ 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.



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

■ 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.

■ 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

■ **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.



- **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

■ **Risk Management Training Offered On-Line**

The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) is offering free risk management courses that can be accessed by going on their website. New training courses will be added throughout 2006 on topics such as risk management for small business, levee vulnerability, and terrorism prevention. For more information, contact Claire Reiss at creiss@riskinstitute.org or 703.352.1846.



To access the courses, go to:
www.riskinstitute.org/test.php?pid=page&tid=88

■ **Final Report of the 9/11 Commission's Findings**

The 9/11 Public Discourse Project, the non-profit successor organization to the 9/11 Commission, released its final report assessing the status of the recommendations made by the Commission in July 2004. The project participants issued final grades for progress made in the areas of homeland security and



emergency preparedness and response and made it clear that there is still much to be done. Importantly, the purpose of the report was not to praise or criticize, but to be constructive.

The Final Report on 9/11 Commission Recommendations is available by clicking [here](#).

■ Mitigation Study on Building Resiliency

The Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) released an independent study to FEMA that assessed the future savings from mitigation activities and found that research supported that FEMA mitigation grants are highly cost-effective. On average, across all grants, regions and hazards studied, each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of \$4 in avoided future losses. Results indicated that these grants play a significant role in a community's mitigation history and were important in reducing community risks, preventing future damages, and increasing a community's capability to reduce losses from natural hazards. In fact, the benefits of synergistic activities lead to increased community awareness and peace of mind.



The three basic recommendations the study details are that mitigation is cost-effective to warrant federal funding on an ongoing basis before disasters and during post-disaster recovery; that it is most effective when carried out on a comprehensive, communitywide and long-term basis; and that continuing analysis is essential for building resilient communities.

The Report is available for free download at:

www.nibs.org/MMC/mmchome.html

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FROM OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

- **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

- **Pastoral Crisis Intervention Course**

Onward Ministries is offering this CISM course on Friday, April 7 at 6:00 pm and on Saturday, April 8 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. It will be taught by Chaplain Van Don Williams of 1st Church of God in Christ at 385 Broadway, 2nd Floor in Brooklyn. To register, call 718.387.4116 or 718.573.9162. The fee is \$100.



- **"Power of Recovery" Workshops**

World Cares Center will host the Columbia University Resilience Enhancement (CURE) workshop program, developed and conducted by senior faculty from Columbia University. The CURE program has been specially designed for individuals who have been affected by the 9/11 attacks. Though this program is not a treatment for PTSD, depression, or other psychological conditions, staff can assist in treatment referral.



CURE workshops will be conducted in five weekly meetings at September Space Lower Manhattan, 11 Broadway, 11th floor. The first three workshops are:

Group A: Tuesdays, April 11-May 9, 4:00-6:00 pm
Group B: Tuesdays, May 16-June 13, 12:00-2:00 pm
Group C: Tuesdays, June 20-July 25, 5:30-7:30 pm

The CURE program is offered at NO COST. For more information and to participate, contact Kathryn Moroney at 646.289.3098 or kmoroney@worldcares.org.

www.columbiatrauma.org

www.worldcares.org

- **DHS Launches "Ready Kids"**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Advertising Council are presenting a new website to help parents and teachers educate children about emergencies. Along with games and puzzles, it features step-by-step instructions on what families can do to better prepare for emergencies and the roles kids can play in that effort. In-school materials developed by Scholastic provide teachers and parents with a vehicle to explain important emergency preparedness to children.



For the "Ready Kids" website, go to:

www.ready.gov/kids

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■ DCS Offers Disaster Chaplaincy Training

For clergy or religious leaders interested in helping people affected by disasters, Disaster Chaplaincy Services (DCS, formerly DSCS-NY) will train, credential or deploy those interested in providing spiritual care during NYC disasters and emergencies.



Go to DCS's new website:
www.disasterchaplaincy.org

■ How Do We Prepare for the Avian Flu in NYC?

This was the subject of a panel held on March 21, sponsored by NY Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) and held at the Local Health Care Workers East (1199SEIU) offices. Moderator Lee Clarke, Director, Safety and Health Department (District Council 37), AFSCME, introduced Dr. Joseph Masci, Director of Medicine, Elmhurst Hospital, and Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. Debra E. Berg, Medical Director, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease, and Thomas J. Lowe, MPH, COHN-S, COHST, Safety and Health Representative, NYS Nurses Association.



Per Dr. Masci, the present concern is based on the unprecedented number of countries. Transmission is respiratory, requiring close contact with infected live birds, and there are no recognized cases in the US. Dr. Berg stated there have been 180 cases with 100 deaths in over 30 countries; and she pointed out that we do not now have human-to-human transmission. What's being done now? Live poultry markets are being checked, vaccines are being developed, and antivirals are being stockpiled. NYC is working with the human service sector to prepare. This will be a resiliency challenge: leadership and risk communications are critical. The two basic strategies to minimize impact are prevention and treatment. Mr. Lowe urged the need to be flexible and creative, and reinforced the importance of basic hygiene practices.

For the latest updates on the Avian Flu, go to:
www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu

■ Is Your House of Worship Prepared?

Susan Lockwood 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 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.

- **Dance to Benefit Katrina**
Battery Park City Cares is hosting a dance party at PJ Clarke's, 4 World Financial Center, cocktails, snacks, and live music. April 1 from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, \$35. Proceeds from the party will go to benefit Katrina Evacuees.

Go to: www.batteryparkcitycares.org

- **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.



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

- **14th Annual VOAD Conference**
"Lighting The Way Together" will be the theme for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Conference on May 9 through 12 in Raleigh, NC.



To register, [click here](#).

For more information, go to: www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php

- **Community and Economic Recovery Conference**
Restoration 2006, being held May 16-17 in New Orleans, LA, is designed to empower government officials, non-profit and community representatives with useful information, strategies and connections to aid in long-term and sustainable community and economic redevelopment after a disaster. To learn more, contact restoration2006@icma.org.



For more information, go to: www.restoration2006.org

- **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 Disaster Chaplaincy Services (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 \[Headquarters\]](#)



- **Safe Horizon Seeks Community Outreach Coordinator**

Reporting to the Director of Emergency Planning and Preparedness, the Community Outreach Coordinator will manage the development and maintenance of the New York City CAN disaster resource database, including outreach, data collection and entry; maintain contact with agencies that provide disaster human services; integrate the CAN technology initiatives with Safe Horizon's case management system and resource database project; and other activities.



To apply, mail or fax resume with cover letter to Jeremiah Dameron, Director, Safe Horizon, 2 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10007. Fax: 212.577.3039.

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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

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