



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NY WRITERS COALITION AND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER
SURVIVORS' NETWORK SEEK SUBMISSIONS FOR 9/11 ANTHOLOGY**
"Portraits of Life" will feature stories of loss, hope, courage, healing and transformation

March 29, 2005 (Brooklyn, New York) – New York Writers Coalition and the World Trade Center Survivors' Network Writing Project are seeking essays, fiction, poetry and other genres of writing from survivors of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The submissions are for ***Portraits of Life***, a planned anthology of the varied experiences of survivors before, during and after the events of that fateful day as well as insight into how they have reconstructed their lives and learned to deal with their physical and psychological wounds. The deadline for submissions is May 30, 2005.

Portraits of Life will trace the remarkable journeys that took survivors from their "old" to "new" selves – through stages of trauma, loss, healing, acceptance and growing. Hoping to reflect both the positives and negatives of this life-altering process, the transformational journey will emulate the metamorphosis in nature (*Caterpillar Stage, Cocoon Phase, Breaking Out, Beginning of Transformation, Falling Together and Butterfly*) and use writing as a way for survivors to cope not only with their own sense of loss and acceptance, but to help readers and fellow survivors deal with their personal struggles.

New York Writers Coalition Inc. (NYWC) provides free and low-cost creative writing workshops throughout New York City for people from groups that have been historically deprived of voice in our society. We also publish our workshop participants' writing and organize public readings of their work. Writing with others in an atmosphere of respect and acceptance, participants discover the value of their own stories, gain confidence and a stronger sense of self and become less isolated from themselves and from society. By creating a community of writers and leaders from diverse backgrounds, we galvanize the voices of the marginalized and create opportunities for all writers to connect with the larger community. NYWC's goal is to create an inclusive city, one that is aware of the diversity of voices within it and honors the lives of all of its citizens.

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network is a community of interest brought together by the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. Survivors of the attacks had their lives significantly altered as a result and continue to experience stress, disorientation, and significant levels of grief, guilt, and helplessness as they reconstruct their lives. The Survivors' Network provides its members a forum for personal contact among survivors as a means to empower them to both deal with the circumstances of the aftermath of the attacks and to find renewed purpose in that aftermath.

(more)



How to submit your writing:

1. Title e-mail: Writing Submission
2. Send it to: info@survivorsnet.org
3. Attachments accepted in MICROSOFT WORD only
4. Include full name and contact information (address, phone, email) at the end of the writing and a bio of 30 words
5. There is a three-page limit per writing

Please specify which category you feel your writing fits into:

1. *Caterpillar Stage* – Writing related to our lives prior to September 11, 2001
2. *The Cocoon Phase* – Writing related to your experience on the day itself
3. *Breaking Out* – Writing regarding the initial parts of the healing phase (we're hoping to reflect both the positives and the negatives)
4. *Beginning of Transformation* – Writing recording how September 11, 2001, changed your life and helped you to grow and to focus on your current life
5. *Falling Together* – Writing regarding how you finally accepted your traumatic experiences and how the “new normal” shapes your life now
6. *Butterfly* – Writings where you describe the completed transformation and how you are able to live life to the fullest again.

The deadline for submissions is May 30, 2005

Please note:

1. The World Trade Survivors' Network holds no guarantees as to whether your writing will be included in the book although it is policy to be as inclusive as possible
2. Editing – All writing submitted might be edited for content and space at the full discretion of publisher/editor
3. The World Trade Survivors' Network does not pay for any submission.
4. 100% of net profits from the book will be devoted to the mission of the World Trade Center Survivors' Network

NY Writers Coalition

www.nywriterscoalition.org

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network

www.survivorsnet.org