

PRESS RELEASE:

WORLD TRADE CENTER SURVIVORS' NETWORK PARTNER WITH NEW YORK WRITERS COALITION TO PUBLISH SURVIVOR STORIES

For Immediate Release
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Members of the World Trade Center Survivors' Network will be working with NY Writers Coalition (NYWC) on a book detailing how survivors have dealt with their grief and loss since the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Although numerous survivors' stories of their experience of the attacks themselves have been presented in the media, little information has emerged about survivors' recovery since the attacks. The effect of this selective coverage has been to isolate survivors from each other in terms of sharing information about recovery; information that could be very useful and supportive as survivors struggle with issues of all kinds.

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network is a community of interest brought together by the attacks of September 11, 2001 on the World Trade Center. Survivors of the attacks had their lives significantly altered as a result of the attacks 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 between 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.

Since the Network was formed almost a year ago, its members have achieved several of its numerous goals. Through the generous assistance of September Space, a 9/11 related community center, the Network has established a working office and access to support services and programming offered at September Space. The Network maintains a Yahoo group where members post relevant information and communicate on a daily basis. Monthly meetings are conducted in which current business issues are addressed. The Network currently has a member serving on the Memorial Foundation Committee and another member who is actively involved in the historical preservation process. Members have made public and written comments to LMDC concerning the Generic Environmental Impact Statement and have toured the artifacts from the attacks being held at JFK. Several members of the Network participated in an exchange with Oklahoma City Survivors in April, 2004. Other achievements include a public website (www.survivorsnet.org) and the facilitation of art therapy workshops for group members.

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NYWC (www.nywriterscoalition.org) creates opportunities for formerly voiceless members of society to be heard through the art of writing. It provides free, unique and powerful creative writing workshops throughout New York City for people from groups that have been historically deprived of voice in our society, including at-risk youth, adult residents of supportive housing, seniors and others. In 2003, NYWC conducted more than 300 workshop sessions at 15 different sites, establishing numerous new ongoing writing communities. NYWC also published 5 books and held numerous public readings, making NYWC one of the largest community writing organizations in the country.

The World Trade Center Survivors' Network would like to thank NYWC for this opportunity to write about how the attacks and their aftermath have changed the lives of thousands of survivors. The Survivors' Network plans to seek publication of this book and use the profits to help fund its efforts to unite survivors of the attacks.

In order to contact the World Trade Center Survivors' Network, mail is being accepted at the above address in care of September Space. In order to speak to someone immediately, you may contact Carrie Sullivan at 201-344-4344. In order to contact NY Writers Coalition, please contact Aaron Zimmerman at 718-499-3681 or by email at Aaron@nywriterscoalition.org.