

Family Newsletter

December 2005

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund



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In memoriam

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Featured Article:

United States v. Zacarias
Moussaoui - Written by the
U.S. Attorney's Office of
Victim Assistance - page
four

John Curtis Chosen President-Elect of the MA 9/11 Fund

On November 21, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc. unanimously elected member John Curtis to the position of First Vice-President. The prime responsibility of this newly created officer position (June, 2005) is to provide for a smooth transition to the Presidency. In this capacity, John will serve immediately as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board, and become President effective May 1, 2006, as current President Faith Arter steps down. More about the decisions taken at the November 2005 Board meeting follow later on in this issue. In his professional life, John has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Network Engines, Inc. since March 2001. John is a United States Air Force veteran and holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Master's degree in business administration from Babson College. He currently serves as the chair of the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Committee of the Board.

Boston to Have a Closed Circuit Broadcast of the Moussaoui Penalty Phase Trial

The judge in Virginia who is responsible for the conduct of the penalty phase of the Moussaoui trial has been favorably swayed by the advocacy of many individuals and organizations, including the Fund, and has decided to broadcast the trial to a secure location within the City of Boston. The Fund will be working with several other organizations to identify a process of security clearance for family members wishing to attend. There will be two educational forums to provide interested family members with an opportunity to receive information about the penalty phase of the trial, how it will be conducted, and what the roles and responsibilities of all parties are. An expanded article is featured in this issue to provide additional details.

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### **Also In this issue:**

**Summary of November Board of Directors Meeting and Family Meeting  
Child/Adolescent and Individual/Family Support Programs - page 3**

**Board/Family Meeting in December - a holiday gathering**

**Farewell to Two Board Members**

**Family Support Services of the Fund - how Diane Nealon can help you**

**United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui**

**Important Notices about Benefits and Services**

**"we remember" Order Form**

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting  
MA 9/11 Fund Offices  
Monday  
December 19, 2005  
5:30 PM  
followed by an open  
Board/Family meeting and  
Holiday gathering at 7:00  
PM

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Monday  
January 9, 2006  
11:00 AM

United States Attorney's  
Office  
Boston, MA

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Wednesday, December 14,  
2005

6:30-8:30 PM

Open House at Children's  
Charter  
Waltham, MA

Staff Contact Information

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**Report of the November Board Meeting**

At the November 21, 2005 Board meeting, the Fund received a report from the Nominating Committee. The Committee is continuing to work on the identification of three family members to bring on as Board members. The Board discussed the question of family members serving as officers. While initially the Board had voted that family members could not serve as Board officers, this decision was revisited. The decision was changed given the discussion at the meeting and some feedback from individual family members. Some raised the concern that the prohibition based on potential conflicts that family members might have was probably too conservative. The Board voted instead to implement a policy that any Board member interested in serving as an officer would need to complete at least one year of service on the Board, and thereby be better able to take on the additional responsibility. The Board reaffirmed that family members elected for Board service may not be able to receive any grants from the Fund, nor may any members of their family. The Nominating Committee expects to announce a full slate of members of the expanded Family Advisory Board. Also at the Board meeting, David Hastings was elected to serve as Clerk of the corporation. In that non-board responsibility, David will be responsible to certify that certain documents (board minutes, committee meeting records) represent official actions and records of the corporation. At the session with family members, immediately following the Board meeting, there was an open discussion about concerns and priorities that the individuals attending that session wished to voice. While there was some commonality to the ideas expressed (interest in identifying some reimbursement for mental health treatment beyond the 32 visits taken care of by the American Red Cross; interest in the health care subsidy; thoughts about the future of the fund), there are clearly varied concerns. The challenge for the Fund in its upcoming strategic planning will be to balance the needs and priorities of individuals with the ability to support the general 'membership' in ways that are helpful to the majority. We will continue to encourage this dialogue, and offer specific ways to comment and contribute to the future planning process.

**"we remember" - the next chapter**

There will be a meeting of families interested in working on layouts for their loved ones to be included in a supplementary volume for the "we remember" book. That meeting will occur on Wednesday, December 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at a location to be determined for maximum convenience of those attending. PLEASE RSVP by December 22 to Diane Nealon (contact information to the left in the blue box). Also, we expect to have a new storage box to replace the existing one available for mailing (complimentary) within ten weeks.

**Farewell to Two Board Members**

Board members Daniel Bakinowski and Stephen Kerrigan announced in late November that they were leaving the Board of Directors. Dan was one of the founding members of the Fund, and worked tirelessly for many years to be of support to the families. Using his knowledge of the law and tax issues, Dan contributed significantly to the Fund's focus on the needs of individuals, and to also advance the mission of the Fund as an organization. He worked diligently on many legislative issues. Many family members will also remember Steve Kerrigan for his supportive work as a member of Senator Edward Kennedy's staff. Steve was a key aide to the Senator and worked closely with him in support of the families. He joined the Board of Directors in October of 2003. Steve is presently working with the Massachusetts Attorney General. The families and the Fund will always have allies in Dan and Steve. We acknowledge and appreciate their service, and wish them both well.

## Kid to Kid - Following Your Dreams Even When It's Hard

The MA 9/11 Fund is pleased to be able to offer an exciting opportunity for MA 9/11 Fund children and teens **ages 4-15** to create a children's television show with the staff of Children's Charter and Joanne LaRiccia, producer of **JoJo's Dream Cart**. JoJo's Dream Cart is a fun, positive show targeted to children ages 5-10 which teaches them how to tackle different developmental challenges using each child's strengths and dreams. JoJo's Dream Cart is currently carried on local access TV on over 120 different stations as well as a satellite dish network, Bridges - the American Muslim network. You can read more about JoJo's Dream Cart at [www.jojosdreamcart.com](http://www.jojosdreamcart.com). This program is funded by the American Red Cross. We are inviting MA 9/11 Fund children and teens to participate who want to help teach other children how to follow your dreams even when it's hard, particularly in the face of tragic loss. Participants will work with the mental health staff of Children's Charter over a series of sessions in order to help them define their strengths and recognize ways they have successfully coped with their 9/11 losses. In this way, the children and teens will be ready to share their coping skills with other children who have experienced difficult losses. Currently, we are aiming to film the show at the end of February. Those interested in participating are asked to call Diane Nealon, 617-482-8156 to register for an **Open House** at **Children's Charter** in Waltham on **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** from **6:30 - 8:30pm**. At the Open House, parents and their children can meet the staff of Children's Charter and JoJo to hear more about the details of this exciting project. **Please note, since individual coping styles vary, this opportunity may not be**

**appropriate for every child and/or teen.** Diane will discuss this with you when you call to register for the Open House. **Registration is required by Friday, December 9, 2005.** If you and your children are interested, but cannot make it on this date, please let Diane know so she can make alternate arrangements for you.

## Family Support Services

From some comments at a recent Board/Family meeting, it is apparent we should better publicize the services that Diane Nealon, our Social Work Coordinator, provides. Diane is available to assist you in identifying services and supports you could utilize to make the ongoing transitions in your lives easier. How does this work? Often times a family member will contact the Fund looking to find resources to strengthen their family's adjustment to different stages in their lives - these stages include new relationships, a change in family structure (remarriage, divorce, planning for a young person's transition to independent living), and caring for an elderly parent or spouse. Some people express an interest in finding a therapist to speak with. Others might be interested in a conversation directly with Diane to understand and identify some strategies to pursue to make this next life transition easier. A family member may call to express frustration at working with a 9/11-related support organization's apparent bureaucracy. The bottom line is - Diane is here for you. *Not sure if your concerns are something she can help you with? Puzzled as to where to turn for answers to questions about issues you're dealing with?* Diane can be reached at 617-482-8156, toll free at 1-866-FUND-911, or by sending an email at [diane.nealon@massfund.org](mailto:diane.nealon@massfund.org). You can also contact her to make some time to come in to our offices and talk in person. We're located in the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston, 75 Kneeland Street, Sixth Floor.

## Mental Health Seminars

We are pleased to report that our first mental health seminar, "What is Depression & Anxiety?" held in November was very helpful for those who attended. We are planning on presenting this seminar again at a later date for those who were originally unable to attend. Our second seminar, "Redefining Family After Loss" will be held at Children's Charter, 77 Rumford Avenue, Waltham, MA. You'll have your choice of registering for this seminar to be held in January on dates to be released soon. This seminar will be presented by Dr. Paula Stahl, the director of Children's Charter and an expert on trauma and grief. The seminar is open to anyone struggling with new family dynamics and relationships which have emerged since 9/11. Dr. Stahl will discuss how and why these dynamics emerge after loss and also present strategies for coping with these new relationships. Please note - registration is required for these seminars in order to ensure that attendees are appropriately matched. To register, contact Diane Nealon at 617-482-8156 before December 30, 2005.

## Board and Family Holiday Gathering at 75 Kneeland Street Offices

Everyone is invited to attend the Board and Family December meeting following the Board of Directors meeting on Monday, December 19. The Board meeting will begin at 6:00 and the community is invited to join at 7:00 PM for some holiday cheer - featuring a potluck dessert and also complimentary liquid refreshment. Please RSVP by December 14 to Erica Cabag (page 2 of this newsletter).

## **December Featured Article - from the desk of the U.S. Attorney's Office of Victim Assistance**

### **United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui**

On November 14, 2005, the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, delayed the beginning of the penalty phase of *United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui* by one month. Jury selection will now begin on February 6, 2006, and should conclude on March 6, 2006. Opening statements and the introduction of evidence will follow immediately thereafter. There will be no trial on guilt or innocence because the defendant already entered a plea of guilty to all of the charges on April 22, 2005. Because the defendant pled guilty without a plea agreement with the Government, the penalty phase will determine whether the defendant should receive life imprisonment or the death penalty as his sentence.

At the request of the Government, victims' families and others on their behalf, Judge Brinkema reconsidered the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) sites originally established in 2003. On November 22, 2005, Judge Brinkema issued an Order establishing three additional sites and deleted one previously announced site. CCTV viewing will be available in Boston, Philadelphia, Manhattan, Long Island, Newark and Alexandria. Because of a CCTV specific courtroom in Alexandria, there will not be a site in Washington, D.C. The Boston site will be at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse located at 1 Courthouse Way in Boston. The legal statute that authorized CCTV is very specific as to those persons eligible to view the proceedings. As a result, all persons interested in viewing any portion of the CCTV broadcast must submit an application, be statutorily authorized and, after approval, obtain the proper admission credential prior to the commencement of the trial. Submitting an application, obtaining approval and the proper admission credential does not obligate attendance. Failure to submit an application, obtaining approval and the proper admission credential in a timely manner, however, will preclude your ability to attend.

Each CCTV site is viewed by Judge Brinkema as an extension of her courtroom. As with all court proceedings, Judge Brinkema will control all aspects of the events at each of the CCTV sites. Accordingly, the Court Security Officers and United States Marshals Service will receive definitive guidance from Judge Brinkema about everything associated with admission to the courtroom and the decorum while in the courtroom. Once Judge Brinkema establishes these "housekeeping" matters, this information will be provided to CCTV-approved applicants. The establishment of six CCTV sites is unprecedented in the history of the United States. Everyone associated with the CCTV sites is committed to ensuring that the process be efficient, professional and respectful of our country's system of justice.

#### **Pre-CCTV Victim Assistance Meeting**

To ensure that victims' family members in the Massachusetts area who may attend the CCTV viewing of the penalty phase of *United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui* have all necessary information, U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan will hold an informational meeting on Monday, January 9, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. at the United States Attorney's Office in Boston.

Only individuals who survived the terrorist attacks and individuals who lost family members in the attacks are invited to attend this meeting. Attendees must pre-register by December 30, 2005. To register for the meeting contact the U.S. Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Staff by calling toll free 1-888-221-6023, sending a fax to 617-748-3372, or by sending an e-mail to: [usama.victimassistance@usdoj.gov](mailto:usama.victimassistance@usdoj.gov). Once you have contacted the U.S. Attorney's Office you will receive confirmation of your request, along with parking and other logistical information.





## Important Notices

**Register with Scholarship America** - Register eligible dependents in one of the following ways: phone toll-free 1-877-862-0136, email to [scholarships911@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:scholarships911@scholarshipamerica.org) or visit their website [www.scholarships911.org](http://www.scholarships911.org). If you experience any difficulty at all with the registration process, or have questions after contacting Scholarship America - please get in touch with us as soon as you can.

**\$5,000 in Uninsured Health Costs Assistance from Twin Towers Orphans Fund** – Twin Towers Orphans Fund provides up to \$5,000/year for uninsured physical health costs and uninsured mental health costs incurred by children who lost one or both parents on September 11th. Contact Twin Towers Orphan Fund at (661) 633-9076 or at <http://www.ttof.org/>.

**Free Financial Planning Assistance** - If you would like to avail yourself of a completely free, no obligation financial planning consultation as a family member, please contact the 9-11 Financial Planning Relief Services coordinated by Ms. Claude H. Collins, Program Coordinator for Pro Bono Services at 1-800-322-4237

Extension 7138. Their website is <http://www.fpaprobono.org>

### **American Red Cross Announces Service Deadlines**

The *Additional Assistance* Program - provides short term financial assistance to specific categories of individuals who are suffering disabling physical or mental health conditions as a result of 9/11 - last day to apply for this limited, six-month program of financial assistance and intensive case management services is **December 30, 2005**.

The *Health Services* Program provides clinical case management services and financial assistance for uncovered health costs for eligible individuals - last day to apply is **December 30, 2005** - last day to provide documentation in support of a claim is **June 30, 2006**.

The *Supplemental (Estate) Gift* Program provides \$55,000 to the estates of the deceased and to eligible individuals who were disabled as a result of a serious physical injury sustained on 9/11 - last day to apply is **December 30, 2005**; last day to provide documentation in support of a claim **June 30, 2006**.

*For further details, please call the September 11 Recovery Program Client Assistance Center at 1-877-746-4987 and/or visit their website at <http://www.redcross.org/september11/help>*

### **RSVP REMINDERS - from articles in this issue:**

**RSVP to Diane Nealon by December 9 for the Open House at Children's Charter 12/14/05**

**RSVP to Erica Cabag by December 14 for the Board and Family Holiday gathering 12/19/05**

**RSVP to U.S. Attorney's Office by 12/30/05 for Pre-CCTV Victim Assistance Meeting 01/09/06**

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### **MA 9/11 Fund Continues to Accept Grant Applications**

If you are experiencing a financial hardship as a result of 9/11, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Fund is continuing to accept applications for financial assistance.

# December Family Newsletter



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PLEASE FORWARD IF NECESSARY