

Family Newsletter

January 2006

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund



Seminar Series: "Redefining Family After Loss"

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In memoriam

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Families change. It is a given. Relationships between and among family members change. People are added through marriage, childbirth and adoption. And, too often, and always painfully, family members are taken away.

The Fund is offering an evening seminar entitled, "**Redefining Family After Loss**".

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.

We are offering this seminar twice, on two different dates. This is to provide for a choice in schedule but also to ensure that attendees are appropriately matched so the resulting grouping each session is comfortable for all.

Please note – registration is required for these seminars. Every effort will be made to honor your first choice of seminar date.

Each session will be held at Children's Charter, 77 Rumford Avenue, Waltham, MA. The dates are:

**SEMINAR A: Wednesday, January 25, 2006
6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**SEMINAR B: Thursday, February 9, 2006
6:30 - 8:30 PM**

To register, contact **David Hastings** before **Wednesday, January 18, 2006**. David will inform those registered of their placement in either seminar A or B on Friday, January 20, and provide directions to the meeting place.

We will be offering a light dinner during this seminar. If you have any particular dietary requirements, be sure to inform us when you register.

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**Also In this issue:**

**Upcoming Sentencing Trial - United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui**

**"we remember" - Opportunity to include more loved ones**

#### **Featured Article:**

"Thoughts on the Upcoming Sentencing Trial - United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui"

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting  
MA 9/11 Fund Offices  
Tuesday  
February 7, 2006

5:30 PM

followed by a Board/Family  
Gathering in Celebration of  
the New Year at 7:00 PM

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"Redefining Family After  
Loss" - a seminar  
Wednesday

January 25, 2006

6:30 - 8:30 PM

and

Thursday

February 9, 2006

6:30 - 8:30 PM

at

Children's Charter  
77 Rumford Avenue,  
Waltham, MA

**"we remember" - Opportunity to Include More Loved Ones**

Family members are invited to add their loved ones to the Remembrance Book. Everyone who did not participate in the original compilation is welcome to add a layout of their loved one. If you have not seen the Remembrance Book, appropriately named, "we remember", you are welcome to request a review copy which the Fund can mail to you. It is a wonderful, custom-designed two volume set of thoughts on the lives of 78 of those lost to the attacks of September 11. Participating family members can provide words about their loved one's life and special things about them as individuals, among other written material. Photographs can also be included. It does not matter if you did not participate in the first compilation. We are working with a printer that can insert new layouts into the existing volumes in the proper alphabetical order. To maintain this project in a cost-effective way, those interested in providing layouts do need to contact the Fund **by the end of January 2006** to participate in this round of new submissions.

**We Can Help You Manage Life Transitions**

Diane Nealon is available to assist you in identifying services and support systems 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 to [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, on the Sixth Floor.

**Upcoming Board and Family Gathering**

All family members are welcome to join with the Board of Directors and staff of the Fund for a "Welcome in the New Year" potluck dessert hour to be held at the Fund Offices at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 7, 2006. We've received a generous donation of wine for the evening, so please come and share a glass! Please RSVP to Erica Cabag by February 2, 2006.

Staff Contact Information**David Hastings**

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## Thoughts on the Upcoming Sentencing Trial - United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui

### Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Broadcast - The Update

The presiding judge for the sentencing trial, the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, made two important decisions in the final months of 2005 regarding the trial. She delayed its beginning by one month (now scheduled for February) and made several changes in the establishment of broadcast sites for closed circuit television. The areas to have such sites are: Boston, Philadelphia, Manhattan, Long Island, Newark and Alexandria.

### Can just anyone attend the CCTV Broadcast?

No. The federal authorities in charge require that 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.* However, if you do not submit an application, receive approval and obtain the proper admission credential you will not be allowed to attend.

### What has been the response from the MA 9/11 Fund?

In cooperation with several community partners, we offered two meetings in preparation for the trial. Why? We felt it was important to provide opportunities for family members to gain a fuller understanding of the sentencing trial, the parties and issues involved, and to offer a safe forum to ask questions. Both meetings occurred in early January.

On the fourth of January, the Fund hosted Anne Chapman, Assistant Federal Public Defender of the Eastern District of Virginia, and Ms. Mickell Branham, Victim Outreach Specialist with the Office of the Federal Defender. The meeting was offered to describe how interested family members can seek information and express concerns directly to Mr. Moussaoui's defense team. It was attended by twelve family members.

On the ninth of January, Michael Sullivan, the United States Attorney General, hosted a meeting in his Boston office that was designed to explain the sentencing trial, the CCTV broadcast, and what attendees could expect to occur.

### What has been the reaction of family members?

The reaction has been varied. Some have expressed their opinions, and others have kept their thoughts to themselves. At one of the meetings, concerns expressed included what the outcome of the trial should be, and also concerns that the trial should not even occur because a potential outcome might be the death penalty. Issues around the death penalty were voiced as being very important to several family members present. The Fund's staff will continue to offer a safe and welcoming ear for family members to express their thoughts and opinions. We will also endeavor to provide forums where those attending can also feel comfortable both speaking and listening. This can be a challenge especially in situations where some opinions are held with great commitment and sometimes expressed with strong feelings. It is a challenge we will continue to address.

### It may be costly to attend the CCTV broadcast of the sentencing trial - can the Fund assist?

Together with one of our outstanding community partners, Catholic Charities, we will be putting together a program for individuals to request financial assistance to ease attendance. Eligible expenses being considered for reimbursement will most likely be parking, commuting, mid-day meal expense, and child care. Anyone approved for attendance will receive details on this program.

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## 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>

### [RSVP REMINDERS - from articles in this issue:](#)

To add your loved one to the Remembrance Book - contact Erica Cabag by January 30, 2006

To register for "Redefining Families After Loss" - Wednesday, January 25, 2006 or Thursday, February 9, 2006 - contact David Hastings before Wednesday, January 18, 2006.

"Welcome in the New Year" potluck dessert hour to be held at the Fund Offices at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 - RSVP to Erica Cabag by February 2, 2006.

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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.



# January 2006 Family Newsletter



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PLEASE FORWARD IF NECESSARY

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