Message from the President

We Are Our Brothers' and Sisters' Keepers
A Disaster, A Massacre, and Ongoing Poverty

Within the last two months, we have experienced two catastrophic events. Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast destroying neighborhoods in New York City and New Jersey. Just over one month later, twenty-six people, including very young children, were massacred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

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See inside to read the full article

In the Mass Evacuation of Health Facilities, a Core Role for Social Workers
Health Care Social Workers Meet to Discuss Superstorm Sandy

Thomas Sedgwick, LCSW, Director of Social Work, NYU Langone Medical Center, Second Vice President, NASW-NYC
Board of Directors

At the end of October 2012 Tropical Storm Sandy evolved into Hurricane Sandy, wreaking havoc throughout the Caribbean while working its way up the coast through the Mid-Atlantic States and then devastating the Northeast. Subsequently, downgraded from Hurricane force, but certainly maintaining superstorm status, Sandy became one of the costliest Atlantic hurricanes, second only to Katrina, creating close to $66 billion in damage and responsible for an estimated 253 deaths.

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See inside to read the full article
Social Work's Response Recognized One Month After Superstorm Sandy
Social Work Community Turns Out For Leadership Awards Dinner

Peter Beitchman, DSW, LMSW; Chair, NASW-NYC Fundraising Committee; CEO, The Bridge

By any measure, the 6th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner was a huge success. First, we had quantity: almost 500 guests attended, making it the largest celebration of social work in 2012 and a highly successful fundraising event. Then there was quality: the leaders we honored in all three categories, (Top, Mid-Career, and Emerging), were truly deserving and a source of pride to all social workers in the City. Add to that the bonus of heartfelt remarks from City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who thanked the Chapter for orchestrating the magnificent social work response to Super Storm Sandy. Speaker Quinn marveled at the speed with which Bob Schachter and the team responded to her call for help and at the number of social workers who volunteered in the critical days following the storm.

See inside to read the full article
Visit the Chapter website at www.naswnyc.org to read about this year's honorees and to view photos from the Awards Dinner.

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Message from the President

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Within the last two months, we have experienced two catastrophic events. Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast destroying neighborhoods in New York City and New Jersey. Just over one month later, twenty six people, including very young children, were massacred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Is there anyone whose heart is not broken at the sight of a person walking in the rubble that had been their family home now realizing that they are homeless? Is there anyone who did not cringe at the thought of a kindergarten child being shot? No doubt, these events are community traumas. However, I mention these individuals remembering a rabbi who spoke at a healing gathering after 9/11. He reminded us then, that in that mass disaster, one person died. Three thousand times.

Collectively, we experience anxiety and fear, then grief and loss. We are reminded how vulnerable and how interconnected we truly are. What if the hurricane had hit my home? How safe are children in my neighborhood’s schools? In hindsight, we recognize behavioral flags that we missed. Or, we observe inequities in our responses to those who are affected. And we are also reminded that some are more vulnerable than others, safer than others and/or better able to rebound than others. Would my family and my community receive help if help was needed?

Our natural desire to make sense of our environment coupled with a fast moving, pervasive and nonstop media feeding information can lead to legends and misinformation. While it is tempting to comment on the details of the shootings at the Sandy Hook school, it may be some time before we really know what happened. For now, the discourse, understandably, has focused on mental illness and gun control. As social workers, how do we enter this discourse and expand it? These terrible events cause immense human suffering. They also raise questions about social policy and public health policy, as well as treatment and prevention.

The NYC Chapter had determined to focus our work in two areas: 1) addressing the state of the poor in New York City including understanding the impact of the present economy on social workers’ lives and 2) addressing Multiculturalism, Diversity and Oppression in New York City. Elsewhere in this issue and in future issues of Currents you will see a fuller and continuing discussion of our work in these areas. For purposes of this discussion, suffice it to say that these issues are pertinent and they provide an expansive lens through which to move foreword as we try to figure out how we can better prepare for a recurrence, in the case of a natural disaster or prevent mass violence and how we can better respond. To do this honors the victims’ suffering and sacrifice.

To be clear, in no way does it diminish our concern about the horror of the killings at Sandy Hook to be mindful that everyday across this nation people, especially young men of color and other innocent victims, are dying on our streets due to senseless violence.

In no way does it diminish our concern for the families made homeless by hurricane Sandy to be mindful to avoid inequities in our response to affected communities.

To the extent mental illness may have been a factor in the Newtown killings; we know that mental health treatment, which happens to be largely provided by social workers, is effective. Mental health care needs to be more available, and accessible, not less. Agencies that provide this care need to be supported and provided adequate resources to provide quality care. We also need to work against stigma on all fronts, because stigma impedes access to care. We need to keep in mind, that people suffering from mental illness are much more likely than the general population to be victims of violence than perpetrators.

We need to work toward eradicating all forms of violence in our families, communities, the nation and the world, for that matter. How do we begin teaching our children how to resolve conflicts without resorting to physical and psychological domination of others? What do we teach children about how to protect themselves in environments that really are not safe?

When do we begin to address difference and work to deliberately create communities that affirm all and embrace difference without value judgments? Social work’s social justice ethic requires that we recognize and address all human suffering and vulnerabilities and take action to create a more just and equitable society. Perhaps the pain these families are experiencing and the sadness we all are experiencing along with them will motivate us all to raise our collective voices in whatever networks we find ourselves to broaden the discussion. That would honor them.

Here in New York City, many social workers were directly affected by the hurricane, with their homes and workplaces destroyed or
uninhabitable. Yet, agencies and social workers found creative ways of maintaining services to clients despite significant hardship. I’d also like you to know that the Chapter also responded to the needs of victims of Hurricane Sandy. We were prepared to respond as we have had an active Disaster Trauma Committee since 1996, ably chaired by Madelyn Miller, PhD, LCSW. Our Executive Director, Robert Schachter, DSW and Madelyn Miller had the foresight to establish this Committee sixteen years ago after the TWA Flight 800 disaster. I suspect that few professional associations can claim to have a longer commitment to this field of practice. The Committee’s work incorporates a social work perspective in the approach to healing individuals, families and communities and provides much needed support for social workers who do this work.

I want to acknowledge Christine Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council who recognized the expertise social workers bring and reached out to us to enlist more social workers to work with the City’s Medical Reserve Corps. The response was excellent with thirty members responding immediately and more continued to respond. The All Healers Mental Health Alliance, responding to a need for more volunteers of African Descent also reached out to the Chapter and we have supported their efforts beginning with co-sponsoring a training session to provide more volunteers. Similarly, the shelter at Hunter College reached out to the Chapter and the Committee for support and guidance and the Hunter School of Social Work publically expressed their appreciation of the expertise provided them. I doubt that this is an exhaustive list of the Chapter’s involvement. Certainly, as the effects of these ‘ripple out’, we will continue our efforts.

As we move forward from these terrible events, as we will, we will remember our collective responsibility to build a more caring and just society, especially for the most vulnerable.

We welcome letters and comments. Send to contactus@naswnyc.org

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At the end of October 2012 Tropical Storm Sandy evolved into Hurricane Sandy, wreaking havoc throughout the Caribbean while working its way up the coast through the Mid-Atlantic States and then devastating the Northeast. Subsequently, downgraded from Hurricane force, but certainly maintaining superstorm status, Sandy became one of the costliest Atlantic hurricanes, second only to Katrina, creating close to $66 billion in damage and responsible for an estimated 253 deaths.

Sandy profoundly affected New York’s health care social workers. The storm surge and ensuing flooding was responsible for the unprecedented closing of four major medical centers: Bellevue Hospital Center, NYU Langone Medical Center, the Manhattan campus of the Veterans Administration New York Harbor Health System and Coney Island Hospital, as well as the closing of many skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and adult homes throughout the area. Thousands of patients were displaced and thousands of health care workers redeployed (including hundreds of social workers).

On December 4th at the Hospital for Special Surgery, the New York City Chapter of NASW in conjunction with the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care (SSWLHC) cosponsored, “Health Care Social Workers Respond to Superstorm Sandy, Lessons Learned, A Call to Action”. A panel of health care social work leaders was convened and moderated by the SSWLHC President Carol Dejesus, LCSW to discuss how the storm impacted their respective facilities, how social workers were deployed during the storm preparation/duration and immediate aftermath and to review post-storm staff deployment.

The panel included Robin Blumenthal, LCSW, Assistant Director of Social Work and Home Care at Beth Israel Medical Center; Susan Conceicao, LCSW, Director of Psychosocial Services for Metropolitan Jewish Health Services; Tom Sedgwick, LCSW, CCM, Director of Social Work at NYU Langone Medical Center (NYULMC); Ines Suarez, LCSW, Director of Social Work at Bellevue Hospital Center; and Phyllis Erlbaum-Zur, Ph.D., LCSW, Director of Metropolitan Jewish Health System – Kittay House Hospice (representing Menorah Center for Rehabilitation).

The panel members discussed the contributions of their social work staff in response to the storm:

Mr. Sedgwick spoke of social workers at NYULMC coordinating approximately 200 patient discharges from the medical center prior to the October 29th storm and evacuation of the remaining 325 patients from NYULMC in the midst of the storm.

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• Ms. Suarez discussed how the Bellevue staff evacuated patients in the aftermath of the storm with limited power, no elevators and inadequate means of communication.

• Ms. Conceicao recounted the challenges home care workers had responding to hundreds of isolated patients without power, water, food and medications.

• Ms. Erlbaum-Zur spoke of the difficulties Menorah nursing home had evacuating elderly disabled patients and the role of social work in contacting and supporting families.

• Ms. Blumenthal spoke of the increase in Beth Israel’s census and the dearth of available beds as the hospital most impacted by the closing of nearby Bellevue, NYULMC, and the VA.

• Both Mr. Sedgwick and Ms. Suarez spoke about the redeployment of social work staff to other hospitals to assist with the extraordinary demands created by the temporary closing of four major hospitals – Bellevue staff has been redeployed at other Health and Hospital Corporation sites while NYULMC staff has been redeployed to Lenox Hill, St. Luke’s/Roosevelt, Beth Israel, and Hospital for Joint Disease.

• The NYULMC social workers were also involved in visiting and/or calling relocated NYULMC patients to ensure that these patients had the opportunity to process their feelings about the evacuation and to assist in a coordinated transition of care.
A Call to Action

Ms. Dejesus called “to action” the audience of about 50 health care social workers. The group identified communication challenges during Sandy and discussed ways that the SSWLHC and NASW might collaborate in the future to facilitate better communication and support of one another during a major crisis. Madelyn Miller, LCSW, chair of NASW’s Disaster Trauma Committee was present to remind the group to be conscious of supporting self-care among health care social workers responding to the needs of patients and families impacted by Sandy, while perhaps also having been directly affected by the storm. Health care social workers personally affected by Sandy, either directly or through vicarious exposure, are at risk for experiencing “shared trauma” as they help their patients most harmed by Sandy. Through self-care and a chance to process the event, these workers also have the opportunity to experience post-traumatic growth. Bob Schachter, Executive Director of NASW was also present and invited the group to become more involved with NASW’s Disaster Trauma Committee.

The group spoke about exploring whether there are opportunities for social work to be more involved with the New York City Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinators group and with the City’s Office of Emergency Management where the Greater New York Hospital Association and Health and Hospitals Corporation have representation. The group ended the evening by agreeing to form a subcommittee to further explore how the SSWLHC can respond to future disasters.

What We Are Learning for the Future

In the Wake of Superstorm Sandy

Madelyn Miller, PhD, LCSW, Psychotherapist in Private Practice, Co-Chair, NASW-NYC Disaster Trauma Committee

Almost three months after the devastation of Superstorm Sandy was first felt in the city, following a path of destruction across the Caribbean, suffering continues throughout the region. We are still absorbing the magnitude and the implications of this unprecedented reality: as a result of the tragic loss of life, homes, and communities, our city was brought to a standstill, and many people are still without the most basic necessities. The significant social dimensions of this natural disaster astound us. And while it may seem otherwise, we are situated at an early point in the long-evolving aftermath of disaster. Individuals, families, communities, and social workers, will be engaged over months, and years. This will be an intergenerational process, an expression of their experiences, will uniquely determined timetables.

As social workers the impact has touched us personally and professionally, and at the same time, we are also involved in remarkably diverse professional and community roles. Our vulnerabilities and our resilience coexist. We lost homes, office use, places of work, and our programs. We lost connections to clients, staff, and colleagues. Some social workers evacuated patients in the midst of the storm. Some social workers are still located in other work settings, negotiating the variety of challenges. Some worked with social work students, clients, staff, and settings each directly affected by the storm. Some social work students, faculty, and staff lost their school. And social workers volunteered. Some social workers engaged in disaster work through the American Red Cross, the Medical Reserve Corps, and other disaster-specific organizations; others worked on disaster hotlines, at shelters, and food distribution sites, and through doing outreach. Some social workers participated in grassroots, community-based groups, houses of worship, and local organizations; they searched for residents, provided support and reassurance to those in need, and initiated opportunities to provide care, discussions, and training.

For so many, having opportunities to help, to find meaningful ways to respond, to have agency, and to express commitments to social action and social justice, seemed essential. At the same time such work in the midst of such devastation and profound need is demanding, emotionally exhausting, and often without immediate support. It is essential that we create opportunities among colleagues to discuss our experiences, its challenges, its enrichment and engagements, and it’s inevitable impact. We need to support one another, create restorative collective processes, and encourage reflective self-care. And there is a wealth of learning that is possible from our colleagues who have lived through related experiences, for instance, those on the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina and Rita, those in Japan since the recent tsunami, and those working after the Indian Ocean tsunami.

In the midst of challenges to provide support for those most affected and to move forward as a community, a month ago we learned of the tragedy in Newtown. Its parameters of intentionality, loss of life, and loss of children, framed by the realities of gun violence and gun access, mental health issues, and a culture of violence and violation, remain deeply affecting. And they include broader contexts, highlighting the complex social dimension of this human-caused disaster, which extends beyond the profound sorrow in relation to one community, to many neighborhoods and more children. In fact, we may reference Dunblane, Scotland, Columbine, New York City, Virginia Tech, Los Angeles, Breslan, Chechnya, Chicago.

What have we learned?

Social workers quickly identified those uniquely vulnerable in this disaster, including homebound and semi-homebound older adults, in particular if not previously known to any services; individuals with disabilities; long-term homeless individuals without access to
their subway, underground, and above ground areas; and those who may be more generally vulnerable after any mass disaster, including those who have lived through previous disaster, trauma, loss, disruption; those who are refugees; those seeking asylum; those undocumented; those struggling to maintain a carefully crafted stability in their lives. Obvious and glaring gaps in service were identified, in spite of some excellent related programs: affordable housing, mental health systems, nursing home care, homeless services. And health concerns about mold were unfolding.

Across the city, the outpouring of volunteers toward community-based and grassroots initiatives has been remarkable; it has changed the landscape of disaster response, and will need to be taken into account as future planning gets underway. As an expression of collective, community response to help neighbors who are the most vulnerable, such as people who have been previously marginalized by poverty and racism, those in public housing, or those whose homes or areas were devastated, were also included.

Additionally, we observed that well-established community centers and neighborhood groups, those highly trusted among local residents, became sustaining hubs of support; they made provisions for food, services, and information, and functioned as places for community, belonging, social engagement, activism, and community building. As we know, after the collective experience of disaster, collective efforts and responses are particularly sustaining. The stabilizing impact of active, engaged community life after disaster, through institutions of trust, and reestablishing elements of daily life, the cultural foundations of a community, for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults cannot be overemphasized. We can incorporate into our efforts the support of community continuity. We can also support long-term opportunities for community members to engage in helping.

As time unfolds our work ahead will include those just now and later beginning to take in the dimensions of these experiences. We can anticipate expressions of individual and collective loss, mourning, and memorializing, as well as attention to anniversaries. With continuing care we can support such individual and collective experience as it may evolve into broader conversations and considerations of meaning and hope.

We need to create ongoing support for our experiences of vicarious trauma, vicarious transformation, and vicarious resilience, along with the direct and shared trauma and loss of our work. Through collegial support, and restorative collective experiences, reflective self-care, social engagement, social action, social justice efforts, continuing learning, and meaningful commitments, we can take care of ourselves.

In preparation for the future, we can connect with American Red Cross, the Medical Reserve Corps, and other disaster organizations, and can receive specialized disaster training, including Psychological First Aid, and can consider guidelines for ethical international psychosocial capacity building work.

At a recent meeting one social worker shared moving observations of displaced nursing home residents becoming joyful to see their original social workers who came to visit them at their temporary facilities. Once back to their original nursing homes, the residents felt greatly comforted and relieved, happy to finally return to their residential settings, even though in more modest housing. This powerfully underlines the sustaining experiences of our empathic engagements, professional relationships and connections, and the fundamental importance of a sense of home, place, and community, for client and social worker alike.

Please join the next meetings of the Disaster Trauma Committee, January 18, February 15, and March 15, 9 to 11 a.m., at the Chapter office, 50 Broadway, Suite 1001. Any train to the Wall Street area is within walking distance. These meetings consider the diversity of emerging issues related to Superstorm Sandy, the Newtown shooting, and other intersecting disasters within a global context. Support and attention is given to our own inevitable experiences of working in the midst of and after disaster. To inquire about the Disaster Trauma Committee, please email the Chapter office at contactus@naswnyc.org.

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**REST Assured!**

**Resilience and Emotional Support Team (REST) Provides Mental Health Response**

*Adela M. Rodriguez, LMSW, Field Response Coordinator, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Mental Health Disaster Preparedness and Response*

Mrs. Rodriguez provides the on-site administration and oversight of those response activities in the aftermath of disasters in New York City. Mrs. Rodriguez began her career in Disaster Management as the Assistant Director for Family Support Services with the National American Red Cross - September 11th Recovery Program (SRP). Her disaster management experience also includes volunteer recruitment and training of spontaneous volunteers being deployed to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Mrs. Rodriguez has also held various positions at local New York City Settlement Houses and community-based organizations, including Assistant Director of Senior Services, Homeless Shelter Housing Specialist, Social Worker and mental health practitioner. Mrs. Rodriguez received her Master’s in Social Work from Fordham University - School of Social Work. She trains mental health responders in Psychological First Aid and All Hazards Disaster Mental Health and holds certificates in Brief treatment interventions and Skills for Psychological Recovery. She has lived, worked and studied abroad in both Europe and Asia.

The role of the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at the New York City Department of Health and Mental
Hygiene (DOHMH) is to coordinate the response to the mental health needs of New Yorker’s following disasters and other public health emergencies. Coordination at this level requires a great deal of planning and preparation as well as a strong cadre of mental health professionals who understand the psychological impact of disasters, are knowledgeable about evidence-based disaster mental health interventions and are ready for deployment with short notice. To that end, BMH has organized a mental health response group known as the Resilience & Emotional Support Team (REST Team).

REST was formed out of a unique collaborative partnership with the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) and is comprised of qualified, trained individuals, from social workers to psychologists and psychiatrists, who, when activated, can be rapidly mobilized to provide onsite disaster mental health support by providing information and referral, Psychological First Aid (PFA), psycho-educational material and crisis counseling.

At this time DOHMH is seeking to increase the number of trained disaster mental health volunteers available to respond as members of our REST team. There are currently over 350 trained REST responders. REST responders provide emotional support in the community and/or at City-designated response sites and have played an important role in some of the City’s responses, including the H1N1 influenza pandemic, the construction crane collapse, the casino highway bus crash, Hurricane Irene, and most recently Superstorm Sandy.

Superstorm Sandy had a major psychological impact on New Yorkers and in order to meet the needs of those impacted, REST responders were utilized to provide mental health support at the City’s special medical needs shelters - 24 hours per day for 3 weeks. REST responders were instrumental in supporting shelter operations by providing emotional support and helping individuals navigate the shelter system. As shelters are often a chaotic environment, sometimes without support, individuals can become overwhelmed. In Queens, a DOHMH staff MH responder prevented this from happening by taking the time to connect with a hard to reach gentleman who was about to be sent from the shelter to a nursing home. By talking and taking the time to listen to his story she learned that he in fact owned a house he wanted to return to. This MH responder went the extra mile and escorted the senior to his home to assess the damage. Upon returning to the shelter she helped him lay out a plan so he could return to his home permanently.

Another example of a REST responder helping an evacuee feel more at ease was in a shelter in Brooklyn. At this shelter, the REST responder assisted an evacuee who came to the shelter alone and spoke limited English to connect with a group from her community who spoke her language. This helped reduce her anxiety and increase her social support system to enhance her ability to cope better with her situation, including the possibility of losing her home. These are just two examples of REST responders providing the much needed support in the field throughout the shelters.

Lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy have reinforced the need to expand recruitment efforts and seek collaborations with professional organizations such as the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). To that end, we are partnering with New York City’s NASW’s Disaster Trauma Committee to provide training to interested Social Workers looking to participate in NYC’s responses system as REST responders.

All REST responders must complete a mandatory free full day training entitled “All Hazards Disaster Mental Health” (which includes PFA), and attend related trainings throughout the year on various disaster related topics. Individuals who join the REST team will gain satisfaction from knowing that they are collectively helping New Yorkers respond to and recover from the mental health implications of disasters and public health emergencies.

If you are interested in becoming a REST responder and want to attend training at NYC NASW headquarters* you must first register with the Medical Reserves Corp (MRC) at https://apps.nyhealth.gov/vms/appmanager/vms/public?prog=34

After you have registered with MRC please contact NASW-NYC by clicking here to express interest in the mandatory All Hazards Disaster Mental Health training.

* A minimum of 25 members is needed to hold a special training for NASW members at the local headquarters.
Social Work Community Turns Out for Leadership Awards Dinner

Social Work’s Response Recognized One Month After Superstorm Sandy

Peter Beitchman, DSW, LMSW; Chair, NASW Fundraising Committee; CEO, The Bridge

By any measure, the 6th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner was a huge success. We had quantity: almost 500 guests attended, making it the largest celebration of social work in 2012 and a highly successful fundraising event. Then there was quality: the leaders we honored in all three categories, (Top, Mid-Career and Emerging), were truly deserving and a source of pride to all social workers in the City. Add to that the bonus of heartfelt remarks from City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who lauded the Chapter for orchestrating the magnificent social work response to Superstorm Sandy. Speaker Quinn marveled at the speed with which Bob Schachter and his team responded to her call for help and at the number of social workers who volunteered in the critical days following the storm.

To elaborate on the thrill of the awards: I think our dinner is the only professional association event in which the full scope of a career is acknowledged and celebrated. When you have legendary leaders of the field (Maria Elena Girone, Carmen Ortiz Hendricks, Paul Levine and Mary Redd) who have contributed so much and nurtured so many, sharing honors with 10 mid-career standouts and 12 emerging leaders who in the early years of their career have already made noteworthy contributions, to experience the full breadth and depth of what a career in social work can always truly inspire for me is just to witness.

Then there was the sheer joy of being together. Gary (it’s hard-to-believe he’s a social worker) Parker was our high-spirited MC for the evening. And there was the usual competition among the partisans of the schools of social work represe the honorees. As the name of each honoree’s school was mentioned, cheers filled the hall from those who were associated in one way or another with that school. Little sorry for the one emerging leader not from one of the City’s schools of social work, although her colleagues certainly cheered her on.

So much good feeling, plus a nice treasury to be able to keep a strong voice with City and State government officials at a crucial time when we are advocating for the clients we serve and our profession: licensing, loan forgiveness, enhancing salaries and working conditions, promoting anti-oppressive and culturally competent practice.

Thanks to the Chapter staff, Fundraising and Awards Selection Committees for an outstanding event; looking forward to next year’s event!
City Council Speaker Christine Quinn thanks NASW-NYC for their help in organizing social workers to respond to the devastation brought on by Superstorm Sandy.

Almost 500 people gathered on December 6, 2012 to honor 26 social work leaders and recognize the response of social workers in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

From left to right: Susan Wong, former Co-Chair, NASW-NYC Asian American Social Work Task Force; Roschelle Stearns, Co-Chair, NASW-NYC PACE; New York State Comptroller Jon Liu; Emerging Leader honoree John Tsoi.

Visit the Chapter website at www.naswnyc.org to read more about this year's honorees and to view photos from the Awards Dinner.

We welcome letters and comments. Send to contactus@naswnyc.org.
LMSW Test Prep Workshop

Saturday, February 9, 2013
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The workshop will be held at:
The Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College
2180 Third Ave. at 119th St., 2nd floor auditorium
*Please note: Absolutely no food or drink is allowed inside the auditorium.

Presenter
Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW, ACSW
has helped thousands of social workers across the country prepare for the examinations associated with all levels of licensure.

The NASW-NYC Test Prep....

• Breaks down the format and structure of the LMSW examination.
• Teaches successful test-taking strategies to help you answer tricky questions.
• Examines review material in each of the content areas.
• Reviews practice test questions.
• Cost includes a 250+ page study guide and supplemental handouts (including the NASW Code of Ethics).

Member ....................... $115
Non-member ................... $175
Student member ........... $95

Register Early!
Seats are limited.

For registration information, please visit our website at www.naswnyc.org or call (212) 668-0050 ext. #235.
Save the Date

NASW-NYC Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2013

An invitation and more details will be forthcoming in early April.

Click here for information on submitting nominations for the Social Work Image Awards.

MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS

- Membership in NASW
- NASW-NYC Social Work Marketplace
- Social Work Licensing
- Join a Committee
- Continuing Education Program
- Licensing Test Prep Workshops
- Looking for a Job?
- Currents, the NYC Chapter Newsletter

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National Association of Social Workers - NYC Chapter
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New York, NY 10004
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Social Work Month Celebrations in 2013

For over 30 years, NASW-NYC has been encouraging social work agencies and departments to take the initiative in celebrating Social Work Month in March. Events are held throughout the City, ranging from keynote presentations, breakfasts, lunches, parties, and awards receptions, and there are several borough-wide activities, all organized by social workers.

Click here to see 100 ways to promote Social Work Month.

For more about this year's theme click here.

To see what took place in NYC during Social Work Month in 2012, click here.

MOST POPULAR DESTINATIONS

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National Association of Social Workers - NYC Chapter
50 Broadway, Suite 1001
New York, NY 10004
Ph. 212-668-0050 • Fax Not in Service
contactus@naswnyc.org

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Political Action For Candidate Election Committee - PACE

Co-Chairs: Joan Serrano Laufer & Roschel Holland Stearns
Field Organizer: Stella Padnos-Shea, LMSW
Meets the second Wednesday of every month.
E-mail: naswyncpace@gmail.com

PACE Endorsements 2012
Click here to view the listing of PACE's endorsed candidates running for election in 2012.

PACE Questionnaires
Click here to read completed questionnaires by elected officials.

PACE Endorsements 2010
Click here to view PACE's endorsements of elected officials in 2010.
Interested in learning how endorsements are made? Click here.

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Click here to visit the PACE Facebook page and click "Like" to stay up to date with us!

2012 Scholarship Winners
Winners were selected based on essays submitted. Click on the links below to read the essays of the winners and honorable mentions.

The David Roth Scholarship Winner:
Sarah Delp

The Miriam Dinerman Scholarship Winner:
Alexandra Wainfeld

Web Archives
Click here to access PACE archives.

PACE Steering Committee Members with elected officials from the 2012 PACE Annual Meeting.
From left to right: Ed Ma, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Jade de Saussure, Stella Padnos-Shea, Joan Serrano Laufer, State Senator Diane Savino, Jacob Wicks, Roschel Holland Stearns, Alicia Fry, Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis, Robert Schachter

NASW-NYC PACE is the independent political arm of the Chapter. PACE identifies qualified candidates running for local and state offices and garner support for them among the Chapter membership. PACE endorses candidates who espouse social work values and who work to promote both professional goals, such as loan forgiveness and licensing, and client centered goals such as mental health parity and repeal of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Through funding from a small voluntary portion of annual membership dues, NASW-NYC PACE is able to contribute to candidates. NASW-NYC PACE also mobilizes social workers to participate in political campaigns through the use of social work skills including planning, organizing, motivating, and working within systems. The Committee's mission includes educating and involving social workers in the political process. NASW-NYC PACE generally meets at the Chapter office from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. E-mail naswyncpace@gmail.com for more information.
Federal Benefits Will Only Be Paid Electronically: Ensure Your Clients Are Able to Access Their Electronic Federal Benefits

Anyone currently receiving federal benefit payments by paper check is required to switch to an electronic payment method by March 1, 2013. The switch to electronic payments is a win-win for federal benefit recipients and for taxpayers. It provides a safer, more secure, more convenient way for Americans to access their federal benefits, while also delivering significant savings for taxpayers.

The Go Direct® public education campaign provides Americans with the resources to transition to electronic payment options for Social Security, Veteran’s Affairs and other federal benefits.

For more information please click here [http://www.godirect.org/](http://www.godirect.org/).

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contactus@naswnyc.org

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In Memoriam - Dr. Aaron Beckerman

Dr. Aaron Beckerman passed away on November 26, 2012, a victim of a massive heart attack. He was 89 years old.

He was designated by the Chapter as a Social Work Pioneer in recognition of his important professional contributions during more than 50 years of his career as a social worker. He received his master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work and his doctorate at Columbia.

A master teacher of research, he served on the faculty of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work for over thirty years, including several years as Associate Dean. He was a key member of the doctoral faculty and was a dissertation advisor for many Wurzweiler graduates. His interest in health brought him an invitation to help develop and teach a seminar for students at the NYU Medical School focused on helping doctors understand and treat patients as whole persons functioning in a social environment.

Aaron's interest in social group work led to the authorship of a number of papers and active involvement with other social workers in that field. He served for two years on the board of the New York City chapter. He helped to found Rekindling Reform, a pioneering health reform and advocacy organization and was the vice-president of the Universal Health Care Foundation of New York.

Over the past few years, Aaron pursued his interest in poetry and led a children's poetry workshop every summer at Camp Walt Whitman. He published a volume of his poems entitled "Meandering." On the last day of his life, he had an appointment to meet with the staff of his member of Congress in order to lobby against a Grand Bargain that would hurt our country's social programs. He was unable to keep that appointment because of the heart attack. I believe that if he had the opportunity, he would have echoed Joe Hill's famous message: Don't mourn for me.....ORGANIZE!

We welcome letters and comments.
Send to contactus@naswnyc.org

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The NASW-NYC Nominations Committee Seeks Recommendations for Chapter Elections – Spring 2013

The Chapter’s Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification has requested that members begin to make nominations now. The basic requirement for being nominated is current membership in NASW. NASW-NYC policy for President-Elect is that a member has served on the chapter Board of Directors.

In keeping with NASW’s Affirmative Action policy, Chapter leadership must proportionally reflect the number of women (79%) and people of color (19%) in the organization’s overall membership. NASW recognizes the following groups in its Affirmative Action policy: American Indian/Native Americans; Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders; Blacks and Latinos. The Chapter will also consider sexual orientation as part of its affirmative action goals.

The Committee will accept recommendations until December 1 (or beyond if positions are not filled). Please use this form to make your recommendations. If you would like details regarding the duties and responsibilities of the respective positions, please call (212) 668-0050.

**POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>(1) – three year commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>(1) – three year term</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Vice President</td>
<td>(1) – one year term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>(1) – one year term</td>
</tr>
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<td>MSW Student Member</td>
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<td>BSW Student Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominations Committee</td>
<td>(6) – 2 year term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommendations for 2013 Chapter Elections**

Nominee: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________
Address: ____________________________ City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________
Telephone (home): __________ (work): ____________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________
Gender: ____________________________ Sexual orientation (optional): ____________________________

Ethnicity:
- American Indian/Native American
- Asian American/Pacific Islander
- Black
- White
- Latino
- Other

Elected position for which person is most interested in running: ____________________________

Areas of expertise of the proposed nominee (use additional sheet if necessary):
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Specific qualifications that reflect the person’s readiness for the position recommended:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

If this is not a self-referral, please fill out the following;
Your Name: ____________________________
Telephone (home): __________ (work): __________
E-Mail: ____________________________

Return to: Nominations Committee, NASW-NYC, 50 Broadway, Suite 1001, New York, NY 10004, or via fax at 212 668-0305.
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