



# Voices Center for Resilience

## 2021 Year in Review

Remembrance, Reflection and Resilience



20<sup>TH</sup> voices  
ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

## VOICES By The Numbers

Developed **Tip Sheets** for communities impacted by Traumatic Events & COVID-19, distributed to individuals and organizations – locally, nationally, and worldwide



Featured presenter at **76+** national and international conferences; advisor to **17** government and NGO committees; virtual panelist to **20** meetings

Convened **over 35** symposiums and conferences and **86** educational workshops and on-site trainings



Provided critical information and support services to **over 6,800** victims' families, survivors and responders and program/event updates to **over 10,500** members

Provided **190,000+** hours of a wide array of meaningful social work support services



Held **2,081+** teleconference and virtual support groups for victims' families, survivors and responders

The **9/11 Living Memorial** commemorates **2,977** lives lost, expanded to include **5,000** responders & survivors who have died since from 9/11-related illnesses



Conducted research examining long-term needs of **600+** victims' families resulting in 2 scientific publications and best practices

Assisted **1,800+** responders and survivors with access to medical and mental health treatment in the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and the WTC Health Program



VOICES Internship Program has hosted **over 231** student interns from **5** high schools and **32** colleges and **3** graduate schools

In 2021, the VOICES website engaged **275,000+** users with over **1,200,000** page views





**Remembrance, Reflection and Resilience** was the theme of VOICES 20th Anniversary programs and events. For nearly two decades, these principles have guided our pioneering efforts to provide critical support for thousands of victims' families, responders, survivors, and for the families of those who have died of 9/11-related illnesses, and to advocate on their behalf for national policy reform.

The 20th anniversary was a milestone for the families and friends who lost loved ones on September 11, for our nation that was forever changed that day, and for VOICES as an organization. Together, we recognized and celebrated the resilience demonstrated by the 9/11 community, while acknowledging that still today, the healing process continues.

While the ongoing pandemic brought an increased need for mental health support to light, the emergence of Zoom allowed us to significantly broaden the reach of our programming across the country and around the world. Individuals from 34 states and 9 countries came together for our **Remembrance Symposium** making the event our most widely attended to date.

Looking ahead, we will continue to provide innovative and supportive programming, and are excited to be launching the 9/11 Living Memorial Project for Survivors and Responders. The fact that after 20 years, individuals continue to reach out to us for the first time, makes our work more important than ever.

We recognize and thank all who continue to support VOICES – our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and donors. Our work would not be possible without you. It is an honor to share this year-in-review report – as we have so much to celebrate together.

Warm regards,

Mary Fetchet & the VOICES Team





# Providing Meaningful Support



## PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE

In response to the unique challenges and heightened emotions associated with the 20th Anniversary, VOICES assembled a robust catalog of programmatic offerings designed to provide support, encourage hope, and promote healing throughout 2021.

Our workshops, webinars and support groups provided practical strategies for “Building Personal and Community Resilience” and brought members of the 9/11 Community together as they first anticipated, and then reflected on, this milestone year.

### Virtual Learning Opportunities

Leveraging the virtual power of Zoom, VOICES programs provided a bridge connecting our exceptional facilitators to family members, survivors and responders from across the United States and around the world; and as the second year of the Pandemic prolonged isolation for so many, our Zoom gatherings provided a much-needed sense of connection for all who participated.

In this 12-month period, VOICES offered more than 70 hours of engaging programming to our community. Workshop highlights included a five-part series entitled, “Pathways to Resilience”, a scientific and experiential investigation of Equine Therapy as a unique treatment for PTSD, and a session entitled, “The Path Forward After 20 Years: The Six Honorings of Love and Loss.”

### Supportive Programs

VOICES Writing Workshop for Survivors and our on-going support groups brought comfort to participants, as did our meaningful interactions with the Office of Chief Medical Officer for the City of New York who shared updates with our families.

We are proud of the impact our programs have had throughout this 20th Anniversary year. The overwhelming positive feedback from participants, and the very kind notes of gratitude that we receive following our programs, help us to know that we continue down a very meaningful path.



*“VOICES support programs have been extremely helpful – allowing me to feel more connected during the last year, than the last two decades of therapy.”*

– SUSAN G.

# VOICES 20th Anniversary Remembrance Symposium



VOICES 20th Anniversary Symposium was held on September 9 and 10 at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in New York City, and also broadcasted online.

**Remembrance, Reflection and Resilience** was the theme of the two-day symposium as we remembered those we lost, reflected on our journey together, and looked to the future with renewed resilience. Presentations highlighted the expertise of professionals who discussed their accomplishments over the past 20 years, lessons learned, and observations for the future.

Topics included trauma and resilience, journalism and national security, the VCF and compensation programs, pending legal issues and personal reflections from all.



*"I don't think there's a better example in American history of a group of citizens taking an event that was so personal and tragic to them, and turning it into a triumph..."*

— THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. KEAN,  
9/11 COMMISSIONER

**Mike Kelly**, author and columnist, moderated several panel discussions that included:

**Senator Susan Collins, The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, and Richard Ben-Veniste.**

Noted panelists appearing during the symposium were: **Dr. Richard Beck, Rupa Bhattacharyya, Alice Greenwald, and Governor George Pataki.**

As we reflect on this milestone anniversary, we are grateful to the many speakers who shared their important insights. Special thanks to all our Symposium sponsors including our 20th Anniversary Commemorative sponsors: Turken, Heath & McCauley, and The Dearie Law firm.

[> Watch the September 9 Presentations](#)

[> Watch the September 10 Presentations](#)



(Left to Right) Richard Ben-Veniste, Thomas Kean, Joseph Lieberman, Susan Collins, Mary Fetchet, and Mike Kelly

Sessions were organized to be informative and enlightening for the 9/11 community as well as the general public.

## Thursday, September 9

- Candlelighting Ceremony and Opening Remarks
- Bearing Witness to Tragedy: How 9/11 Changed Journalism and Journalists
- Horse Soldiers: The Story of Special Forces in Afghanistan
- Looking Back to Look Forward: What Worked/What's Next?
- Understanding Resilience and Risk Following Traumatic Events
- Voices of Victims' Families, Survivors and Responders

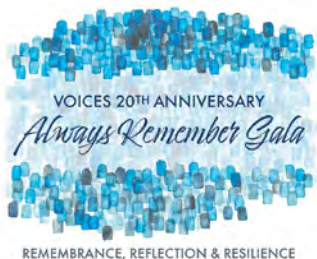
## Friday, September 10

- Sites of Memory: Building 9/11 Memorials on Sacred Ground
- The 9/11 Commission: A Retrospective
- 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and Compensation Programs
- Progress Report on September 11 Litigation
- World Trade Center Medical & Mental Health Updates
- The Role of Sports Following 9/11

Plus a private meeting for 9/11 Families with NYC OCME and two peer-to-peer discussion groups – one for 9/11 Families and one for 9/11 Survivors



# VOICES 20th Anniversary Gala



On November 3, VOICES hosted its 20th Anniversary *Always Remember* Gala, recognizing three esteemed honorees for their dedication and leadership in the aftermath of 9/11.

Robert Hurst, Founder and Former CEO of 9/11 United Services Group was presented with VOICES Legacy Award; Edie Lutnick, Co-founder and President of the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund was presented with VOICES Building Bridges Award; and General David Petraeus, US Army (Ret.) was presented with VOICES Leadership Award.

The evening was hosted by ESPN personality, Jeremy Schaap, with opening remarks by Board president, Bonnie McNamara, followed by informative and moving speeches by all the honorees.



Robert McDuffie

Bonnie McNamara

Jeremy Schaap

Internationally renowned violinist, Robert McDuffie received a standing ovation for his truly moving musical performance of *Ashokan Farewell*, which he also played in Ken Burns' documentary, *The Civil War*.

This year's event was held at the New York City Athletic Club and more than 230 attended. It was our most successful *Always Remember* Gala to date and we are grateful to all who marked this milestone occasion with us.

[> Watch the Gala](#)

# VOICES 7th Annual Golf Outing

On Monday, June 14, VOICES hosted its Annual Golf Outing at the beautiful Quaker Ridge Golf Club. We were thrilled to have over 160 golfers register to play on this world-class championship course which made it VOICES most successful Golf Outing ever!

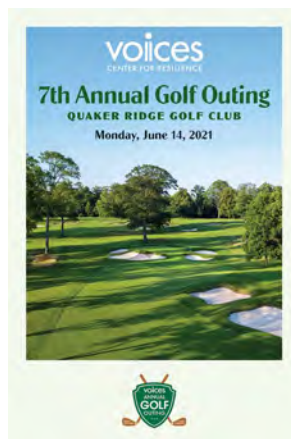
Quaker Ridge is consistently ranked as one of the country's top golf experiences. Of course all proceeds fund VOICES important work.

Thank you to all our supporters, our Golf Committee and its Co-chairs, who made this day an event to remember! Of course none of this would have been possible without the help of Bob Musich and his team at Quaker Ridge, along with our sponsors, Polo, Lexus of Larchmont, Kane 11, and our volunteers. Our 2022 outing is set for June 13, 2022 at Quaker Ridge and registration will open March 1.

[> See the full page color ad](#)



Golf Committee, with co-chairs Peter Krieger & Jack Loop (top left)



Trish DeSantis, Joanne Ecclesine, Jane Leonard, and Susan Lovejoy

# Voices of Reflection: An Exhibit of 9/11 Art



For two decades, VOICES has maintained a private, collection of 9/11-related artistic expressions by artists of all ages from around the world.

The 20th Anniversary was a fitting time to share our collection in an exhibit with the theme of **Reflections of Hope and Healing**. Debuted at the Silvermine Arts Center in New Canaan, CT, the exhibit garnered rave reviews and it was a wonderful way to mark this milestone event.

Diane Brudnicki, who founded the Seattle Art Project, has worked with VOICES since its inception in 2001 – featuring artwork created by students to support 9/11 families. Also featured was John Coburn, a Toronto, Canada artist who shared his story of his 20 year journey from 9/11, and Robert Carley, a Darien, CT photographer who traveled around the United States after 9/11 documenting the history of the patriotism throughout the country.

> [View the exhibit video and Dianne, John & Robert](#)



Three of the pieces featured in the exhibit



Voices of Reflection Opening Reception



Dianne Brudnicki



John Coburn

## Fundraisers Supporting VOICES

Support for VOICES came from the fundraising efforts of caring individuals and organizations at all levels – and this milestone year was no exception. We want to recognize the following people and organizations by showcasing the range of events they held during this past year. VOICES appreciates and is thankful for the collective effort to support our 20th Anniversary programs.

### Cream Ridge New Jersey 9/11 Memorial Concert

After researching many non-profits related to the 9/11 Community, Mary Jones of the Roost Restaurant, chose VOICES as the beneficiary of their 9/11 fundraiser. Mary and her associates organized an outdoor concert that featured The Best of The Eagles with performances by 80's Undercover and Emily Vadala. The event had 300+ people!

### NYC Still Rising: A Comedy Celebration

In remembrance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the star-studded night brought together many of today's comedic greats to Madison Square Garden in New York City on September 12. All proceeds benefited 9/11 charities.

### Kristen Pagano Facebook Fundraiser

Kristen was an invaluable intern at VOICES last year and supported us by creating a fundraiser on Facebook, reaching out to her friends and family.



### New Canaan Baseball and Softball Honor the 9/11 20th Anniversary

In remembrance of the historic events of 9/11, New Canaan Baseball & Softball opened their fall recreation seasons in honor of all those affected by the events of that day and in support for the victims' families, responders, and survivors. On September 11, over 200 youth baseball and softball players participated in opening day games.

### "The Guys" Fundraiser

On August 28, David Rook and Collen Lovett performed a stage reading of *The Guys*. The one-night event was held in Bethlehem, NY. In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, journalist Anne Nelson received a request from the NYFD to assist Fire Captain Nick Flanagan to compose eulogies for the firefighters under his command lost on September 11th. *The Guys* is based around those conversations.



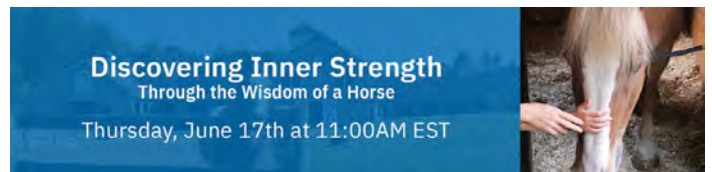
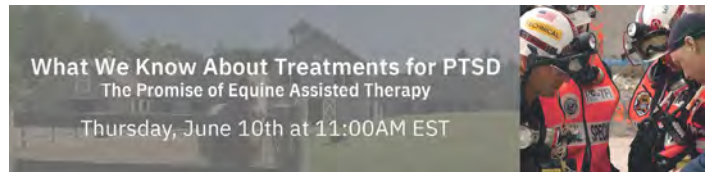
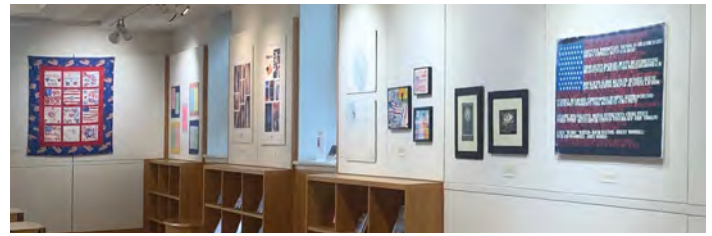
# Community Engagement Through Partnerships

VOICES has a long history of value-added collaboration with other community organizations.

VOICES had the pleasure of partnering with New Canaan Public Library in 2021. At the time of the 20th Anniversary, artwork from our collection was placed on display for library patrons to enjoy, and a kiosk featuring the 9/11 Living Memorial Project allowed visitors to learn about, and to honor, those lost in the 9/11 attacks.

We were also fortunate to work with New Canaan Mounted Troop, and Drs. Yuval Neria and Prudence Fisher from Columbia University, to explore the positive impact of equine assisted instruction/therapy on those who suffer from PTSD. This partnership resulted in two exceptional summer workshops for the VOICES community.

In this 12-month period, VOICES offered more than 70 hours of engaging programming to our community. Workshop highlights included a five-part series entitled, "Pathways to Resilience", and a session entitled, "The Path Forward After 20 Years: The Six Honorings of Love and Loss."



## Working With Like-Minded Organizations



Through longstanding public-private partnerships with like-minded subject-matter experts, VOICES shares best practices and lessons learned to help communities impacted by tragedy.

In 2021, VOICES continued our powerful work with members of the American Group Psychotherapy Association who generously gave of their time in the weeks leading up to the Anniversary and beyond allowing members of our community to process their emotions in a safe environment.



VOICES U.S. and international partners include:

- Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund
- Center for Disease Control, WTCHealth Program
- European Union Victim Services
- International Network Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence (INVICTM)
- Leadership In Counterterrorism Alumni Association (LinCT)
- Office for the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City
- Office of Victims of Crime
- Operation Kenova, Victim Focus Group
- Public Safety Canada
- 9/11 Memorial Museum



# Upcoming Programs and Events



This January, VOICES began hosting peer-to-peer support groups, led by trained facilitators. These supportive conversations are specifically designed to help the 9/11 Community.

## Upcoming Support Groups (groups meet at 12:00PM EST)

### 9/11 Family Members

Mondays, February 21; March 7, 21

### 9/11 Survivors

Tuesdays, February 22; March 8, 22

### 9/11 Responders

Mondays, February 14, 28; March 14, 28

### Families of Those Who Have Died of 9/11-Related Illness

Tuesdays, February 15; March 1, 15, 29

### Bereavement Group for Those Who Have Lost a Loved One in the Past Three Years

Thursdays, February 10, 24; March 3, 17, 31; April 7

### NYC Chief Medical Examiner Update

9/11 families are invited to attend a virtual meeting with Dr. Barbara Sampson and her successor, Dr. Jason Graham. OCME staff will provide updates.

Tuesday, Feb 15 – 12:00pm EST; replay at 7:00pm

Our new virtual interactive workshops and programs are held monthly on a variety of topics. *What is Resilience?, Attaining Wellness through Yoga & Mindful Practice and Introduction to Journaling as a Self-Care Tool* started the new year with strong attendance.

## Upcoming Workshops



### Meet the Author

Bonnie McEneaney McNamara will discuss her book, *Messages: Signs, Visits, and Premonitions from Loved Ones Lost on 9/11*.

Monday, February 28 – 7:00pm EST

### Living Memorial for 9/11 Responders & Survivors

A program commemorating the lives lost since 9/11 due to 9/11-related illnesses.

Wednesday, February 16 – 12:00pm EST

*See below for more information.*



### Mindfulness & Self-Compassion

This is the second in a 5-part series of interactive workshops on Resilience. A guided discussion is woven throughout the workshop.

Wednesday, February 23 – 12:00pm EST

## Living Memorial Project for Responders and Survivors

# 9 Living Memorial

VOICES 9/11 Living Memorial Project commemorates the 2,977 victims who lost their lives on 9/11 and is expanding to include responders and survivors who have since passed from 9/11-related illnesses.

VOICES is honored to host the Living Memorial on our site. We are grateful for the participation of family members, survivors and responders, including a new cohort of family members of those who have died due to a 9/11-related illness, that we will continue to serve moving forward.

*It is an honor to have Marijo's life & legacy memorialized on the Living Memorial website. It took little effort to create and we were able share her Memorial with friends and family – reminding all of us of her life's impact.*

– MARK O'GRADY, HUSBAND



Family Members, Survivors, and Responders can visit the 9/11 Living Memorial to:

- Learn about the lives of the 2,977 victims
- Submit photographs to honor survivors and responders via the user-friendly submission upload form
- Contribute your own story
- Share a tribute or personal message in the guestbook
- Document a memorial

[> View the 9/11 Living Memorial website](#)

# Thank You to Our 2021 Partners and Organizations

## 20th Anniversary Symposium

Michael Barasch  
Richard Beck, LCSW  
Richard Ben-Veniste  
Rupa Bhattacharyya  
Robert Brackbill  
Joseph Cavalcante  
Senator Susan Collins  
Steve Clark  
John Dearie  
Mark Desire  
John Eubanks  
Gordie Felt  
Mary Fetchet  
Frank Fetchet  
Carl Gajewski  
Anthony Gardner  
Scott Gassman  
Allison Gilbert  
Alice Greenwald  
Fred Guttenberg  
Allison Gilbert  
Robert Haefele  
Jane Harman  
The Honorable Thomas H. Kean  
Mike Kelly  
Jim Kreindler  
Noah Kushlefsky  
Jim Laychak  
Stefanie Langsam  
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman  
Jim Leyritz  
Matt McCauley  
Scott Neil  
Jennifer Odien  
Mark O'Grady  
Connie Palmer, LCSW  
Governor George Pataki  
Bob Pennington  
Dr. Bruce Perry  
Dr. Joan Reibman

Tim Roemer  
Dr. Rebecca Rosen  
Dr. Barbara Sampson  
Jeremy Schaap  
Janny Scott  
Christopher Shays  
Gary Smiley  
Bobby Valentine  
Jeff Van Gundy  
Dr. Leigh Wilson

## 20th Anniversary Always Remember Gala

Deborah Haines  
Robert J. Hurst  
Eddie Lutnick  
Robert McDuffie  
General David Petraeus  
Jeremy Schaap

## Gala Committee Members

Dede & Jim Bartlett  
Ann & George Bodenheimer  
John Duffy  
Colleen & Tim McCarthy  
Kelly & Brian Lavigne  
Betsy Garrison  
The Honorable Thomas H. Kean  
Jeanmarie Hargrave & Tom Kerns  
Mary Beth Lee  
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman  
Bonnie McNamara  
Robert McNamara  
Emily & Thomas Michaud  
Kim White

## Voices of Reflection 9/11 Art Exhibit

Thomas Beckett  
Thomas Bernsten  
Dianne Brudnicki

Robert Carley  
John Coburn  
Gail Ellspermann  
Alex Drakakis  
Megan Jackson  
Roger Mudre  
Bethany Romanowski  
Jessica Vergel

## Annual Golf Outing

Peter Krieger, Co Chair  
Jack Loop, Co Chair  
George Bodenheimer  
Bill Cobb  
Trish DeSantis  
John Duffy  
Bill Fessler  
Frank Fetchet  
Peter Finnican  
John Reilly  
Mark Silverman

## Program Facilitators

American Group Psychotherapy Assoc.  
Carolina Bautista-Valez  
Carrie Brady  
Mark Desire  
Dr. Ken Druck  
Caroleigh Evarts  
Debra Farber  
Dr. Prudence Fisher  
Carl Gajewski  
Jody Jacob-McVey  
Katherine Manners  
Dr. Yuval Neria  
Connie Palmer, LCSW  
New Canaan Mounted Troop  
Jennifer Odien  
Connie Palmer  
Sara Tucker  
Angelique Tung

## VOICES 20th Anniversary Sponsors

Turken Heath  
& McCauley

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ATTORNEYS  
AT LAW

THE DEARIE LAW FIRM, P.C.





