

Consumer Advisory Board Meeting

We asked for it, we got it, and then some. On April 9th, 200 mental health consumers and participating agency staff arrived at HAI's office for the annual Mental Health Consumer Advisory Board Meeting. This was a record turnout; since 1992, HAI has hosted these open forums, providing consumers the opportunity to speak their minds. Because a mere 150 had RSVP'd, HAI staff feverishly placed last minute lunch orders with local delis to cope with the overflow in attendance.

Tami Goldman, representing New York City Council Member David I. Weprin of Hollis, Queens, Chair, Finance Committee, offered the assistance and resources of the Council Member. Jennifer Mincin of Project Liberty, a NYC Department of Public Health program, described their post September 11th counseling available to all New Yorkers.

Consumers and facility staff had a lot to say, requesting more tickets to sporting events and proposing inter-

esting programming such as arts workshop training for facility staff.

Everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch which provided an opportunity for guests to address questions and comments about HAI's services and to mingle on a more informal level. Consumers and mental health staff seemed to appreciate the opportunity to speak directly to HAI staff and each other.

New Website Unveiled!

HAI is pleased to announce the launch, tentatively set for May 1st, of a new version of its website, www.hospitalaudiences.org. The website features up-to-date information regarding HAI's programs, our latest publications and a special exhibit by the Outsider Artists of HAI. Nearly the entire site has been built to comply with Section 508 Guidelines for Web Content Accessibility.

Brand new to the site is a searchable database merging the information from our access guides: *Access for All: A Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions*, its update, *Addendum 2001*, and *On the Go: A Guide to New York City Culture at a Discount for Seniors*. The database

provides information about the physical and programmatic accessibility of hundreds of New York City cultural institutions. Users can search by name of venue, by borough, by neighborhood in Manhattan, and by type of venue (museum, gallery, Broadway theater). Information is also provided about the availability, if any, of senior discounts.

The release of the database to the public comes after months of extensive review. In order to ensure that the data is up-to-date, HAI contacted every listed venue.



HAI Sets a Record

On Wednesday, April 17th, HAI set a record with a roster of 56 events for a single day including six Broadway shows, the Mets in the afternoon, the Yankees in the evening, three Off Broadway shows and, to top it off, Omni*Bus trips to the Museum of Natural History and Lundy's restaurant. Participants from 36 mental health agencies and public schools

attended. (An additional 19 agencies hosted on-site HAI arts or violence prevention workshops as well as performing arts events.)

This date was a milestone in HAI's 33-year history in terms of the number, range and quality of "community events," i.e. performances attended at New York cultural

venues, outside of institutional settings. HAI has often had 3,000 participants in one day, such as at Madison Square Garden and its own Community Performing Arts Series productions. On April 17th, 1,600 individuals participated; it was the range of community events that was exceptional.

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This May, HAI will give Hope And Inspiration to an audience of more than 26,100 people at more than 970 events by offering opportunities...

...to enjoy dance, theater, concerts and more

* In May, the **Cultural Events Program** will provide more than 7,000 people with opportunities to attend more than 80 events including:

<i>Metamorphoses</i>	Circle in the Square Theatre	American Ballet Theatre	Metropolitan Opera House
<i>QED</i>	Vivian Beaumont Theater	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Broadhurst Theatre
Dance Africa	Brooklyn Academy of Music	<i>Elaine Stritch at Liberty</i>	Neil Simon Theatre
New York Mets	Shea Stadium	<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	Marquis Theatre
New York Yankees	Yankee Stadium	Campagnie Kafig	Joyce Theater
<i>Stomp</i>	Orpheum Theatre	<i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)</i>	Century Center for the Performing Arts
New York City Ballet	New York State Theater		

* HAI's **Theatre Festival** will present Charles Ludlam's *Reverse Psychology* directed by Max Daniels, a wacky farce about married psychiatrists who become involved with each other's patients. The 14 performance run will take place at Urban Stages, 259 West 30th Street, Manhattan, from May 22nd through June 1st. Tickets are \$30 and \$10 for senior citizens. For reservations call (212) 575-7660.

* The **Describe! Program** provides live audio descriptions of Broadway and Off Broadway performances for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Featured this month are: *Mamma Mia!* at the Winter Garden Theater on May 1st at 8pm, *The Lion King* at the New Amsterdam Theater on May 17th at 8pm and *42nd Street* at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts on May 30th at 8pm.

* In May, the **Omni*Buses** will take more than 900 individuals on 40 trips including the Westchester Broadway Theater, Newark Symphony Hall, Bear Mountain, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Yankee Stadium, Museum of Jewish Heritage, the State Theater in New Brunswick and the Special Olympics.

* **Tickets To Go** sponsors greatly discounted tickets to renowned cultural and entertainment events for New York City seniors aged 60 and over. 214 individuals will attend five events in May, including *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*, *Metamorphoses* and *The Man Who Had All the Luck*.

* **Arts Alive!**, a program conceived and funded by Princeton University and administered by HAI, provides access to live arts events for New York City public schoolchildren affected by September 11th, and helps sustain New York cultural organizations. In May, more than 3,400 students will attend 72 events including *Aida*, *Chicago*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as well as visits to the Museum of Modern Art and Museum of the Moving Image.

* This May, the **On-Site Performance Program** will reach 7,500 people through more than 150 live performances. To honor National Nursing Home Month, the **Burdetskiy Family Circus** will perform at Haym Salomon Home for the Aged and **Aloha Paradise Review** will perform at New Vanderbilt Nursing Home on May 15th.

...to develop competence through artistic expression

* In May, a total of 10,400 people will participate in 700 hours of **Arts Workshops**. In conjunction with HAI's **Arts Mentoring Workshop Series** for the NYC Board of Education, HAI Senior Teaching Artist Joan Merwyn will provide theatrical circus workshops for special needs students during "Art Brings Us Together," VSA's (Very Special Arts) 2002 Arts Festival at Teachers College, Columbia University, May 29th and 30th. The exhibit of consumer art from New York City mental health programs, presented in conjunction with the Morningside Westside Community Action Corporation's Silent Auction, continues at HAI's loft through May 13th.

...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living

* The HAI **Prevention Education Program** uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, homelessness, youth leadership/violence prevention and Medicaid Managed Care. In May, more than 40 workshops will reach more than 1,200 individuals. HIV Prevention and Youth Leadership workshops will take place at Harlem House, New York Public Libraries in the Bronx, Richard R. Green High School, the Queens Alternatives to Detention Center and the High School of Graphic Communication Arts.

...to gain access to information and to learn more about our mission

* HAI has various publications to aid disabled and elderly people and to enlighten and stimulate the general public as to the value of *live arts experiences*. A hard copy of *Access for All: A Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions* is available by writing to HAI. An updated version is available on our website. The third edition of *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness* can be viewed at www.hospitalaudiences.org.