

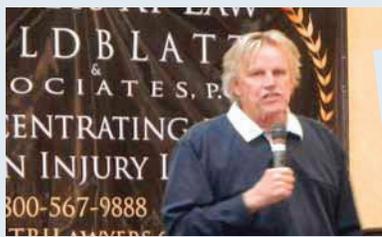
Brain Power

August 2015



Friends, Family Members, Service Providers and Leaders Come to the 33rd "Uniting As The Voice of Brain Injury" Annual Conference!

Presentations, Celebrations and even a few Buseyisms were on hand.



Whether you attended the Professional Symposium, CBIS Training, one of our many workshops, visited our exhibitors or possibly attended the unforgettable luncheon with actor and keynote speaker Gary Busey, I'm sure you probably said "That was a conference I will never forget." We share that sentiment. What was your favorite moment? Was it Thursday evening as attendees were greeted by the music of "Brain Waves" while enjoying international delicacies and desserts? Friday morning attending the BIANYS Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony? Or Gary Busey's passionate speech to a crowd of over 230 people and photo opportunities afterwards? Sometimes it is the smallest events that mean so much. A first time attendee from Rochester was so excited to be at the conference that she hugged every staff member and said "I feel like I am with family! I don't feel alone and what a great feeling that is."

We want to thank all of our sponsors who made the 33rd Annual Conference a success, including Kenneth Goldblatt & Associates, NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Brain Injury Association of NYS New York City, Syracuse and Rochester Chapters, Today's Limousine and Photography by Evan Lauber and AnneMarie Todd.

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His life will be filled with many milestones.

Your goal is to be there.

A brain injury can affect anyone at anytime.

The Brain Injury Center at St. Camillus offers a full continuum of individualized care. Home to Central New York's only state certified inpatient brain injury program, St. Camillus also offers extensive outpatient rehabilitation, adult day health programming and community-based services through the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Program

Our goal is to get you back home, to your loved ones, your community and your life.

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From the Executive Director, *Eileen Reardon*

Margaret Mead once wrote, **"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."** That quote encompasses the hard work and commitment of our members, leaders and BIANYS staff and Board of Directors. Since arriving last September, my message has been one that emphasizes collaboration and the engagement of many. As leaders, we want to continue to reinforce a sense of hope and work together in a cohesive way. This year is an opportunity to strengthen our partnerships throughout our community; to acknowledge the good work of every individual; and to empower all who are involved, to be a part of the bigger picture in creating real change. Meeting these outcomes will mean a great deal for all of us. This is clearly evident in our **advocacy efforts** with the postponement of the transition of the TBI and NHTD Waivers into Managed Care. A united voice made this happen. The change in our brand and image, particularly our **new website**, engaged members, providers, caregivers and support group leaders in assisting in its design and accessibility. We are excited about the recent recruitment of new committee members and honorees for both March On for Brain Injury walks in the **Hudson Valley and Rochester** to raise vital funds for the organization. Let Margaret Mead's words inspire you to be part of the solution and "Change the World!"

Strength, Unity and Community,

By Dr. Lois Tannenbaum, Board President

The strength of BIANYS is our continued commitment to listen and serve the people who trust us to do so. During the last year, we reached out to members and providers with a needs assessment survey to hear your collective voices. This was followed by our devoted staff, several of whom were new, coming out to various locations across the state to hear your individual voices. Your comments, feedback, and suggestions provided us with invaluable information that allowed us to begin the process of developing a Five Year Strategic Plan that will proudly carry us through 2020.

Unity refers to the proactive joining of the many arms who now, and/or in the future, will work side by side with a unified voice. This will allow us to expand awareness and research that will improve outcomes in all lives touched directly or indirectly by any of the diverse factors of brain injury. We are grateful to our collaborative partners who continue to assist in these endeavors.

All of us reside in the community of brain injury, whether we live in urban, suburban, or rural areas of the state. Many diverse life events have brought us through this doorway both personally and professionally.

Be present, Be involved! The strength, unity, and community of BIANYS thrives only through the support of all. For more information, visit BIANYS.org

New Website

BIANYS Has a NEW Website

Check It Out Today!

www.bianys.org

Access Resources, Support Group Information,
Latest in Our Advocacy Efforts, Contact a FACTS Coordinator,
Participate in a Fundraising Effort, Become a Member,
Download a Webinar or Apply to Volunteer,
all just with a **click** of a button!

Experience You Can Trust

Through our representation of hundreds of individuals with brain injuries, O'Connell and Aronowitz attorneys understand these life-altering injuries.

We have gained insight from our experience with brain injured clients on the unique aspects and specialized needs of each individual and their family.

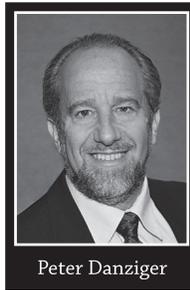
Entrusting us with your legal needs allows you the peace of mind necessary to focus on your recovery.



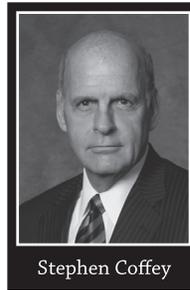
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Why Am I A Member? by Ken Goldblatt

I'm attorney Ken Goldblatt, proprietor of Goldblatt & Associates. I have been a practicing attorney since 1988. I started my own private practice in 1993 concentrating in representing people who had been injured due to the negligence of others. After I was retained to represent a client that had sustained a traumatic brain injury, I started doing research about brain injury.

To better enable me to represent my client, I subscribed to medical journals and joined a national group of brain injury lawyers where I started attending conferences similar to the recent professional conference sponsored by BIANYS. I knew that I had found my calling as a lawyer and that was to represent and assist brain injury survivors and their families.

About 5 years ago I was retained to represent a teenage girl that had experienced brain injury and, through her, was introduced to the BIANYS. I became a proud member and supporter of the BIANYS and have witnessed first-hand the advocacy, community services, and other resources. Join the movement today!

FACTS Program in the Community!

In addition to providing individuals and family members with advocacy, information, and support, the FACTS Coordinators participate in a variety of community events across the state.

On April 7th, Sharon Johnson provided a prevention program to 7th and 8th grade students in Avoca. On April 8th, Laleene Ali teamed up with Jessica Berman at the 'Crunchy Carnival' in Westchester County where over 250 elementary students gathered information about the brain, helmet safety, and had the opportunity to touch the Jell-O brain.



On April 15, Linda Lauber was at TOAST (Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology) in Albany. Close to 100 children attended the health fair and had the opportunity to color a helmet page or read about helmet safety with the booklets provided.

On May 2, Linda also assisted the Albany Police Athletic League with their annual bicycle rodeo and helmet giveaway. Finally, on May 26th Jan Wollney, Ellie Bibawy, and ToniAnn Tumminaro teamed up to participate in the Community Safety Day at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn where over 100 children attended this health and wellness event.



FACTS COORDINATOR
LALEENE ALI WITH
BIANYS VOLUNTEER
JESSICA BERMAN

Mark Your Calendars!

Join BIANYS on **March 23, 2016** for the first **Brain Injury Awareness Day** in Albany. Gather with advocates, supporters, and legislators at the Legislative Office Building to show your support for brain injury awareness!

PROVEN EXCELLENCE IN REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF TBI

Traumatic Brain Injury never discriminates.

Each of us is vulnerable to unforeseen circumstances.

We close our eyes to such unimaginable possibilities until a harsh reality forces them open.

At this turning point, knowing how to reach out to Andy Siegel is of critical importance.



Andy is a lawyer who has dedicated himself to representing courageous TBI survivors and their families.

Andy understands that compassion and admiration is due those who must struggle—in the wake of sudden tragedy—to restructure their lives in an ongoing battle to recover.

What Andy also understands are the obstacles TBI victims and their families regularly face from the legal system, made more painful by hostile, seemingly uncaring insurance company response. For this reason, he goes to battle.

Andy's courtroom victories are won not just because he's experienced, and not only because he's fully committed, but because he simply refuses to give up until he has achieved an outcome fully satisfying to his sense of justice.

With over SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS in jury verdicts, Andy has proven his excellence in representing victims of TBI.

When selecting an attorney, *results* matter.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PROVEN EXCELLENCE IN REPRESENTING VICTIMS OF TBI

(212) 532-0532 • help@tbivictims.com

Andy has been selected as a Superlawyer 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

BIANYS

Raising Money to Support the Mission

BIANYS presents the 8th Annual *Journey of Hope Gala*

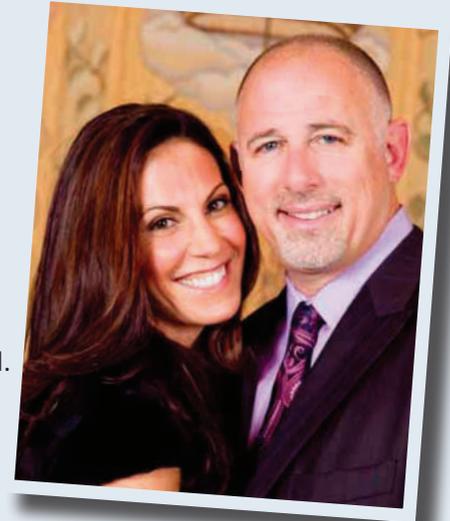
In its 8th year, the Journey of Hope Gala is a wonderful celebration of the courageous individuals and families impacted by brain injury. This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 8th, at a stunning Manhattan venue, the Midtown Loft & Terrace, located at 267 Fifth Avenue. The event will feature a "Taste of New York" with samplings of wineries and micro-breweries from throughout New York along with auction packages highlighting a variety of statewide entertainment and leisure opportunities.

We are excited to announce this year's Honorary Committee Chairs, Andrew Siegel and his wife, Rhandi. Mr. Siegel, of Siegel & Coonerty LLP, has been providing compassionate legal services to TBI survivors for many years. In fact, being a compassionate observer of life's susceptibilities inspired his debut novel, *Suzy's Case*.

"I have witnessed incredible stories of amazing people overcoming insurmountable obstacles in the wake of sudden tragedy" said Siegel, of his work providing legal services to TBI survivors.

Mr. Siegel is enthusiastic about continuing to support the work of BIANYS in this way. "Thank you for joining me in providing support, resources, and most of all, HOPE, to our family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors who have been impacted by brain injury" said Siegel.

For more information regarding the Journey of Hope Gala please visit www.BIANYS.org.



ANDREW AND RHANDI SIEGEL
JOURNEY OF HOPE GALA
HONORARY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

March On for Brain Injury in Hudson Valley, Rochester or right in your backyard!!!

Please join BIANYS for one of two opportunities to March On for Brain Injury!

You can participate and fundraise for BIANYS by registering for the Hudson Valley Walk on August 29th or the Rochester Walk on September 12th or you can register as a virtual walker for either event! Virtual registration allows you to participate in the event, create a personal page and share with your network, even if you are unable to physically attend one of the March On events! We invite all members of the BIANYS community to register or donate and help us continue to provide services, resources and information to those impacted by brain injury throughout NY State.

Please visit one of these websites and show your support today:

MarchOn.bianys.org
HudsonValleyMarchOn.bianys.org
RochesterMarchOn.bianys.org

22nd Annual Art Exhibit



April 13-17, 2015

Our Annual Art Exhibit showcases artist from around the state who have sustained a brain injury. We had the privilege to showcase artists this year with amazing talent. For a week many people were able to come and see the art work as well as support the Brain Injury Association of NYS.



How Do Support Groups Assist in Brain Injury Rehabilitation?

By Robin Cohn

The BIANYS Women's Support Group and Family Forum Roundtables that I started in 2004 are important tools in the healing journeys for individuals who have sustained brain injuries, as well as their families.

A support group brings people together who are facing similar issues. It is a safe, confidential, and trusting environment where individuals can share experiences and advice, as well as gain the resources and support they need in the knowing that they are not alone in their struggles. The validation and comradery is vital in helping a survivor to move forward in their lives. It allows individuals to cope, feel less isolated, and connected to others in the same situations. When a person has sustained a brain injury, they can feel very lonely, isolated, and feeling like, "no one gets it". Support groups help to make them gain a sense of empowerment and control. Individuals can talk openly and honestly about their feelings, which in turn helps to hopefully reduce their distress, depression, and anxiety.



Robin Cohn is the leader of the Capital District Women's Support Group, which has been running for over 10 years.

For more information about Robin's support group, call 518-210-5049. To locate a support group in your area, visit bianys.org/programs/support-groups.

BIANYS Annual Conference... *continued from page 1*

Brain Injury Association of NYS would like to recognize the following honorees for their countless hours of service and dedication to the mission of the organization. The 2015 recipients are Kaiti Pierce for the Volunteer Award, Dr. Mark Herceg and Diana Landwehr for the Founder's Award, AnneMarie Todd for the Silent Angel Award and Linda Khalil for the Mark Ylvisaker Educational Advocacy Award.

So, as we close the chapter on this conference, we look forward. The work has already begun on the planning of the 34th Annual "Uniting as the Voice of Brain Injury" for 2016 and we ask for you to be a part of it. Please send us your ideas and feedback for next year's conference at info@bianys.org. Together, we can make a difference.



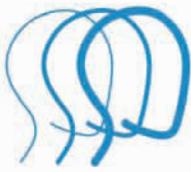
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