

## **CORRECTED - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 26, 2015

### **New Yorker to Attempt 24-Mile Swim from Brooklyn Bridge to Coney Island and Back Again**

**DATE:** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 @ 10:30AM

**START:** In the water just north of the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side

**FINISH:** In the water just north of the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side

On Sunday, September 27 at 10:30am, Alan J. Morrison, a 53-year-old Manhattan resident and marathon swimmer, will attempt to swim from the Brooklyn Bridge to Steeplechase Pier at Coney Island and then back to the Brooklyn Bridge. The 24-mile swim is expected to take over eight hours to complete.

By attempting this swim, Morrison hopes to raise awareness of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, the first and largest torture treatment center in the New York City area. Morrison is a longtime supporter of this vital and inspiring organization, and has served as a founding member of its Advisory Board. The Program provides comprehensive and interdisciplinary medical, mental health, social and legal services to survivors of torture, war trauma and other human rights abuses.

Morrison chose to swim this particular course as a tribute to Brooklyn's two greatest landmarks.

A support crew will accompany Morrison during his swim, and will provide him with safety, navigation and nutrition. Like Morrison, who is on the Board of Directors of the Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers (CIBBOWS), two members of his crew, Patricia Sener and Rondi Davies, are also accomplished marathon swimmers and leaders of CIBBOWS. Sener, CIBBOWS' Executive Director, recently became the first person to swim across the New York / New Jersey Bight. Davies, a member of CIBBOWS' Advisory Board, holds the women's record for the fastest swim around Manhattan.

## **About the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture**

The Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture is the first and largest torture treatment center in the New York City area. The Program provides comprehensive and interdisciplinary medical, mental health, social and legal services to survivors of torture, war trauma and other human rights abuses, and provides such services to their family members. The mission is to assist survivors of torture and human rights abuses in rebuilding healthy, self-sufficient lives, and to contribute to global efforts to end torture. In addition to being recognized for providing outstanding clinical services, the Program is internationally recognized for excellence in its educational, research and advocacy initiatives.

Founded in 1995 by a small group of medical, mental health, and social service providers at Bellevue Hospital and NYU School of Medicine, the Program has helped rebuild the lives of nearly 4,000 men, women, and children from more than 100 countries regardless of their ability to pay.

For additional information, visit [www.survivorsoftorture.org](http://www.survivorsoftorture.org) and see the attached mission statement. The Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## **About Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers**

Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers (CIBBOWS) boasts one of the largest groups of experienced marathon and extreme cold-water swimmers in the world. CIBBOWS members typically swim along a 2.8-mile stretch of Brooklyn beachfront extending from Coney Island to Brighton Beach, known to swimmers around the world as the best open water training ground in New York City. Since our inception 11 years ago, CIBBOWS has become a leader in swimming safety, and has promoted open water swimming for both competitive and casual swimmers in New York City. We are a growing, vibrant community that supports swim aspirations large and small. Many of our elite athletes have chosen to mentor English Channel hopefuls and up-and-coming ocean swimmers.

For additional information, visit [www.cibbows.org](http://www.cibbows.org). CIBBOWS is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

### **PRESS CONTACTS:**

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