**CONTACT:**
Justin Burke
NAMI-NYC Metro
P: 212.684.3365
E: jburke@naminyc.org

**For Immediate Release**

# TWELFTH ANNUAL KEN BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED

*Outstanding Literary Works on Mental Illness*
*to be Honored at May 19 Ceremony*

New York, NY, April 6, 2010 – The Kenneth Johnson Memorial Research Library at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City (NAMI-NYC Metro) will honor six books at the 12th annual Ken Book Awards breakfast on Wednesday, May 19 at the Yale Club in New York City.

The awards, which are given for works of literary merit that enlighten the public about mental illness, are presented each May in memory of Kenneth Johnson, the late son of Patricia Warburg Cliff. Ms. Cliff and her husband Karl von Frieling founded the Kenneth Johnson Memorial Research Library in 1996. The library, located at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City, includes hundreds of books, journals, and videos for use by mental health consumers and families, as well computer terminals and meeting space.

The winners for books published in 2009 are:

- Helen Benedict, *The Lonely Soldier* (Beacon Press)
- David Finkel, *The Good Soldiers* (Sarah Crichton Books)
- Kay Redfield Jamison, *Nothing Was the Same* (Alfred A. Knopf)
- Christopher Payne (with an essay by Oliver Sacks), *The Asylum: Inside the Closed World of State Mental Hospitals* (The MIT Press)
- William Styron*, *The Suicide Run: Five Tales of the Marine Corps* (Random House) **awarded posthumously*
- John Wray, *Lowboy* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Charles R. Marmar, MD, an internationally recognized expert on post-traumatic stress disorder and chair of Department of Psychiatry at the NYU Langone Medical Center, will deliver the event's keynote address. Some previous winners of the Ken Book Awards include Jane Pauley, Gary Trudeau, Quincy Jones, Wally Lamb, Sylvia Nasser, Rick Moody, Elyn Saks, Sherwin Nuland, Simon Winchester, Andrew Solomon and Nobel Prize winner Eric Kandel.

The 12th Ken Book Awards will be presented at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19 in the Grand Ballroom of the Yale Club of New York City, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue in Manhattan. For more information or for tickets, please contact Event Co-Chair Lindsay Britt at 212-836-1063 or LBritt@corcoran.com.

**About NAMI-NYC Metro**
The National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City Metro, Inc. (NAMI-NYC Metro) is a grassroots organization that provides support, education and advocacy for families and individuals of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds who live with mental illness. As one of the largest affiliates of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, we work collaboratively with our state and national affiliates and other stakeholders in the community to educate the public, advocate for legislation, reduce stigma and improve the mental health system.

**ABOUT PATRICIA WARBURG CLIFF**
Patricia Warburg Cliff is a past member of the board of directors of NAMI-NYC Metro and a former member of the NAMI national board of directors. Licensed as an attorney in New York State, Ms. Cliff has more than 30 years of experience selling Manhattan real estate.

###