



Uniting in Remembrance

Marian Fontana

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the three-year anniversary of 9/11/01. As president of the September 11th Families Association, I have worked hard to unite the 9/11 community and promote positive change in the wake of tragedy. In January 2004, the WTC memorial design and site plan were revealed to the public. Michael Arad's design, *Reflecting Absence*, is a tree-lined memorial plaza featuring recessed pools where the towers once stood encompassing the footprints. Saving these footprints down to bedrock was something the 9/11 families struggled for – and ultimately won through the exhaustive efforts of many people.

The September 11th Families' Assoc. staff and the Coalition of 9/11 Families diligently labored to represent your voices in the memorial process, working with elected officials and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. Many family members also gave their time to a variety of tasks, from stuffing envelopes to attending rallies. I'd like to offer my deepest thanks to all those who helped bring our vision of a fitting memorial into fruition.

Through our unity, 97% of the North Tower footprint will be preserved, with 3% compromised at the NE corner by the PATH train station platform. The South Tower footprint will be 48% preserved down to bedrock, with 52% compromised on the east side due to PATH train tracks. Ultimately, your voices were instrumental in making this possible, shaping the memorial process. Although the final memorial will not be completed until 2009, the plans are outlined for the rebuilding process.

Our association's new initiative, the *Tribute* visitors' center, furthers our effort to promote positive change by uniting the 9/11 community. The visitors' center will offer a variety of educational programs that remember our loved ones and tell the remarkable stories of our city. These stories of heroism, humanity and love demonstrate our resilience as a city, a nation and most of all, as human beings. Programs will focus on September 11th and the remarkable aftermath, when the world came together in an unprecedented display of unity and generosity. By telling these stories, we hope to give people a deeper understanding of the event while instilling a positive message of hope. The creation of this space demonstrates our resilience as Americans, committed to making the world a better place. We look forward to working together in creating this special place.

WTC Visitors' Center

Lee Ielpi

The September 11th Families' Association has embarked on an exciting new endeavor. Recognizing that an estimated eight million people visit the World Trade Center site annually, the Association has launched an initiative to develop *Tribute*, an interim visitors' center dedicated to educating the public about September 11th.

Tribute will be located directly across the street from the WTC site. While the WTC memorial is being built over the next five years, the center will serve as an interim place for millions of visitors. Here people will learn about our loved ones, the events of September 11th and the ensuing rescue and recovery efforts through firsthand accounts. The 9/11 community - which includes family members, survivors, residents, recovery workers and volunteers - will be able to share their stories and experiences with visitors through a variety of programs. While the programming for the center is in its conceptual stages, the core services that it will provide include:

- Gallery space
- Educational material and programs
- Respectful remembrance items

Content for all of the programs will be carefully reviewed and approved by *Tribute's* Advisory Committee.

continued on page 3

Vendors Banned from WTC Site

Al Petrocelli

After many months of political infighting and posturing by the leadership of both the NY State Senate and Assembly, legislation has been passed which bans all street vendors from the immediate area surrounding the World Trade Center. This legislation, in part, amended the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which previously referenced only midtown Manhattan vendors.

The legislation stems from the unlicensed vendors now hawking souvenirs to tourists who come to pay respect at the WTC site. Altercations between families, survivors, residents and vendors, along with the exploitative 9/11 material being sold by these illegal and unlicensed street vendors prompted action by City Hall. The legislation bans all vendors from the perimeter, including the immediate streets of the WTC site (West, Liberty, Church and Vesey Streets) and extends enforcement power to the NYPD or PAPD for the removal of the vendors, goods, vehicles, pushcarts or stands at the WTC site. The west side of Church Street is patrolled by the Port Authority. An important piece of legislation that the mayor wanted to include was to allow NYC police to arrest illegal vendors throughout the city and have them fingerprinted, under violation of the penal code. It could have put real teeth into the new law by cutting back on repeat offenders. Sadly, this didn't make it into the final version of the legislation.

We are continuing to work with the NYPD and Port Authority regarding the enforcement of this new legislation. When visiting the WTC site, if you see vendors selling goods within the perimeter from Liberty Street to Vesey Street or West Street to Broadway we encourage you to contact the NYPD Precinct 1 at (212) 334-0611. If vendors are on the WTC site along Church Street or by the Family House, we encourage you to call the Port Authority at (212) 435-7400 and request their removal from the area.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Uniting in Remembrance
- 1 WTC Visitors' Center
- 1 Vendors Banned from WTC Site
- 2 September 11th Families' Association
- 2 The Freeport Parents
- 2 Students Remember
- 3 Identification Process
- 3 Skills For Life – Tuesday's Children
- 3 Japanese Family Advocate Visits WTC Site
- 4 Calendar of Events



The voice and information source for all families of 9/11 victims.

COMMUNICATE
COMMEMORATE
EDUCATE

September 11th Families' Association

Jennifer Adams

United by loss, family members organized the September 11th Families' Association in November 2001 to address the numerous issues arising from September 11th with strength, dignity and unity. By providing information and unifying families, the Association has succeeded in making positive change as a representative of families. As the Executive Director over the past two years, I have seen the strength and effectiveness that occurs when families work together to address challenging issues.

Working with elected officials, businesses and agencies, the Association is committed to serve as a trusted resource and a dedicated, effective advocate for families. While maintaining our current programs and communication among families, we look forward to continuing to serve as a representative voice.

The Association is developing a long-term platform to bridge the experiences of the 9/11 community, creating a tremendous resource to build upon for the future. The **Tribute** visitors' center will serve to further our mission on a broader level, uniting the September 11th community to create a historical archive, while building support for the future through education. Enclosed you will find a survey, similar to the survey facilitated to develop the families memorial position in 2002. We strongly encourage your feedback and participation. We also encourage all family members to register for information at www.911families.org or to complete the enclosed survey. We look forward to continuing to work with families, building support for the future.

Students Remember

Mairead Ridge

Virginia schoolteacher Rachel Hubbard met the September 11th Families Association's Vice President Lee Ielpi only once, but the impact was profound. At the National Memorial Day on the steps of the Capitol, Mrs. Hubbard heard Mr. Ielpi tell the story of his son Jonathan and the heartache of grief. Touched by the tale, Mrs. Hubbard pledged then to remember Jonathan and always keep their family in her thoughts and prayers – and inspire others to do the same.

Last spring, Mrs. Hubbard assigned a project to her eleventh grade English class at Engleside Christian School. She told them to create a memorial book for Mr. Ielpi, in honor of all 9/11 heroes. The students dove in with enthusiasm, eager to express their remembrance. The book, titled "From Our Hearts to Yours," is filled with letters, essays and poems written by each student, beside pictures of each brandishing an American flag. "While I cannot comprehend the grief you must feel, I want you to know that you and your family will never be forgotten," wrote Michelle Loomis.

Julia Whitaker expressed her empathy for victims' families. "We that are left behind sometimes to think about how we would feel had it been our friends and family members in those planes or buildings that fateful day. We realize how important it is to live everyday as if it were our last, to cherish others, and to tell them how much we love them." Benjamin Wise wrote, "I will do my best to keep the victims' legacies alive. I will never forget."

The book is a wonderful tribute and constructive assignment lauding the heroes of 9/11 while offering comfort to their families. Remembrance combined with education is a powerful tool.



WTC memorial, *Reflecting Absence*

The Freeport Parents

Rosemary Cain

The Freeport Parents Group was spearheaded by the FDNY in October 2001 as a way to help family members through the devastation of the personal loss of a loved one as well as the horror of the attack of our country.

The group is a common place for all personalities and temperaments to join hands and hearts on our journey of grief and healing. The Freeport Parents Group's common denominator is the grief of a parent. Our inspiration and driving force is the love of our sons. Our strength comes from determination to have them remembered and honored for all time to come. When there is a need for something to be accomplished that will bring dignity and respect for our lost loved ones, the group is motivated and will do whatever has to be done. Grief has found us and grief has brought us together, but caring and compassion have made us one in keeping the memory of our loved ones alive. Week after week we come to Freeport regardless of anything else. Our camaraderie is consoling and inspiring. Naturally, we are all on different levels at different times; regardless we know we can reach out to one another. We can share our stories, happy and sad. We can laugh or cry with each other and never feel the need to hide our pain. There is no other place for us to share our hearts and emotions without being judged. The doors are always open to new members, for here in Freeport we will always stay.



Tribute, Interim Visitors' Center



Tribute location across from WTC site

Identification Process

Katie Sullivan, NYC OCME

Several family members have inquired about progress in the identification process. As of May 2004, 1,557 of the 2,749 victims of the World Trade Center disaster have been identified. These identifications were made through traditional DNA methods and new technologies such as Mitochondrial DNA and SNPs. These new technologies are allowing the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to identify remains that would not have been identified in the past with traditional technologies.

The OCME anticipates exhausting these technologies toward the end of September 2004. While this date is not firm, when the OCME does pause in the identification effort due to limits in technology, all families will be contacted by the OCME.

If you would like more information about the identification process or new DNA technologies, please call the OCME's World Trade Center hotline at (212) 447-7884.

Families have also been inquiring about how to request information on the property found at the World Trade Center site and the landfill. Property was catalogued and collected by the NYPD and is not in custody of the OCME. Information about property can be obtained by contacting: Michael Henley, Evidence and Property Control Specialist, World Trade Center Project, Manhattan Property Clerk at (646) 610-5531.

WTC Visitors' Center

Cont'd

Our primary goal for the center is to create a powerful and memorable connection between the 9/11 Community and the public. With the assistance of a formal training program, **Tribute** volunteers will be able to help visitors understand the events of September 11th while forming a personal connection with those who experienced it. The educational material will chronicle the events of September 11th and the changes in our nation they evoked. It will salute the unified spirit of humanity which inspired people everywhere to join hands and overcome terrible devastation.

Tribute will also be a vehicle for the 9/11 community to express appreciation for the overwhelming support extended by individuals from around the world. Construction and day-to-day operations will depend upon individual, foundation and corporate donations.

Enclosed is a survey and donation form so that you may help us begin to build **Tribute**. Through your participation, you will strengthen our resolve and allow us to create a center that truly belongs to the 9/11 community.

As we look upon tomorrow, we must honor September 11th as a turning point for humanity. By sharing living history, we will have a profound impact upon visitors. We are called on to pass on the memories of our loved ones and to communicate the lessons we've learned. We work today so that future generations may understand the magnitude of September 11th.

While the **Tribute** center is in development, we will provide continuous updates on our progress and offer opportunities for your participation. We encourage you to complete the enclosed survey to help us begin the development of **Tribute**.

Skills for Life

Mary Judge

Tuesday's Children is a non-profit service organization that has made an 18-year commitment to every child who lost a parent on 9/11, providing a wide-range of programming, from mentoring to career path guidance and next-step life skills for adults, we are here to help.

This fall the *Next Step/Turning Point* program will be kicking off for parents and spouses to learn new and creative life management skills. The course was adapted specifically for 9/11 families from the University of Stanford's Creative Insight business course. Coaches will assist in setting personal goals and empowering you with the tools to realize those goals. In addition the Career Path Program for teens also launches this fall providing guidance in the college process and internships.

Tuesday's Children's programs were created "by the families, for the families" with one simple goal – to develop the resources necessary to ensure our children reach their full potential. For information call (516) 562-9000 or visit www.tuesdayschildren.org. Registrations for our fall programs are under way. We look forward to hearing from you!

Japanese Family Advocate Visits WTC

Mairead Ridge

On July 1st, two nations came together, forging a sense of unity for victims of terrorism across the globe. Mrs. Shizue Takahashi, an advocate for victims' rights in Japan, recently traveled to New York and met with Association Vice President Lee Ielpi in an expression of solidarity with 9/11 families.

Mrs. Takahashi formed the *Subway Sarin Incident Victims Association* after losing her husband in Tokyo's 1995 sarin gas terrorist attacks. Her husband Kazumasa, 50, was working as a deputy stationmaster on the day members of the cult Aum Shinrikyo released the poisonous gas into Tokyo's subway lines – killing 12 people and injuring 5,510.

Mr. Ielpi brought Mrs. Takahashi and her daughter around the World Trade Center site and to the family room. Mr. Ielpi noted the need for collaboration between organizations which support family members of terrorism victims. "It is important that we share information, interact, and learn from each other in the international resistance against terrorism."

Mrs. Takahashi has fought an uphill battle for victims' rights in her native Japan. The effects of the devastating 1995 attacks are still felt today. Yet because such action would not fit cultural norms, the Japanese government has offered no monetary compensation or payment for medical treatment for victims and their family members.

Mrs. Takahashi's association has worked tirelessly to advocate for these victims, urging the government to take responsibility. The organization conducts continuous medical checks on survivors and offers a forum where members can share information and give one another support.

Previous to the 1995 attacks, there existed no such support system to promote the rights of Japanese crime victims. "I learned the fact that there was no such thing as rights for bereaved family members of crime victims only when I became one of them," said Mrs. Takahashi. With this realization, she resolved to become an advocate for her fellow victims. Since founding her organization she has traveled across the United States, seeking inspiration from American support organizations for crime victims. Mr. Ielpi called Mrs. Takahashi's visit an opportunity to foster "a spirit of camaraderie between families of different countries who have been affected by terrorist acts."

Tribute

Donations in Memoriam:

Frank Bonomo
George Cain
Michael Scott Carlo
Ray Downey
Terry Farrell
David J. Fontana
Lisa Frost
Jonathan Lee Ielpi
Michael Francis Lynch
Peter C. Martin
John Masera
Philip Osenzweig
Mark Petrocelli
Khami & Roshan Singh
Timothy Stackpole
Robert F. Wallace
Meredith Lynn Whalen

Support assistance programs are still available:

American Red Cross

September 11th Recovery Program (SRP)



Call
(877) 746 4987

The new client support network program has been launched to extend case management services for families, injured persons, residents and recovery workers.



Tuesday's Children Programs

New York City - New Jersey
Long Island - Staten Island

Here today. Here tomorrow.

For ongoing children's activities, mentoring programs and support groups, register with Tuesday's Children by calling 516 562-9000 or at www.tuesdayschildren.org

Families' Calendar

September 9 at 8:00 AM*
LMDC Board Meeting RSVP (212) 962-2300
One Liberty Plaza 20th Floor, NY, New York 10006

September 11 at 8:00 AM
World Trade Center Memorial Ceremony
Families will have access to Tower Footprints

September 11 at 9:45 AM
Shanksville, PA *Service of Remembrance*
National Park Service Information (814) 443-4557

September 11 at 9:30 AM*
Pentagon Wreath Laying RSVP (703) 697-9283
Patriot Day Observance Ceremony
Arlington National Cemetery

September 10 & 11*
Voices of September 11th RSVP (203) 966-3911
Forum & Commemorative Luncheon
Marriott Financial Hotel 85 West St, NYC

September 11 at 2:00 PM
Heart of America Quilt (207) 873-3573
Intrepid Museum Service

September 12 at 5:00 PM*
3rd Annual Concert for Remembrance
Grace Episcopal Church - 130 1st Ave, Nyack, NY

September 19 at 1:00 PM
3rd Annual We Remember Walk
Battery Park to World Trade Center Site

September 26 10:00 AM
3rd Annual Tunnel To Towers Run
Runners Check-in 8:45 AM - Start Time 10:00 AM
Register to Run/Walk @ tunneltotowersrun.org

*RSVP Required

Open for all 9/11 Families

Bring Memorial Park ID Card for Access

OCME NYC Memorial Park
520 East 30 St., at 1st Avenue
Call (212) 447-7884 for appointment

Family House at World Trade Center
Washington & Liberty Street

Family Room overlooking World Trade Center Site
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor

To submit an event for our calendar e-mail
info@911wvfa.org

September 11th Families' Association



Register for information at www.911families.org, complete the survey, or call (212) 669 6122.

Did you know?

If your employer has an "Employee Matching Gift Program" your donations to us can be matched or doubled by the corporation. See our website for more information.

September 11, 2004 World Trade Center Ceremony

8:46 AM Moment of Silence
9:03 AM Moment of Silence
9:59 AM Moment of Silence
10:29 AM Moment of Silence

Introduction of a statewide moment of silence.

Reading of victims' names.

8:47 AM families may begin to descend the ramp to the lowest level of the site where you may lay flowers.

At sundown, the "Tribute in Light" will return for one night in memory of all victims and as a symbol of the spirit of our community.

For more information visit www.nyc.gov

SEPTEMBER 11TH FAMILIES' ASSOC.
22 Cortlandt St, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007

