



USS New York: Remembering the Meaning



Be a part of supporting the crew of the USS New York. The September 11th Families' Association is formally adopting the USS New York. By adopting the ship, we will work with the crew to keep the memory of our loved ones and 9/11 present onboard the ship.

A committee of 9/11 community members will liaise with the crew to support morale and assist the Commanding Officer with non-military needs that arise.

The Association committee will work to create an annual Sailor of the Year award, provide sundry items and, most importantly, letters of support from home. In addition, the Association will also extend family support to children of the crew for communication and activities.

The USS New York crew will be deployed for months at a time. Our support will assist the Commanding Officer in boosting morale and working to understand the symbolic meaning of the ship's motto "Strength Forged Through Sacrifice. Never Forget."

If you would like to be a part of the activities to support the USS New York, email grieger@911families.org.

USS New York Exhibit at Tribute

The Tribute WTC Center has opened a new exhibition, *USS New York: In Tribute*. In our tradition of "Person-to-Person history," the exhibit invites visitors to "Meet the Builders," "Meet the Crew" and learn about naval traditions.

Some of the voices that compose this story are: Laura Bender, Chaplain, USS New York, "I love working with sailors. We have crew members from 34 different states. My job is to help everyone remember that it's more than a ship; that it is a symbol, that it carries emotional ties to so many people



who have had their lives changed, people were profoundly affected and in issues of faith I think some found faith and some lost it. I hope that the ship, as an icon, is used in ways that promote peace."

David Soto, Seaman Quartermaster, USS New York, shares his connection to the ship:

"As quartermaster we make sure that weather is good to go; tides are good to go. On September 11th I was in 8th grade. There was a substitute teacher named Christopher Santora at my school. He cared about people and he also was really passionate about being a firefighter. Before 9/11 he told us all, 'I'm not going to be a substitute teacher here any more; I'm actually going to be a full-fledged firefighter. A week later, we were told he was a victim of the World Trade Center attacks. In my senior year I joined the Navy. I hope the USS New York will just open people's minds to see that there doesn't have to be war in order to solve our problems. We need to get along with each other and become connected."



Ship highlights are featured on page 2

Somos Americanos

On October 15, 2009, the Tribute Center presented *Somos Americanos: Responses from the Latino Artistic Community to 9/11*. In introducing the program, Professor Alyshia Galvez said, "Historically artists have opened our eyes and our hearts to elements of historical events and experiences that other kinds of documentation and response cannot access. We must never underestimate the far-reaching impact of September 11th in direct and indirect ways not only on many New Yorkers, but on people throughout the globe." This program was presented in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month and in conjunction with the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

The artists on the panel were born in Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Colombia and the United States, but all of them are now established here.

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RESOURCE CORNER

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

1-800-LIFENET
Free & multilingual. Available 24/7. Mental health professionals help find mental health and substance abuse services.
<http://www.mhaofnyc.org> (click on LifeNet)

American Psychological Assoc.

1-800-964-2000
Referrals on everything from managing traumatic stress to coping with terrorism
www.apa.org/topics/topictrauma.html

Faithful Response

516-679-0080
Free, faith-based mental health programs for Long Island residents.
www.faithfulresponse.org

Trauma & Wellness Center St. Vincent's Health Hospital

212-346-2582
Mental health counseling, healing services and stress management.

Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric InSTITUTE

212-543-5367
Does the grief over the death of a loved one on September 11th still interfere with your life?
Free treatment for those eligible.

NYC DOHMH Benefit Program

1-877- 737-1164
The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is offering an insurance-like benefit to help cover mental health and substance use treatment for NYC residents affected by 9/11.
www.nyc.gov/9-11mentalhealth

Mount Sinai Medical Center

1-888-702-0630
Medical monitoring for workers and volunteers.
www.wtcexams.org

National Day of Remembrance & Service



On September 10, 2009, to kick off the first National Day of Remembrance and Service, the September 11th Families' Association and the USO organized "Operation USO Care Package." Over 400 volunteers came together at 7 World Trade Center to stuff care packages. The day's volunteers represented a wide range of companies affected by 9/11, including AON; Bank of NY Mellon; Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP; Cantor Fitzgerald; Deutsche Bank; the FDNY; JPMorgan Chase; the National September 11 Memorial & Museum; the NYPD; the Port Authority of NY & NJ; Sandler O'Neill & Partners; Silverstein Properties; Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP; and students from the NYC High School for Leadership & Public Service.

After being welcomed by the September 11th Families' Association, My Good Deed, the USO, and Silverstein Properties, the volunteers formed assembly lines, quickly filling care packages. These morale-boosting packages contained toiletries, prepaid international phone cards, snacks, playing cards and personal messages of support from our volunteers.



"The event was a tremendous success for our partners and the USO. The day before the anniversary was a perfect opportunity to remember those we lost and provide a service for our troops. There was a feeling of positive energy among all the volunteers," said Jennifer Adams CEO of the September 11th Families' Association. Ron Wise, Director of the Operation USO Care Package Program, called the group "the most wonderful volunteers that we have ever had the pleasure to take part in an event with. The final number of care packages created was 7,229. No one has ever done it faster, and we were honored to take part in the event." Operation USO Care Package began in 2003 and has shipped more than 1.6 million care packages.



USS New York: Ship Highlights

What makes this ship "stealth"?

USS New York belongs to the first class of ship to use the Advanced Enclosed Masts/Sensors system. The entire ship is covered in a unique "skin" designed to absorb energy rather than reflect it, making the vessel difficult to detect.

Which part of the ship is the strongest?

"The bow stem is the strongest part of the ship; the part that cuts the water, that leads the ship wherever it goes, its steel comes from the Towers" – Laura Bender, Chaplain.
7.5 tons of steel was molded into the bow from the Towers



Where is the Control Center?

"Underlying the entire operation of the ship is what we call the SWAN, that is truly the backbone of the ship. From the bridge, I can control most things including engines, steering. For those that remember the Space Odyssey, maybe we are not too far away. It is not my father's Navy." – Curt Jones, Commanding Officer

Reunion of Stairway B Survivors

Every month, the Tribute Center hosts a lecture or workshop for volunteers. On September 21st we were privileged to bring together the survivors of Stairway B. On 9/11 fourteen people survived the collapse of the North Tower on the 4-7th floors of Stairwell B. The 90 people in the audience were enraptured with this amazing program.

Jay Jonas from Ladder 6 described, "I felt shaking; sway of the building and the lights went out...In all my 20 years on the job, a high-rise building had never collapsed. I thought we were dead men walking, and we were never going to make it out.... coming down, we found Josephine. One of the guys yelled, 'Hey Cap, what do you want to do?' Of course, we are going to bring her with us. It put us at risk, but we were supposed to help people."

"We were supposed to help people"

Sal D'Agostino, from Ladder 6, added, "On the 4th floor landing, you could hear the very top floor begin to come down, a giant boom; it became faster and louder as it became closer." Mike Meldrum, Ladder 6, added that "it was all about timing and luck. Josephine slowed us down, but this saved us". Jay Jonas commented, "We were trapped for about four hours. After the collapse ended, your eyes were seeing things that your brain couldn't keep up with". When asked if there was a message to share with visitors to the Tribute Center, Mike Meldrum stated we should share the attitude of togetherness afterwards, how different groups of people

worked together. James Efthimiades, Engine 39, expressed the importance of passing this history to the children. Jim McGlynn, Engine 39, reminded us that the story of Stairway B is just one story of that day and we should remember the many other acts of bravery. As one Tribute docent said, "Last night, we were the visitors, they were the docents. The more they talked the further back they went. For several minutes, they were back in Stairway B. After eight years, I'm still learning so much about September 11, 2001. That's why the Tribute Center is so important to all of us. Much like those brave men and woman last night, we need to tell our story. We need to heal inside."



Top row: Jim McGlynn, Tommy Falco, Matt Komorowski, Mike Meldrum, Billy Butler and Mickey Kross. Bottom row: Jay Jonas, Sal D'Agostino, Josephine Harris, David Lim, and James Efthimiades.

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Sculptor Milton Rosa-Ortiz could see the WTC from his house in Brooklyn. After September 11th, he picked up charred papers that had blown over in the dust cloud when the Twin Towers collapsed. Five years later he made two light box sculptures – the "Tree of Life" and the "Tree of Good and Evil" – using the WTC papers to create a collage.

Monika Bravo was in the WTC residency program of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and had a studio on the 91st floor of the North Tower. On the night of September 10, 2001, she was working in her studio and she filmed the storm that was rolling in across New Jersey. She almost spent the night in her studio, but decided at the last minute to go home. Venezuelan-American Calogero Salvo

made a film, *Seen But Not Heard*, about four Mexican women who lost their husbands or partners on September 11th. Cruz Angeles is the producer of the acclaimed feature film, *Don't Let Me Drown*, a love story between a Mexican-American boy and a Dominican-American girl in Brooklyn. Although this film is fiction, it is based on emotional trauma experienced by many families after 9/11.

Morena Saenz took one of her paintings to Union Square after 9/11 where thousands of people saw it, including a curator from the NY Historical Society who asked to display it there. Jose Rodeiro created a painting after September 11th that took is modeled on Picasso's "Guernica," another artwork about the killing of innocent civilians.



Top: Jose Rodeiro describes his piece modeled on "Guernica." Bottom: Filmmaker Cruz Angeles and moderator Alyshia Galvez.

**Boston Pops Tickets for
September 11th Families**
Friday, December 11, 2009

6:30pm reception & 8:00pm concert
Boston, MA

For more information:
Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, Inc.
Call 617-482-8151 or
info@massfund.org

**Second Annual Heart to Heart
for Rick's Place, Inc.**
Saturday, February 6, 2010

Wilbraham, MA
For more information, please visit:
www.ricksplacema.org

**For more events, visit
www.911families.org/events**

www.911families.org
www.tributewtc.org

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Tribute WTC Visitor Center

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TributeWTC

Lee Ielpi's Blog
<http://shapingourfuture-lee.blogspot.com>

Donations in Memoriam

FF George C. Cain
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FF Gerard P. Dewan
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