Hiroshima Peace Memorial

Jack Lynch
9/11 Widows and Victims’ Families Association

Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of the city of Hiroshima, graciously met with family members and residents to provide insight on the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. He solemnly extended his condolences to all who lost loved ones on 9/11 and stated that the people of Hiroshima stand in support of New York. Many of their people felt what happened on 9/11 was similar to what they experienced 57 years ago. The Mayor reminded us of how New York citizens helped Hiroshima in reporting the human tragedy, supporting orphans and performing surgery on many who were severely burned at Mount Sinai Hospital. At the time, the support brought hope for the future and for humanity, to people in despair.

A discussion took place about how the Hiroshima Peace Park Memorial was created as a Memorial to the horrible events surrounding the dropping of the atomic bomb. Congress enacted a special law in 1949 (4 years after the tragedy), setting aside 30 acres for the memorial. Mayor Akiba described how the decision was made without much controversy as the government did not require public input.

The Peace Memorial is designed so that the A Bomb Dome, (a structure that survived the blast) the Memorial and the museum are aligned in the center of the park in a sight line. The Peace Memorial is designed so that the A Bomb Dome, (a structure that survived the blast) the Memorial and the museum are aligned in the center of the park in a sight line.

Staten Island Memorial

Patricia Reilly
St. Clares WTC Outreach Committee

Family members from St. Clare’s WTC Outreach Committee have written Governor Pataki and elected officials requesting a memorial at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island. Fresh Kills is the site where a third sifting of all debris from the WTC and where remains of many loved ones were found. Dennis McKeon, chairman of the Committee has requested a bill to be drafted protecting the 175 acre site from any future development other than a Memorial Park. The request stressed the importance of families’ involvement in the process and planning to insure the memorial reflects the spirit of their loved ones.

Program for WTC Development

Monica Iken
September’s Mission

The Coalition of 9/11 Families has been actively working with many of the interested stakeholders and the LMDC Family Advisory Council on planning for the WTC memorial. The goal of the Coalition is to share information and provide representation for our families’ voices. On October 11th, the LMDC released a design program to 6 architectural firms to create 12 plans for integration of the components for the WTC site. Components of the LMDC design program include: the memorial, cultural and civic amenities, parks and open spaces, religious institutions, a range of retail and commercial office space, a 21st century train station, reconnection of streets through the site, an international conference center and hotel. The architectural firms have been challenged to develop a plan that feasibly incorporates all of the components in the 16 acre site. The 12 new designs will be open for public review in late November. We encourage all families to participate in the public forums since the designs and surroundings will have a dramatic effect on the memorial for our loved ones. You can review the program and email support for the Coalition or program comments to the LMDC at www.renewnyc.com.

The Coalition has raised several concerns about the memorial in the design program to the LMDC, including oversight of the memorial integration, definition of supporting facilities and placement. In response, the LMDC has stated that the memorial will be defined and integrated in the second phase of planning by the end of 2002. The Coalition has expressed the imperative need for integration of the memorial throughout the entire WTC site to the LMDC, residents, politicians and several interested stakeholders. Since neither the memorial or the space have been defined, it is difficult to harmonize this integration. The Coalition has expressed concern over this inherent flaw in the process and the accelerated timeline to the LMDC. The Coalition has strongly emphasized in all discussions that the memorial area must

Skyscraper Safety In The News

Sally Regenhard
Skyscraper Safety Campaign

On October 17th, Sally Regenhard and Monica Gabrielle, from the Skyscraper Safety Campaign (SSC) returned to Washington, DC to attend the Senate Joint Intelligence Committee Hearings. Giving testimony were the heads of the FBI, CIA and NSA. It was a painful eye opener to learn how much these agencies knew and failed to act upon. We supported family members Kristen Breitweiser and Stephen Push who gave testimony regarding the need for an Independent Investigation into the security lapses of 9/11. An investigation with full subpoena power is clearly necessary from the outcome of the hearings to find out why 9/11 happened and prevent it from happening again.

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Skyscraper Safety In The News

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It is critical that individuals call their elected officials and request support of the McCain-Lieberman bill, which calls for such an investigation. For contact information of elected officials please visit www.skyscrapersafety.org.

On September 29th, SSC joined Rev. Bill Minson and hundreds of family members for a Remembrance Walk in the Battery Park and the WTC areas. The event was a huge success with many families turning out to remember their loved ones. We would like to thank Rev. Minson and Dennis McKeon for organizing the Walk of Remembrance and their consistent support.

SSC joined Congressman Anthony Weiner, City Council member Alan Gerson and other concerned citizens on the steps of City Hall on September 30th for a Press Conference to express our outrage at the unsettling news that Mr. Larry Silverstein, his insurance companies and the Port Authority have been secretly investigating the collapse of the WTC, while SSC and families were kept in the dark. We called for public disclosure of this information. SSC has joined the New York Times in legal action under FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) to obtain all emergency records, transcripts and tapes regarding 9/11. If we want to reform the system and never allow the events that led up to the structural collapse of the towers to happen again, we cannot hide from the past.

September 11th Families Give Back

Marian Fontana
9/11 Widows and Victims Families Association

On September 20, 2001, the event Stars Stripes and Skates was held at Madison Square Garden. Sponsored by the Coalition of 9/11 Families, the event was an opportunity for our families to show appreciation for the love and support we received after 9-11. Skaters Nancy Kerrigan, Sasha Cohen, Victor Petrenko, Timothy Goebel, Surya Bonaly and skaters from around the world dazzled the audience with their talent and energy. One of the highlights of the event was skater Melissa Ielpi who skated in honor of her brother Jonathan, a firefighter killed on September 11th. Melissa was introduced by Joanna Glick, who has also skated in tribute of her brother, Jeremy Glick.

The audience, moved by Melissa’s impassioned performance gave her a long and well deserved standing ovation. Over 75 children, also had the opportunity to skate together in a dynamic display of patriotism and symbol of our future.

The Coalition of 9/11 Families is grateful to the National Media Group who coordinated the event, to Tara Modlin and Melissa Ielpi for making it a huge success, to Steve Buscemi who hosted the event and most of all to the skaters who donated their time and energy.

The event raised money for the "Families Give Back Fund" to benefit children affected by terrorism and violence in the future. Already, a check is being sent from "The Families Give Back Fund" to the families in Bali affected by recent terrorism. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, make your check payable to: "The Families Give Back Fund" All donations are tax deductible and can be sent to c/o NMG 1790 Broadway, Suite 400, New York, NY 10019.

Memorial Park Structural Enhancements

Julie Boryczewski
Give Your Voice

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has been promoting hope for September 11th Families through their valiant efforts for over a year now. Coalition families have been meeting and working with the ME since last September. The compassionate dedication of the team working with us has brought faith and always alleviated concerns for our loved ones. Family member Christy Ferer, who is Mayor Bloomberg’s family liaison, has secured funding to enhance the temporary resting place of our loved ones known as Memorial Park. The structural improvements to Memorial Park intend to offer visiting families a more serene, peaceful, intimate, and private visiting space; in addition to providing the OCME’s office with the functionality of continuing with their identification work. Some of the improvements discussed include: the removal of the trailers which will be replaced by a mausoleum-type structure that will allow continuation of the identification processes; the creation of movable walls to provide privacy; space to post memorabilia, photos, messages; and a warmer, wooden look to the façade of the facility. In addition to creating an area that is dignified, reverent, and more comfortable for the families, these improvements will also provide easier accessibility to Memorial Park for the families. The OCME’s office is also issuing Identification Cards to Family Members. The cards serve as identification to gain access to Memorial Park and will be honored at all NYC WTC family events in lieu of supplying P or T numbers. Memorial Park Chaplaincy services remain in place at Memorial Park.
respectfully carry a feeling of sacredness and peace. While all of the parties have agreed to this premise, the Coalition anticipates integration will pose challenges with many stakeholders due to the numerous components compacted into the design program that will surround the memorial.

Further plauging the planning process is the definition of the tower footprints. The Coalition advocates the footprint as the area enclosed in both of the steel tower walls and the Marriott Hotel that was attached to World Trade Tower 1, from the bedrock seven stories down to the air rights. Both Lee Ielpi and Jack Lynch, who lost their sons at the WTC and worked daily for eight months in the recovery efforts, have emphasized how imperative outlining this area as the footprint is in relation to the concentration of remains of our loved ones that were recovered. The Coalition will continue to advocate for this area above and below ground as the footprint area that is sacred ground.

On October 8th Coalition representatives met with Governor Pataki’s chief of staff John Cahill to discuss the Governor’s feedback on the Coalition’s recommendations to the LMDC regarding the memorial and future of the WTC site. The Governor of NY is an important decision maker since the site is owned by the Port Authority which has shared control by the Governors of NY and NJ. Mr. Cahill reassured us there will not be commercial development on the surface level of the interior of WTC tower one and tower two. He did not take a position on development of the below ground infrastructure of the towers. He also did not take a position on the “Bathtub Area” (from Liberty Street to Vesey and West Street to demapped Greenwich) that the Coalition is advocating for shared concerns among stakeholders. Residents and family members share concerns over integration of the memorial, transportation, open space, buffers and the return of economic vitality. After touring Battery Park City with residents, Iken felt there were many opportunities to work together and achieve quality outcomes.

The Coalition will continue to work with the LMDC and all interested parties to ensure families have a voice in developing the memorial to our loved ones. We are steadfastly committed to ensuring development at the site will serve to memorialize the many facets of the events of 9/11 for future generations and a magnificent memorial will honor the heroism and sacrifice of the lives lost on that tragic day.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial

The Memorial is a small, simple structure in the center of the park but the entire surroundings accentuate and complement the Memorial. Underneath the Memorial a stone casing holds the registry of over 220,000 names of the deceased, which include survivors of the Bomb who died later. Wording on the memorial created a tremendous amount of controversy. After much discussion a simple sentence to imprint the event in the minds of future generations was decided upon “Let all the souls here rest in peace, for we shall not repeat the evil.” The “we” represents all humanity. The Park contains 50 memorials representing different people and themes and is a valuable learning experience. The Memorial has stood the test of time and it is still the center of the city and its people, both spiritually and physically, after 57 years.

Mayor Akiba told us of how the citizens of Hiroshima are committed to bringing a million Japanese school children to the Peace Park every year. Children must learn about Pearl Harbor and know the history of World War II before making the trip. Pearl Harbor is not taught in Japanese history in the regular school curriculum. Survivors of the A Bomb blast are guides in the Park and relate their experiences to the 10 million visitors who come to the Memorial each year from all around the world. We wish to thank Mayor Akiba for his courtesy and insight as we continue in our journey to ensure that moral authority takes precedence in honoring the sacrifice of our lost loved ones. We are encouraged by his insight and believe the WTC Memorial will be the most magnificent tribute to the historic events of September 11th, our loved ones and to freedom.
9/11 Family Resources

Health Care Policy & Benefits
Family member Bill Doyle is compiling information on a health care benefits package for 9/11 families who:
- Can not afford a policy
- In jeopardy of losing Health Care
- Not eligible for Cobra coverage
- Can not afford Cobra coverage

For details call (718) 948-6284 or email W Doyle5615@aol.com

FEMA
Federal Mortgage and Rental Assistance is available to families whose household income decreased by 25% due to 9/11 because they lived or worked in Manhattan.

Application deadline is January 31, 2003 (800) 462-9029 8:00 – 5:00 pm, M-F

The Family Gift Program provides financial assistance to cover unmet living expenses for a full year such as housing, transportation, childcare and tuition.

The Coalition of 9/11 Families would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Lutheran Disaster Response of New York for their assistance in distributing the enclosed information to our families.

Download Tribute, share with family and friends. Immediate family members are welcome to vote in support of the Coalition or express their voice on the WTC Memorial at: www.Memorialfor911.com

UNITED SERVICES GROUP
www.9-11usg.org
16 Member Agencies
Financial Assistance
Legal Referral Service
Immigration Hotline

Case workers are available to help coordinate programs for families of September 11th.
(866) 689-4357
Family Assistance Center
(212) 350-4000

December 7, 5-10:00 PM
WTC United Family Holiday Gathering
www.wtcunitedfamilygroup.org

COALITION OF 9/11 FAMILIES
548 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10012

Families WTC Memorial Information