WTC Memorial & Museum Design

In recent months, tremendous progress has been made on the World Trade Center Memorial. The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, an independent not-for-profit organization, was established to raise the money and to build, and operate the Memorial and Memorial Museum at the World Trade Center site. Since beginning operations in May 2005, the Foundation has raised $145 million, almost half of its total private commitment, and heavy construction has begun. This past July, the Foundation entered into an agreement with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the State and City of New York which allowed the Foundation to move forward with renewed momentum. The Board of Directors recently elected a new chairman, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, whose leadership and philanthropic experience will ensure that the Foundation quickly reaches its fundraising goal.

This fall has been a period of positive transition as the Foundation assumed design responsibilities from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and implemented a building agreement with the Port Authority. As owner of the Memorial and Museum, the Foundation is responsible for capital and annual fundraising, finalizing and maintaining the integrity of project design, programming of the Memorial and Museum, and ongoing operations. The Port Authority, as the Foundation’s builder, is assuming responsibility for construction of both the facilities and necessary site infrastructure. As the Port Authority is already building the new PATH station adjacent to the Memorial, this arrangement provides the project with greatly improved logistics and efficiencies of scale.

Thanks to the July agreement, a solid public-private partnership has been established to ensure the funding of the entire Memorial project. The Foundation is responsible for raising $300 million in private funds: $260 million for the capital construction and $40 million for Foundation pre-opening operations, which includes Museum programming and planning. The LMDC is committing $250 million towards building the Memorial and Museum while additional funds for the project are being made possible by the State of New York and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Revisions to the Memorial design which were agreed to this summer not only reduced project costs, but also will enhance the visitor experience to the Memorial and Museum by simplifying the design. Underground portions of the Memorial were eliminated and the names of those lost on September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 were moved to Plaza level. By consolidating the queuing, ticketing and entry to the Museum, a smoother and more unified experience for visitors is anticipated.

Tribute WTC Visitor Center Opens

On September 6, 2006, family members, survivors, rescue workers, residents, volunteers and public officials gathered to cut the ribbon officially to open the Tribute WTC Visitor Center at 120 Liberty Street.
Recovery at WTC
By Marian Fontana

Old wounds were reopened this past October when Con Ed workers discovered remains and personal belongings at Ground Zero. The findings prompted the city to search other manholes, many of which have never been searched because of the difficulty of the task. For the families, it is a difficult time, primarily since the discoveries were made on the heels of the fifth anniversary. Sadness and anger were rekindled as many family members demanded construction halt and a federally led search from JPAC (Joint POW Missing in Action Command) be held. Both of these requests were denied by Mayor Bloomberg, who despite the findings, insists that the site has been “thoroughly gone through and excavated” and that the remains found were “tragic but understandable.”

This is not the first time remains have been found in and around the site and many feel that the speed to rebuild has overwhelmed the dignified burial needs of the 2,749 people who died on September 11th. “It would be horrible in another six years to find more remains, or if archaeologists were writing books saying that remains were left at Ground Zero. That wouldn’t be the right legacy for those wonderful, beautiful people that died or for our city,” said family member Rosaleen Talton, sister of Sean Patrick Talton.

Recently, Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler’s office issued a detailed account of the excavation planned for a section of Liberty Street, and the site of the former St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at 140 Liberty Street. “The exploratory excavations are set to begin in December, when the work on the original manholes is complete. The exploratory excavations could last until the end of next summer, depending on what is recovered.”

Since Con Ed’s discovery, over 100 bones and bone fragments have been found as daily searches in the surrounding structures continue. More than 750 bone fragments have been located in the past year by forensic anthropologists and construction workers on the roof of a damaged 40-story skyscraper just south of the site. Clean-up and recovery plans are underway for a former dormitory near the site that has not been searched.

What does this mean for families? The mixed blessing of more notifications from the Medical Examiner. I myself, received one about my husband and the floodgates of grief opened again. Regardless of what you feel politically or emotionally or otherwise, one cannot deny the magnitude of what has happened to all of us, the sad reality that over 40 percent of families have received nothing and that life will never be the same. For those family members who were notified for the first time, there was finally some peace.

Visitor Feedback at Tribute

In Gallery 5 of the Tribute Center visitors are invited to write their responses to what they have experienced at Tribute. Thousands of visitors have taken the time to write thoughtful and inspiring comments.

The cards collected have been written by children and adults, by people who have identified themselves as family members, survivors, recovery workers, residents of downtown and of NYC, volunteers, airplane pilots, nurses, and teachers. They have been written by tourists from across the country and around the globe. The comments have been written not only in English, but in numerous languages including Polish, Tibetan, Spanish, Hindi, Hebrew, German, Japanese and French. The messages in the cards range from expressions of personal loss of a loved one to broader philosophical and spiritual quests to understand and rebuild based on these experiences.

Many cards express gratitude for those that offered help, while others express empathy and compassion to others. Many express gratitude for the Tribute Center as a place to remember, learn and heal. Here are a few comments from visitors after walking through the Tribute Center.

“Dear Grandpa, I wish you could be here but you are in heaven. I am doing very good. How are you doing? Love, the family. P.S. the Mets are

“Greeks in the United States are passionate and good at sports!” (Paris, Greece)

“This Tribute was a very moving experience coming from a country that had it’s share of violence. It makes the world such a small place. We all feel & suffer in the same way. We should all work as hard as we can to bring peace and prevent 9/11 tragedies happening all over the world.” (Ireland)

“If I had been 21 years younger I would have been in one of the Towers.” (Canada)

“Before 9.1.01 I was whole. Now, and forever, there is a piece of me missing, caused by the loss of my brother, my only sibling, that can never be replaced.” (from Galway, Ireland)

“... used to work in the Deutsche Bank Building & eat under the Towers. I was working in Soho on 9/11 & watched the Towers burn & saw the smoke for weeks after. Thank you for helping others understand what we lost that day.” (France)

“This is a very touching and well thought out. Thank you for honoring my mother.” (Italy)
Tribute Center Opens ....... from page 1

Governor George Pataki spoke of the first time Lee Ielpi and Jennifer Adams of the September 11th Families’ Association approached him with the concept for the Tribute Center. “New Yorkers and the world now have a place to come, to see, feel and learn the tragic human cost of the events of 9/11. Tribute reminds us we must never forget.” Mayor Bloomberg urged all New Yorkers to come to the Tribute Center, to pay their respects and to learn about the events of the day from the first-person views and first-hand stories experienced in the Center. Council Speaker Christine Quinn spoke of the compassion of the families who so lovingly sent in artifacts and pictures of their loved ones to put a face on the tragedy. She credited the September 11th Families’ Association with taking a dream and making it a reality. Councilman Alan Gerson spoke of the resilience of Lower Manhattan and how we must preserve the memories of those we lost and all those who came to our aid.

Lee Ielpi, co-founder of the Tribute Center, thanked all for their dedication and support, including over 2,000 family members who contributed to build Tribute and submitted pictures. “Now Tribute stands tall, holding the precious memories of those terrible days but simultaneously telling the story of a city and a nation coming together as one people, firm in their resolve to bear the weight of this experience opened my eyes to actually what others went through, physically and emotionally. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn more about this horrible day.”

(England)

I came here with my son Greg to pay our respects. The terrible enormity of it all hit us both deeply as we sat in the room with floor to ceiling photographs and messages from loved ones. We both sat and cried. Our hearts and minds are with NY and America, and of course all the relatives. We hope and pray for a better world.”

(England)

I never heard the stories of the family members or friends of victims, and this experience opened my eyes to actually what others went through, physically and emotionally. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn more about this horrible day.”

(Canada)

“Until visiting this centre, the events of 9/11 have seemed somewhat surreal. I do not think I truly understood the emotions that are associated with the event until now. 9/11...it is a day where a country was united, strangers became family…”

(Canada)

Newspapers and TV pictures didn’t begin to draw a true picture. Thank you for helping to make each life lost seem important. May none of us ever forget.”

September 11th resides for me in the quietest part of my brain reminding me always of man’s inhumanity to man, which is shared by every nation in different ways. That in-residence horror should keep us all on an endless vigil of tolerance and care for mankind, in all its shapes and forms.”

(Denmark)

Congratulations to our Retail Operations Coordinator, Matt Shieffer, on completing the 2006 New York City Marathon in 3:44:49. Thanks for running it for the Tribute WTC Visitor Center.
**Tribute**

**Purchase the new rescue puppy at the Tribute Center**

Donate $100 or more by Dec. 31 and we will send you a Tribute puppy!

All proceeds from the sale of items support the September 11th Families’ Association programs and the Tribute WTC Visitor Center operations.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Make your year-end charitable contribution to the September 11th Families’ Association in support of the Tribute WTC Visitor Center!

The Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**Volunteer with Tribute**

Interested in making a difference in the lives of thousands of people?

By volunteering your time as a guide at the Tribute Center you will have the opportunity to share your personal story with visitors to the World Trade Center site. Various opportunities are available for volunteers at Tribute. The new Gallery Guide program was launched for volunteers inside the Tribute Center last month.

For more information: e-mail: volunteer@tributenyc.org or call: 212-422-3520, ext. 118

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**Dates to Remember**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ceremonies at World Trade Center Site</th>
<th>American Red Cross Registration Deadline</th>
<th>WTC Recovery Workers Register for Benefits by August 14, 2007</th>
<th>Submit a Picture of Your Loved One</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Family House, Gate 7 Liberty Street</td>
<td>The 9/11 Mental Health Association will continue services through December 31, 2007. Registration Deadline: January 2, 2007</td>
<td>In September 2006, a new law was passed to revise the New York State Workers’ Compensation for 9/11-related illness. Even if you are healthy and have not experienced symptoms, all workers and volunteers are encouraged to register.</td>
<td>Each family is invited to submit a picture of your loved one to the Tribute Center for the Tribute Gallery. Over 1,200 pictures are currently included.</td>
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<td>Christmas Tree Lighting: December 11, at 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Last Date to File Claims: March 31, 2008</td>
<td>For detailed information, go to: <a href="http://www.9-11mentalhealth.org">www.9-11mentalhealth.org</a> 1-800-LIFENET</td>
<td>To request a submission form: e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@tributenyc.org">info@tributenyc.org</a> or call: 212-422-3520, ext. 115</td>
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<td>Menorah Lightings Each Night of Hanukkah: December 15 - 23 call 212-983-3521 ext.15</td>
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<td>In the subject line, please include: Tribute Family Submission Request</td>
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<td>Midnight Mass: December 24, at 11:30 PM</td>
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**September 11th Families’ Association**
22 Cortlandt Street, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10007