

FEBRUARY 26, 1993: 20th ANNIVERSARY

About 100 mourners gathered at the World Trade Center site at 12:18pm on February 26, 2013, exactly 20 years after their lives were forever changed by the bombing of 1993.

On Friday, February 26, 1993, six radical Islamic terrorists detonated a 1,500-pound nitrate bomb in the basement of the World Trade Center, murdering John DiGiovanni, Robert Kirkpatrick, Stephen A. Knapp, Bill Macko, Wilfredo Mercado, Monica Rodriguez Smith and her unborn son, and injuring more than 1,000 people.

Families of the victims and survivors and rescue workers there on the day of the bombing remembered those lost with a memorial Mass and a ceremony with music, roses, and the reading of the names. In a place of honor at the annual memorial Mass at St. Peter's Church was the only surviving piece of the memorial fountain, a six-inch fragment of rose-colored granite bearing the name "John". The memorial fountain was destroyed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The memorial read (in part): "On February 26, 1993, a bomb set by terrorists exploded below this site. This horrible act of violence killed innocent people, injured thousands, and made victims of us all."



Rudy Hohenfeld, who worked in the World Trade Center during the 1993 attack, shared, "My ability to recall fifteen years of service at the World Trade Center, and the special relationship that Steve, Bill, Monica, Bob and I shared for many of those years under sometimes adverse conditions, has caused me to remember them with great fondness and oftentimes smile when thinking about some of the crazy events that we experienced. And it was always with eager anticipation that I looked forward to the ceremonies held each February 26th, knowing that I would be in the company of other World Trade Center family members remembering and honoring our lost. More importantly, our gathering each year has been to show both support to the six families, as well as to demonstrate that we haven't, nor will we forget."

Rudy continues, "Somewhere along the line, the Tribute Center allowed me to sneak in under the radar, interact with tour visitors from around the world, and buttonhole them with the story of February 26th, and the loss of Steve, Bill, Bob, and Monica. It should be noted that the memories of both John and Wilfredo as well as those Port Authority family members lost on 9/11 are likewise spoken about on each tour. And so, to the families of those lost on February 26th, know that Rudy's on the job many Sundays, remembering your loved ones to the general public and reminding them that they too are now members of our family and to hold those lost on both February 26th as well as 9/11 dear in their hearts."



TILES OF TRIBUTE AND REMEMBRANCE



At the start of this year, a spiritual resource of hope and solidarity was returned to the NYC Greenwich Village community. The 9/11 Tribute Center created an exhibit, Tiles of Tribute and Remembrance, a few blocks from where the original memorial stood, outside St. Vincent's Hospital. Located in the lobby of the Jefferson Market Library, the tiles have been installed in a public display.

The original tile project was created by Lorrie Veasey at her studio, Our Name Is Mud. Over the years, hundreds of tiles from around the world were added, creating a 9/11 memorial of tribute and healing for this community. The tiles remained on the fence until the autumn of 2012.

City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn commented, "These tiles, both symbolically and visually beautiful, serve as a memorial to those who perished on 9/11, and are a tribute to the compassion and strength of our city. This exhibit is an important historical record to this community and to the city as a whole. We will continue to ensure that these pieces of art are preserved and cherished for years to come."

Lee Ielpi, President of the September 11th Families' Association, added, "this beautiful memorial created from tiles made by people from all over the world both inspired and brought comfort to the community of Greenwich Village."

Tony Marx, President of the New York Public Library, added "the library is honored to display these treasured expressions of hope and support, which for so long have served as heartfelt tributes to those lost and injured on 9/11."

The mission of the 9/11 Tribute Center is to gather and share the personal stories of the impact that the attacks of September 11th had on New York City, and to remember the tragedy as well as the healing power of people helping each other.

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RESOURCES

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Call 1-800-LIFENET

Free & multilingual. Available 24/7. Mental health professionals help find mental health and substance abuse services. Visit their website for details, clicking on LifeNet, <http://www.mhaofnyc.org>

American Psychological Association

Call 1-800-374-2723

Referrals on everything from managing traumatic stress to coping with terrorism. Visit their website for details, <http://locator.apa.org>

Faithful Response

Call 516-679-0080

Free, faith-based mental health programs for Long Island residents. Visit their website for details, <http://www.faithfulresponse.org>

Columbia University & NY State Psychiatric Institute

Call 212-543-5367

Does the grief over the death of a loved one on 9/11 still interfere with your life? Free treatment for those eligible.

Mount Sinai Consortium

Call 1-888-702-0630

Medical monitoring for workers and volunteers. Visit their website for details, <http://www.wtcexams.org>

FDNY

Call 212-570-1693

Service for all active and retired FDNY firefighters and EMS workers.

WTC Centers of Excellence

Visit their website for details, <http://www.nyc.gov>

WTC Environmental Health Center

Call 877-982-0107

AWARDING TEACHERS FOR EXCELLENCE



Wendy Cox, students and Lesley Ayers (speaking) from Owens Intermediate School, Houston, Texas, awarded for excellence.

The 9/11 Tribute Center's sixth annual Teacher Awards took place on February 26, (the 20th anniversary of the first bombing of the World Trade Center, in 1993). Teachers from around the nation continue to honor the history of September 11th with classroom projects.

The winning projects this year focused on a range of 9/11 issues, each explored while developing skills in language arts, civics, history, media, and theater arts. A teacher in Connecticut spearheaded a district-wide set of coordinated lesson plans that begins in sixth grade and culminates in a 12th grade project for every student. A Manhattan teacher integrated the history of the World Trade Center and 9/11 into a semester-long study of the city of New York. A reading specialist in upstate NY involved her students in reading, researching, discussion and analysis, and finally writing about the attacks. A school in the Rockaways compared the work of volunteers in the aftermath of 9/11 to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and then helped their community recover. Students in Texas used media to create a theatrical presentation about the stories of 9/11. Teachers and students shared their projects and how their students were impacted by these experiences.

The keynote speaker, Regent Kathleen Cashin of the New York State Education Department, shared her experiences as an school administrator on 9/11, followed by an impassioned discussion of the importance of teaching 9/11 in our schools. Regent Cashin, a former principal and Superintendent in District 23 in Brooklyn, later Region 5, was named "Distinguished Educator of the Year" by the New York City Association for Supervision and Curriculum

Development. "It is more than important that we always honor the heroes and heroines of 9/11. We do this through education so that history will not repeat itself," she said.

The awards have been made possible by the generous support of the Brooke Jackman Foundation, the Christopher Slattery 9/11 Memorial Foundation, the Greg Richards, Larry Polatsch, Scott Weingard Memorial Fund (GLS Memorial Fund), the Family of Firefighter Michael D. Mullan, the Terry Farrell Firefighters Scholarship Fund, and the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust.

2013 TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

Lesley Ayers & Wendy Cox

Owens Intermediate School, 6th grade; Houston, TX

Craig Fabec

Chavez Huerta Preparatory Academy, 6th grade; Pueblo, CO

Jessica Kuehn & Shari Bowes

Waverly Park School, 4th & 5th grade; East Rockaway, NY

Desiree LaFontaine

P.S. 49, 5th grade; Bronx, NY

Lisa McGinn

Bay Trail Middle School, 8th grade; Penfield, NY

Raymond Pultinas

DeWitt Clinton High School, 12th grade; Bronx, NY

Rachel Rowley

Jonathan Law High School, 6th – 12th grades; Milford, CT

Robert Sandler

Stuyvesant High School, 12th grade; Manhattan, NY



SCHOOL GROUPS ARE RUNNING TO TRIBUTE!

Emily Haidet has been leading our new enhanced school program. "School groups learn in a unique way at Tribute. They get the facts through our staff-guided experience in the galleries, exploring images and artifacts, then hear a personal 9/11 story from a docent downstairs. These students and teachers are given an experience that textbooks cannot offer and is deeply memorable."

Docent Sonia Agron used her Spanish-speaking skills with Leslie Feliciano's students from the Academy of Medical Technology in Far Rockaway, Queens.

"This trip planted the seed for tolerance and empathy in our students. Your educational program is vital for this and upcoming generations. As New Yorkers, this experience has been truly meaningful. Our students were proud to have gained information that the majority of people do not possess," commented Leslie Feliciano, an HS ESL teacher from Academy of Medical Technology in Far Rockaway, Queens.

"My students got a good sense of what happened that day. And they were able to get a sense of the impact on families." Ms. McLeod, class 501, Duke Ellington School, PS 4 in Manhattan. Students spoke with docents Ann Van Hine who lost her husband, FDNY Firefighter Bruce Van Hine, and retired FDNY Battalion Chief and 9/11 responder Richie Fuerch.

Since the start of the school year, 7,000 visitors have used our online classroom resources, "September 11th Personal Stories of Transformation," (also known as the classroom toolkit). Some have used these materials before or after their visit to Tribute; others around the nation have used it to build their own lesson plans. A school in Texas just sent us a DVD of a project in which students created an interview show and each of the "guests" on the talk show were derived from our online resource. Emily comments, "It is so exciting to see how both teachers and students alike are moved by the touching and inspiring stories they hear through Tribute."

NYU EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISCUSSION



On January 14, 2013, Dr. Antonio Dajer, Chairman of Emergency Medicine at New York Downtown Hospital, gave a talk to Tribute docents about the hospital's role on 9/11 and the disaster-readiness changes they have implemented since. Dr. Dajer said that one of the myths surrounding 9/11 is that there was no medical response that day. He pointed out that New York Downtown Hospital, only 4 blocks away from the World Trade Center, served 1,300-1,500 patients on September 11, 2001. Most patients arrived by foot and most were injured before the towers collapsed. The staff at this small hospital had done disaster drills and working well together, they rose to the occasion. Dr. William Cole, who joined Dr. Dajer on the program, and others from NYU Hospital came down in police cars to help. During the day, the hospital lost power, water and phones. They did have a back-up generator so they could retain electricity.

Dr. Dajer and his colleagues at the hospital have been working since 9/11 to ensure that they continue to update planning through an annual symposium on disaster preparedness. He said that often disaster literature says "don't overwhelm the hospitals," but he believes that in fact the hospitals have large capacity and many resources and patients should be brought in. In 2006 New York Downtown Hospital opened a new emergency room with additional beds. They also have a new decontamination center, the largest one in the city.

BUILDING WORLD TRADE



Building World Trade, the 9/11 Tribute Center's newest exhibit, has been getting a lot of attention from visitors. People are intrigued by the videos that give an insider look at what's being built at the World Trade Center. On two large screens embedded in a wall-length mural of the new Lower Manhattan skyline, visitors see

BEHR PAINT & HOME DEPOT VOLUNTEER

On January 16, 2013 the 9/11 Tribute Center was the beneficiary of skilled professional expertise courtesy of Behr Paint and Home Depot when sixteen corporate volunteers spent a day painting and refurbishing portions of the Center's galleries with Behr brand, GREENGUARD certified, interior paints.

The volunteers, after a tour of the galleries by President Lee Ielpi which introduced them to the work of the Center, were happy to take on some of the more challenging tasks in keeping the entire Center well-maintained.

"It was a humbling day here. Lee did an outstanding job. I was amazed to see how we went through the tour and he then talked about his son. One of the strongest things I've witnessed in my life. The volunteers have the heart to come here every day. Pretty deep. It was fantastic. Coming here was pretty cool, but I didn't know what I was in for. A unique experience." - William Farrell, operations manager, Behr Paint Corporation.

"I haven't forgotten the devastation, I was desensitized from it though. It was heartbreaking. Watching Lee was great and I feel we really need to educate students here, especially in New York. I can't believe there isn't a curriculum in NYC where it happened." - Spyros Zorbas, sales representative, Behr Paint Corporation.

"Personally, it connected... it made it real. From California, I just read about it, saw photos and pictures afterwards. Now I am here, with Lee. He was in the 'band of dads,' looking for his son. That was real, not a mass story." - Hilda Lopez, sales representative, Behr Paint Corporation



construction workers inside the new towers, and cranes sitting atop them lifting materials into place. Watching a flyover animation created by Silverstein Properties, they get a sense of the full design of the new World Trade Center where four towers will embrace the Memorial. Another video created by Brookfield Properties shows a dynamic animation of the interior of the new transportation hub designed by Santiago Calatrava, and the underground connections that will link commuters to the World Financial Center. An additional media piece uses renderings of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum to give a preview of the museum.

One piece gives a detailed narration of the design and engineering of the 9/11 Memorial and the watering system for its trees. A recently shot video loaned by *New Jersey Star-Ledger* captures the real-time installation of the 408-foot spire atop One World Trade Center. Steve Plate, Director of World Trade Center Construction for the Port Authority of NY & NJ, narrates the walk through the building all the way to the 104th floor where men are installing the 18 sections one at a time. When the spire is fully in place it will take the building to the symbolic height of 1,776 feet.

"I like the hands-on quality of this exhibit, and I like being able to see what it's going to look like in the future," commented a high school student visiting from Highland Utah last week. "Seeing all of the exhibits at the 9/11 Tribute Center leaves me with sadness, but also fills me with hope," he added.

Building World Trade has been made possible by the generous support of Silverstein Properties.



Commissioning of the USS ARLINGTON

Saturday April 6, 2013
Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA
<http://ussarlingtonlpd24.org>

The FF Michael Cawley Memorial Foundation Benefit

Saturday, April 6, 2013
Mulcahy's, Wantagh, NY
<http://www.ffmichaeljcawley.org>

Visit www.911families.org and select
Events for a full list of upcoming events.

Brent Woodall Foundation's All in for Autism Casino Night

Saturday, April 20, 2013
Omni Mandalay Hotel, Irving, TX
<http://woodallkids.org>

Fred Gabler Helping Hand Camp Fund Theater Night

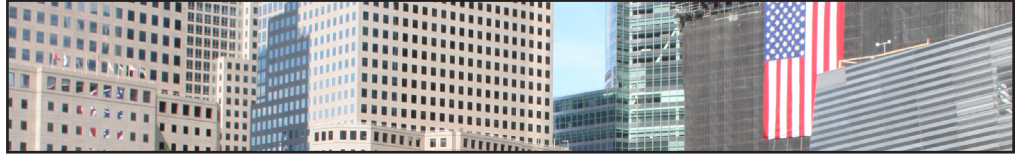
Tuesday, April 23, 2013
The Lunt- Fontanne Theater, New York, NY
<http://fredgabler.org>

13th Annual Joseph Rivero Memorial Golf Outing

Monday, May 6, 2013
Brynwood Country Club, Armonk, NY
<http://www.joerivero.com/>

The FF Christopher M. Mozzillo Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 9, 2013
Silver Lake Golf Course, Staten Island, NY
<http://www.911families.org/events> and
search or find event title for details.



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