

## 3 MILLION VISITORS

On June 10, 2013, Joe Piscopo welcomed our 3 millionth visitor, Jack, who was accompanied by his wife Barbara, at the 9/11 Tribute Center. A retired firefighter from Cleveland, Ohio, Jack commented, "We are visiting to pay tribute to the fallen firefighters of 9/11." After a tour through the 9/11 Tribute Center with Lee Ielpi, President and co-founder of 9/11 Tribute Center and former firefighter, continued to walk them to the 9/11 Memorial. Barbara explained, "This is so special to Jack, it means so much to him to be here as a firefighter and have this experience."

Joe Piscopo joined us in celebration while visiting the Center just days before our comedy night fundraiser with the Laughter Saves Lives Foundation, at Gotham Comedy Club. Featuring the founder of Laughter Saves Lives, John Larocchia, and Jeff Norris, Steve Alleva, Andrew Ginsburg, J Jay boyd and Tom Daddario, the night was filled with laughs and proceeds went to the 9/11 Tribute Center programs.

Let's continue our mission of support and education working toward welcoming four million visitors!



## REMAINS RELOCATED FROM MEMORIAL PARK

The NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has relocated the remains from 9/11 Memorial Park to a new facility. Before Hurricane Irene struck in August of 2011, as a precautionary measure to protect the remains, the OCME moved them to their state-of-the-art DNA Forensic Biology Laboratory Building at 421 East 26th Street where they would be safe from the storm. After Hurricane Irene, since there was no damage to Memorial Park, the remains were taken back to Memorial Park.

When the warnings about Hurricane Sandy arose in October 2012, for safety, the remains were again moved from Memorial Park to the DNA Forensic Biology Laboratory Building. Hurricane Sandy seriously damaged Memorial Park, which is still in poor condition. Therefore, the remains continue to be securely housed at the DNA Forensic Biology Laboratory Building. The OCME plans to keep the remains at this facility so that they can be as safe as possible.

The Memorial Park Chapel will remain open and available for quiet reflection. Families may visit by contacting the OCME. If families are interested in visiting the new facility, or for any questions or concerns regarding identifications, DNA, your loved one's remains, or Memorial Park, you may still call the World Trade Center hotline at 212-447-7884 or the new number at City Hall, which is 212-442-8953. You may also email [911familyquestions@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:911familyquestions@cityhall.nyc.gov).

## HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF SPEAKS



On May 2, New York State Commissioner of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Jerome Hauer, gave a presentation at the 9/11 Tribute Center. He spoke about the survey of threats, measures for prevention and how New York State is preparing response systems.

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and its five offices provide leadership, coordination and support for efforts to prevent, protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism and other man-made and natural disasters, threats, fires and other emergencies. DHS personnel work to develop communication and coordination with officials in government, the private sector and volunteer organizations who may be involved in disaster response.

Commissioner Hauer said that the threats we are confronting haven't changed since 9/11. He stated that the biggest threats are still those that arise from materials that are easily accessible and easy to use - bombs and guns. He said that the biggest threats are cyber threats, and he gave examples of computer systems in the intelligence sector and the banking sector that have been hacked. The best way to prevent this is for system users to be more careful.

One of Commissioner Hauer's strongest recommendations is that information sharing among agencies be transparent. He believes that the flow of information from one agency to another is still limited. He also suggested that we as a society tend to forget about the past and become complacent. He did think that residents in the New York metropolitan region are among the most aware of the possibility of terror of any people in America.

In the coming months, New York State will be rolling out a program to teach people how to be prepared for disaster. In most disasters, both man-made and natural, he said people are usually saved by neighbors, not first responders. He would like more people to be trained to help others so that first responders can take on larger tasks, such as evacuating hospitals as they did during Hurricane Sandy.

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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 NYC 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

## OCME SIFTING OPERATIONS

As part of the ongoing efforts to identify victims of the World Trade Center attacks, the City of New York began the multi-agency sifting operation on April 1, 2013 which ended May 30, 2013, carefully evaluated and searched material that may contain human remains recovered in the surrounding vicinity of the World Trade Center since 2010. This operation is being conducted at a forensic mobile sifting platform at Fresh Kills in Staten Island.

The NYC Community Affairs Commissioner invited 9/11 families to observe the new operations for sifting and recovering remains from material surrounding the World Trade Center on May 22, 2013. Representatives from the September 11th Families' Association attended to observe the operations. Almost \$40 million in resources has been dedicated to the operations from the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and the FDNY, working in conjunction on this effort to recover remains.

Bradley Adams, PHD forensic anthropologist with the OCME, guided the tour of facilities and provided insight to the operations. Adams, a former JPAC employee (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command which conducts global search, recovery, and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts for the Department of Defense) has personally selected 34 anthropologists and archeologists who are screening the material for remains. Custom equipment has been built under the oversight of the OCME specifically for this screening. One of the largest machines was built for the efforts in 2006 in Lower Manhattan and was converted to a mobile operation for the Fresh Kills site.

Each screener oversees sifting of material into ½ inch screen and then through 3/16 inch screen to filter for human remains. Standard archeology practice screens only to ¼ inch materials. Adams noted, "We felt the need to go beyond the normal standard when filtering the material and implemented the 3/16 inch screen to insure a thorough and careful screening for any possible remains." Each screener has been rigorously trained and is rotated frequently with oversight by the OCME.

One container is sifted per day and then transferred to 5-gallon buckets from the conveyer and poured into each screening station. Press coverage has questioned the two-year delay in sifting the material; however, the coordinating agencies felt the need to wait until all material from possible areas in the surrounding vicinity was excavated and trained professionals were hired to mobilize the sifting operation. A major consideration was also the safety and qualification of workers to have the essential resources to make every possible effort to recover remains.

Dr. Bradley Adams was also part of supervising removal of the airline piece excavated in April from between 51 Park Place and 50 Murray Street in Lower Manhattan. "The entire area above, around and below the plane piece was excavated and no remains were found within the 100-foot gap and a 12-foot area that was dug and excavated along with surrounding rooftops that were all reevaluated for remains," said Adams.

As the Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Charles Hirsh said in 2004, "It's simply a reflection of the commitment that everybody at the Medical Examiner's Office felt toward the families. I believe it's safe to say that we believe that we have a sacred obligation to the families who lost their loved ones. That obligation is for us to do whatever it takes, for as long as takes, to identify their loved ones."

## ANNUAL POETRY READING

Since 2007, the 9/11 Tribute Center has been holding an annual poetry reading in April in recognition of National Poetry Month.

This year's poetry reading featured students from Stoneham High School in Massachusetts, who have visited Tribute annually for several years, came only 10 days after the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon. The teacher told us many in the senior class knew someone who was affected by the Boston Marathon bombing, and that their visit to Tribute was particularly meaningful to understand effects of terrorism and recovery.



### Here are two of the many poems read:

On 9/11 we heard a crash  
Because of terrorists who were so rash  
We watched in awe and cursed to hell  
As we saw how the towers fell.

Families cried and wept for days  
And found it hard to get back to our ways  
We preserve the memories of those who died  
Along with the families that have cried.

We thought terrorists are worse than sin  
As people cried, "Don't let them win"  
As people crawled out of houses and holes  
We said, "Please, God, bless their souls."

It's been 12 years now and we're doing well  
So where were you when the towers fell?

- By Alex

September:  
September we rush to class  
And sit dreamily at our desks.  
Eyes still hazy with summer past  
September, a month of remembering everything  
We tried to forget over the summer.

September, we watch as planes crash  
Into two tall buildings, still too young  
To fully understand its significance  
Or their evil.

September, a month of remembering the names  
And faces of our loved ones.

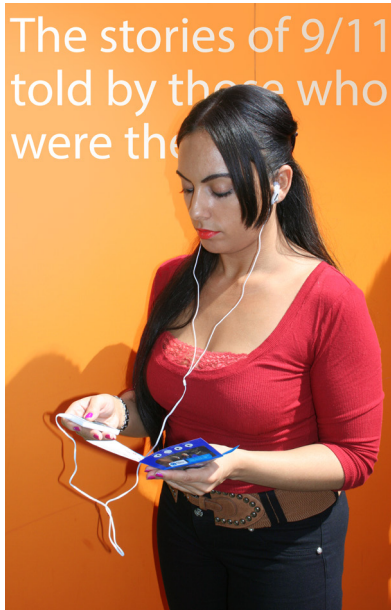
Another September has passed,  
But the feeling of loss still echoes  
Through this city with such emphasis  
That my bones grow cold.

Another September has passed, but we  
Stand proud, without fear.

- By Abigail



## NEW TRIBUTE CENTER AUDIO TOURS



The 9/11 Tribute Center has released a new audio tour, available in both Spanish and English, taking visitors through 9/11 Tribute Center galleries and onto the 9/11 Memorial. The audio tour gives visitors a deeply personal look into experiences on 9/11 and the recovery. Thirty-one people talk candidly about their escape from the buildings, the 9/11 Memorial, and their experiences during and after the attacks. These audio tours capture the essential mission of the 9/11 Tribute Center – to remember by telling the stories of those who were there. They narrate a walk through the 9/11 Tribute Center galleries where visitors experience artifacts, multimedia, and photographs conveying the history of the terrorist attacks. Then the audio guides take the visitors on

a meaningful walk around the 9/11 Memorial, conveying the history of what happened during the attacks and the overwhelming humanitarian response.

Newscaster Soledad O'Brien will be at the 9/11 Tribute Center next month to talk about the importance of this tour to New Yorkers, and to officially greet the first visitors who purchase the Spanish audio tour.

"We think these heartfelt insights will enrich people's appreciation of historic events walking on the 9/11 Memorial," commented Lee Ielpi, the 9/11 Tribute Center's co-founder and the tour's main narrator. "I always tell visitors that when they step onto the 9/11 Memorial they are stepping onto hallowed ground. This place where 1,117 people 'disappeared' (none of their remains have yet been identified) is a burial site for those families," he explains. The tour helps visitors understand the emotional significance of both the memorial pools and the "Survivor Tree." As the tour continues, those who lost loved ones on 9/11 share memories, moving forward and feeling inspired by the rebuilding of the World Trade Center.

The tour features the stories of 9/11 Tribute Center docents – family members, survivors, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and residents. "If visitors want to walk by themselves, or do not speak English, we want them to have a meaningful insights a tour can offer," stated curator Meriam Lobel.

## AMANDA RIPLEY ON HUMAN RESPONSE TO CRISIS

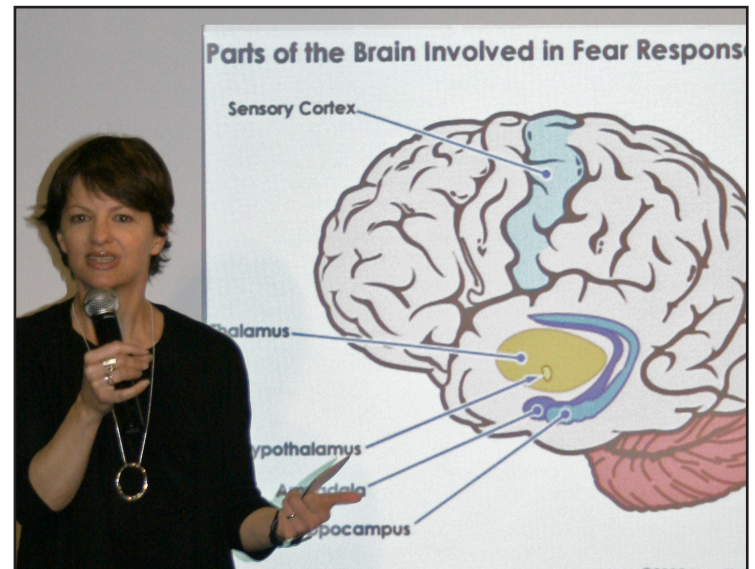
Noted journalist and author Amanda Ripley discussed "Disaster Mythology-What Really Happens at the Worst of Times" on May 14, 2013 at the 9/11 Tribute Center.

Ms. Ripley talked about the human responses to crisis at the moment a catastrophe is taking place. She researched years of disaster reporting to explain the three phases most people go through in life-or-death experiences - and how we can learn to do better. What happens to us, physically, mentally and even socially, at the worst of times? How can we prepare for the turbulence of life according to how our brains actually respond?

Ripley's 2008 book, "The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes--and Why," drew heavily on interviews with survivors of the attacks of September 11th and other major disasters of all kinds. Several of the 9/11 Tribute Center's volunteer docents contributed their stories to her research.

Ms. Ripley praised the 9/11 Tribute Center volunteers for sharing their stories with visitors on a daily basis, saying, "The best disaster preparation is from people sharing their stories and helping to understand what really happens in a disaster and peoples' immediate reaction."

Amanda Ripley is an investigative journalist who writes about human behavior and public policy for "TIME" magazine and the "Atlantic Monthly." "The Unthinkable" was published in 15 countries and turned into a PBS documentary.



## MOTH PROGRAM WITH TRIBUTE CENTER VOLUNTEER GUIDES



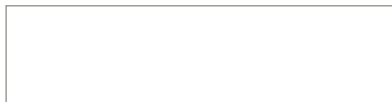
"I have come to realize that all of our stories have common threads, and it is these that bind us, make us a family, and give a sense of hope and purpose" 9/11 Tribute Center guide

On the evening of May 8, 2013, the 9/11 Tribute Center held a performance showcasing Tribute Center guides after a 6-session course with the Moth Community Education Program. Five coaches worked with 11 guides, creating a tutorial on how to craft a story. Many lessons were learned as our guides found ways to distill their stories: the loss of a father, the pain of working on the recovery site, helping others in pain to heal while really healing oneself, dedicating oneself to helping a community rebuild. Our guides helped one another suggesting new directions and points to emphasize. The sense of support and camaraderie between the storytellers was enormous. The Moth coaches taught skills of communication, shaping and how to layer and roll-out key elements. These new skills will be cherished and used by the guides with whatever story they choose to tell.

The Moth, true stories told live, is a national organization. Poet George Dawes Green created the Moth as he aimed to recreate in NYC the sultry summer feeling of his front porch in Georgia; people sitting around telling stories, as moths flickered in the light. The Moth is an award-winning, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling.

September 11th Families' Association  
22 Cortlandt Street, Suite 801  
New York, NY 10007

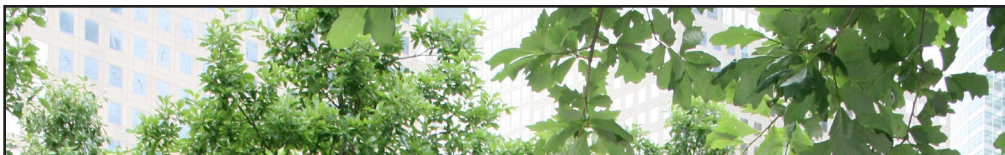
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## DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

Paul A. Acquaviva, Esq.  
Kevin Bennor  
FF Brian Bilcher  
FF Michael Boyle

Kevin Cohen  
FF Michael D'Auria  
Bill Godshalk  
FF Jonathan Ielpi



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Registration Deadline: September 11th  
Victims' Compensation Fund (Zadroga)  
claim for known illness

October 3, 2013  
[www.vcf.gov](http://www.vcf.gov) or email [help@vcf.com](mailto:help@vcf.com)

**Dan Trant Classic**  
**Saturday, September 7, 2013**

Monday, July 8, 2013  
Cherry Creek Golf Course, Riverhead, NY  
<https://www.facebook.com/3256foundation>

Visit [www.911families.org](http://www.911families.org) and select  
Events for a full list of upcoming events.



### 3256 Foundation Golf Outing for NYPD Sgt. Michael S. Curtin

Monday, July 8, 2013  
Cherry Creek Golf Course, Riverhead, NY  
<https://www.facebook.com/3256foundation>

### Robin Kaplan Memorial Golf Tournament

Sunday & Monday, July 14-15, 2013  
Lake of Isles Golf Course, Foxwoods Resorts, CT  
<http://rkmgt.com>

### Chris' Chance Golf Outing

Friday, July 19, 2013  
Crystal Golf Resort, Hamburg, NJ  
<http://desimonefoundation.com>

### Kevin Williams Memorial Golf Outing

Monday, July 22, 2013  
Port Jefferson Golf Club & Lombardi's,  
Port Jefferson, NJ  
<http://kevinsfoundation.org/events/>

### Deeg Sezna Four-Ball Tournament

Tuesday, August 6, 2013  
Whitemarsh Valley Country Club,  
Lafayette Hill, PA  
<http://www.gapgolf.org> and click on  
Tournaments to find by date.

### Jeff Coombs Memorial Road Race, Walk and Family Day

Sunday, September 8, 2013  
Woodsdale School, Abington, MA  
<https://www.jeffcoombsfund.org>

9/11 TRIBUTE CENTER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM  
October 4th & 5th :: November 22nd & 23rd

