## Maintenance of Boston Public Garden Memorial

The Garden of Remembrance Memorial in the Boston Public Garden was completed and dedicated in 2004. This beautiful memorial to those lost on September 11, 2001 resulted from the efforts of the Board and Family members of the Massachusetts 9/11 Fund with cooperation from the City of Boston, the Friends of the Public Garden, the Landmarks Commission, Walker-Kleusing Design Group and the generosity of the citizens of Massachusetts.

As of September 11, 2010, the names of 206 Massachusetts residents and other victims with direct ties to Massachusetts (including several victims from Rhode Island and New Hampshire) were inscribed in stone to honor their memory. Since the dedication of the Memorial, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino has placed a wreath at the Memorial as part of the annual commemoration to honor our loved ones lost on 9/11. If you have attended one of these ceremonies you would have also observed the loving care provided for the Memorial by Boston Parks and Recreation Department staff.

*Mayor and Mrs. Menino laying the wreath at the Boston Public Garden memorial on September 11, 2009.*

During 2007 the Fund entered into an agreement with the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department to establish "The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund Memorial Trust" to provide for the perpetual care of the Memorial and surrounding area in the Boston Public Garden. Since 2007 the Fund has contributed a total of $300,000 to this Trust, in the future we anticipate additional contributions will be made to the Trust.

The Fund also commissioned the preparation of a Maintenance Plan for the Garden of Remembrance. The importance of this site to the 9/11 Families, City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts is emphasized by maintaining the Memorial, lawns, trees and entire Garden of Remembrance in a good state of repair. A well maintained site tends to discourage vandalism and promotes community support. Since 2007 representatives of the Fund have met with the Parks Department and our engineering firm to review the condition of the Memorial and to evaluate and update the Maintenance Plan. As a result of our most recent inspection we are funding the reapplication of Lithochrome colorant to the names and designs on the Memorial to ensure it is prepared for the 10th commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001.

Many of you may be aware that we have experienced vandalism, most likely caused by skate boarders. We first noticed scuff marks and scratches on the Memorial during our inspection in the fall of 2009. At that time, with support from the Parks Department, we arranged for appropriate repairs to the Memorial. However in the fall of 2010 we noticed additional damage that also appeared to have been caused by skate boarders. With assistance from our engineering firm and the Parks Department we submitted an application to the Landmarks Commission to install a "post and chain" barrier on the back side of the Memorial monument to hinder skate boarders. We believe this will provide a deterrent with the least possible change in the appearance of the Garden of Remembrance Memorial site. The application for the post and chain was recently approved and we plan to complete the installation before the annual commemoration.

The filing with the Landmarks commission resulted in several press articles and coverage by one of the Boston TV stations. We hope that this publicity and the post and chain barrier will encourage the general public to remember those lost on 9/11 and to respect their memory by respecting the Memorial.

Please encourage your family and friends to visit the Memorial, not only during the annual commemoration, but during visits to Boston, whether for business or personal reasons. The Garden of Remembrance is a beautiful place for all to remember those lost and to contemplate what we can do for the community in the future to ensure they are not forgotten.