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## National 9/11 Memorial Museum

### Boston Families Visit the National 9/11 Memorial Museum

The New York 9/11 Memorial Museum was visited by 36 family members on May 16 and 45 family members on May 18 thanks to the funding from the Mass 9/11 Board of Directors and Alyse Mazerolle's hard work. This was a very emotional day for all of us, but so significant and powerful. The families went by bus, and although the day was filled with a lot of tears, we all had appreciation for the energy, time, and talent taken to create this museum. The amazing displays, the living memorials, the actual artifacts found and donated by families, the accurate depictions of the happenings of 9/11, the short films to watch, the mangled steel columns, the saved stairway, the quilts donated, the urn with every victim's name written on it, the work done by the police, firemen and first responders, the devastation of a fire engine and an ambulance that survived, the list goes on and on. It is truly a remarkable museum worked on with dignity, empathy for families, and the facts. It is a museum that takes time to tour and is packed with so much. You are exhausted when you finish touring the museum with all its levels, but realize that this is worthy of your visit. September 11, 2001 was a horrific day and is a part of history and our lives forever.

A family member said, "The museum and everything there you read and see is powerful."



**Alex, Russell, and Bill Connors at the 9/11 Memorial Museum**

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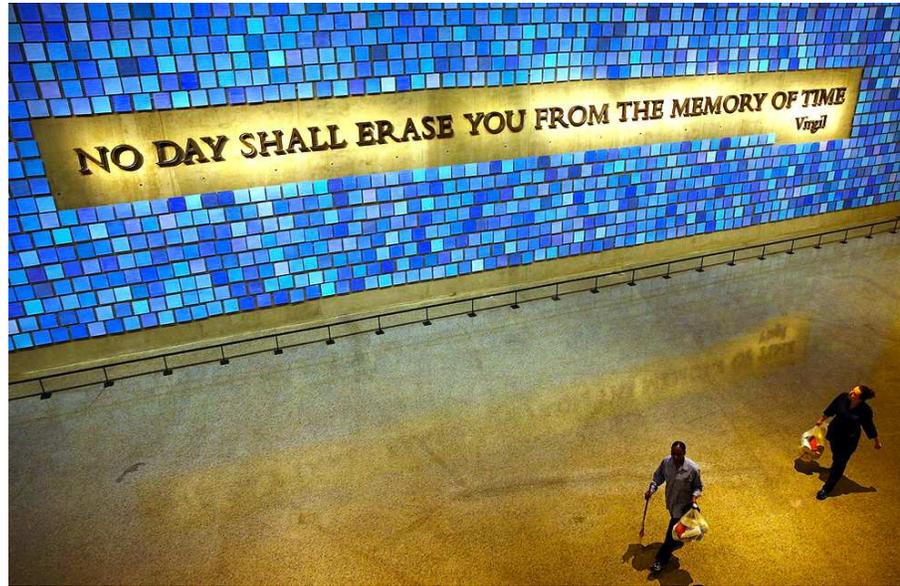
Eliot Tatelman

Faith Weiner

**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M.  
Kennedy

Loretta W. Kowal



"Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on that September Morning"

## Searing Blues

There are two free mobile applications you can download to enhance your visit to the outdoor Memorial and the 9/11 Museum or just read or listen to at your own leisure at home. Click on this link to learn more about them or download the apps. [9/11 Memorial Guide and Museum Audio Guide apps.](#)

Here are some excerpts taken from the audio guide about the only work of art commissioned by the museum which dominates the space of Memorial Hall with a quote from the Roman poet Virgil that captures the commemorative context for entire the museum. Suggesting the transformative potential of remembrance, each letter was forged from remnant World Trade Center steel by sculptor and blacksmith Tom Joyce. "I was invited to use materials salvaged from the ruins of the WTC. I knew that iron could forge this wounded remnant steel into letters of hope and beauty reminding us that Virgil's words are not just a statement, they are a promise."

Surrounding the quote is a site-specific art installation called 'Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on that September Morning'. Artist Spencer Finch created this work to pay tribute to the victims and to explore both the personal and the collective nature of memory. This work is made up of 2,983 individual tiles — one for every person killed in the Sept. 11 attacks and in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center - each hand-painted in a searing shade of blue.

## 2014 Commemoration

### Planning for the 13<sup>th</sup> Year Commemoration

The Family Advisory Committee is diligently working with Altus Marketing and Management (AMM) to put together a respectful and dignified program for the 13th Commemoration being held again at the Massachusetts State House.

We know this day is important to all of us in so many different ways, and we are trying to reach out to all of you for your thoughts and comments. Karin Charles, Vice Chairman, will be coordinating necessary information and is reaching out to families looking for participation for the commemoration.

Below is a list of information we are seeking:

### **Photos of Your Loved Ones**

Each year a beautiful video montage is shown with pictures of our loved ones. The Committee wants to represent all MA family members that were lost on that day. If a photo has never been sent by your family, perhaps this year, you might share a picture with us. It is nice to put a face with a name.

### **Volunteer Name Readers**

If you or someone is interested in reading names during the commemoration, please send us your name and contact information. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate. Everyone is trained to pronounce the names appropriately, and we are always looking to involve new people to read.

Please send your information and comments to Karin at [Karin.Charles@Massfund.org](mailto:Karin.Charles@Massfund.org) by August 1st.

The 2014 Commemoration invitations will be mailed out in early July. Please return your RSVP cards promptly so that we can plan for everyone accordingly. We appreciate your being accurate with your responses as we are financially responsible for those who do not attend. If you have recently moved, please make sure to send us your new address so your invitation reaches you.

Finally, the Family Advisory Committee greatly appreciates your input and participation as we continue planning for the 13th Commemoration. We would love to have new family members to help with the plans. We invite you to attend our monthly meetings. If you are interested please email Teresa at [Teresa.Mathai@Massfund.org](mailto:Teresa.Mathai@Massfund.org).

## **Madeline Amy Sweeney Award – Request for Nominations**

The Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery is presented annually on September 11 to a resident of Massachusetts who demonstrated exceptional bravery, without regard for personal safety, in an effort to save the life or lives of another or others in actual imminent danger.

We are looking for nominations for this year's Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery. A completed nomination may be submitted using the online form on the website. [M.A. Sweeney Award Nomination Form](#). You may also download the form, print it, and mail it to: Madeline Amy Sweeney Award, c/o Executive Office of Public Safety, One Ashburton Place, Room 2133, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

To be considered, the nomination must include: (1) evidence of Massachusetts residency; (2) names of two or more witnesses or individuals having personal knowledge of the facts surrounding the candidate's extraordinary endeavor; and (3) a detailed account of any public recognition the candidate has received for his or her endeavor, which includes recognition or awards from any local, civic, religious, or other organizations as well as any press coverage of the event in which the candidate displayed exceptional bravery performed between July 15, 2013 and June 15, 2014.). Anyone can nominate a candidate and we encourage you to ensure your candidates' nomination by sending in your form.

## **What Family Members are Doing**

### **Mayor Walsh Dedicates Survivor Tree Sapling near Boston 9/11 Memorial**

On May 19, MA family members gathered with Mayor Martin Walsh, other representatives from the City of Boston, and Mr. Ron Vegas, who represented the 9/11 Memorial Museum, to dedicate the sapling which was seeded from the Callery Pear Survivor Tree at Ground Zero.

Mayor Walsh thanked the National 9/11 Memorial Museum for 'this wonderful token of solidarity' and said, "It is the symbol of the fighting spirit that carried NY through the dark times. That is the same kind of resilience we



**Mayor Walsh and 9/11 Family Members**



**The Sapling Dedication**

drew upon here in Boston after the marathon, last year. With the gift of this tree, the 9/11 Memorial has recognized that common spirit and strengthened it."

"As its roots take hold in this historic soil of the Public Gardens, this native New Yorker will feed and grow off the spirit of our city's resilience. As it blossoms, it will remind us of the relationship between the two cities, and as visitors from all over the world come to this beautiful place in the heart of our city, they will honor the memories of those effected by 9/11 and the 2013 Boston Marathon."

To view the video of the event, please visit the Massfund website by clicking on this link:  
<http://www.massfund.org/september-11th-survivor-tree>

### **Information Day at BC High School, March 29, 2014**

Last month about 70 family members gathered at BC High School for a day of updates from various New York-based 9/11-related organizations, including the 9/11 Museum and Memorial, the New York Medical Examiner's Office, StoryCorps, Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Military Commissions and the Tribute Center. Many thanks to board member, Faith Arter and FAC member, Christie Coombs for arranging such an informative day.

Amy Weinstein and Jan Ramirez spoke about the Dedication and Opening of the long-awaited 9/11 Museum. The dedication ceremony was held on Thursday, May 15, and family and other 9/11 constituents enjoyed 24-hour dedicated private visitation hours starting on Thursday at 6 p.m. and ending on Tuesday, May 20. On May 21, the Museum opened to the general public. Family members can visit for free anytime and make a reservation to visit the museum as well as the 'Reflection Room at the Repository' by calling the dedicated family hotline at 212-266-5201.

Kristen Harnett from the New York Medical Examiner's Office explained the status of recovery and identification of remains. The recovery has been completed for the most part, so the focus is on identifying the roughly 8,000 remains still unidentified. Kristen said, with ever-changing DNA technology, they are hopeful they will continue to make positive identifications. To date, only 40% of those killed at the WTC have had some remains identified. The remains will be moved to the repository in the Museum. You may visit anytime with identification, but space is limited. They encourage family members to reserve through the dedicated family hotline mentioned above. Make sure your personal information is up-to-date with them so they can keep you abreast with the latest news.

Karen Loftus from the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Military Commissions gave an update on the terrorist trials in Guantanamo and encouraged family members to contact them if they are interested in being added to the lottery to attend any of the trials in Cuba.

Kimberly Grieger also gave a brief update on the Tribute Center. She and Jan Ramirez of the 9/11 Museum collected photos and mementos for inclusion in the Museum and Tribute Center's displays, while StoryCorps and the Museum did recordings.

If you haven't sent in photos or items to commemorate your loved one, you can find information on line at the memorial website or contact Jan Ramirez at [jan@911memorial.org](mailto:jan@911memorial.org). To learn more or to schedule an oral history appointment, please call 877-671-1636 or e-mail [collections@911memorial.org](mailto:collections@911memorial.org).

### StoryCorps - Telling Heather's Story in our Words

When I heard that StoryCorps would be holding recording sessions in the Mass 9/11 office on March 28, 2014, I made an appointment for George, our son, Chad and myself. I thought it would provide us with an opportunity to create a living tribute to our daughter, Heather. We are, by nature storytellers and this was our chance to tell her story in our words. The night before our recording session, we read through the material on the StoryCorps website at [www.storycorp.org](http://www.storycorp.org) which offered a list of questions and suggestions for getting a good conversation going and listened to their online recordings. We spent the evening laughing and crying recalling favorite memories, how we saw her, how her life impacted ours, and traditions we now follow to honor her. As non-professionals, we felt uncomfortable sitting in front of the microphones and when given the signal to begin, we struggled to find a starting point. Our son, Chad, broke the silence with a question directed to George and we settled into a comfortable conversational rhythm. Before we knew it, 40 minutes had passed, yet we still had more to say. StoryCorps gives you a CD copy of your audio recording and, with your permission, the recording becomes part of the StoryCorps archive at the Library of Congress and the permanent collection of the WTC Memorial Museum.

The 9/11 Museum's touch screen tables allow visitors to learn more about the lives of those who were killed on September 11, 2011 and February 26, 1993 through photographs and audio recordings. Excerpts from oral remembrances are a key component of the memorial exhibition. I encourage you to consider recording a remembrance of your loved one. To schedule an oral history appointment, please call 877-671-1636 or e-mail [collections@911memorial.org](mailto:collections@911memorial.org). If you are unable to travel to New York City, you can also contribute a remembrance by phone by using the Call to Remember archive. Visit [911memorial.org/call-remember-archive](http://911memorial.org/call-remember-archive) to obtain your loved one's four-digit code, then call 866-582-5613 (toll free) to record up to 10 minutes. You may make as many recordings as you wish and the service is available free of charge.

**Judy Smith**  
Heather Smith's Mother

### Cirque de la Symphonie

On May 17, our family was among twenty-eight 9/11 families who attended a popular, sold out performance of the Cirque de la Symphonie at Symphony Hall in Boston. Under the direction of Keith Lockhart, the Pops Orchestra provided the musical background for the death defying performances of aerial flyers, acrobats, dancers, jugglers, balancers and strongmen and strong women. Children in the audience were dancing and cheering for every act. All were astounded at the skill and daring of the performers and the outstanding music that accompanied them. We would like to thank the Mass 9/11 Fund for subsidizing the ticket price to make it more affordable for family members.

**Eunice & Lee Hanson**

## Community Service Projects

### Memorial Day Flag Planting

The Massachusetts Military Heroes' Fund (MMHF) once again created a Flag Garden on the Boston Common to honor the Massachusetts men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. On May 21, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, MMHF planted 37,000 flags. The Flag Garden remained intact until Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 at 5 p.m., at which time volunteers helped remove the flags.

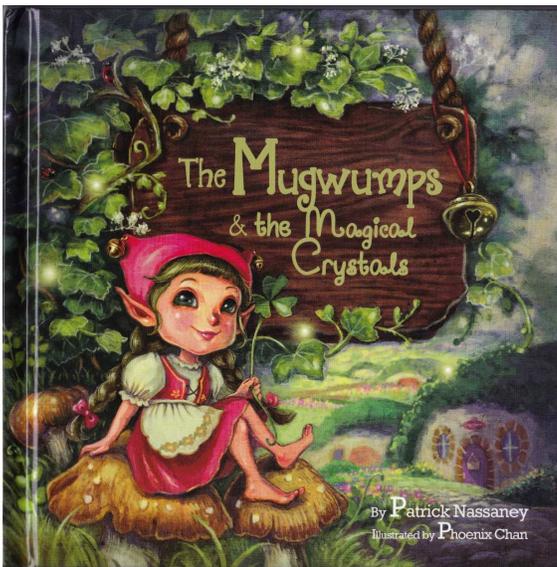
This event provided an opportunity for MassFund families to gather for another of our quarterly community service activities. Those who attended enjoyed the beautiful weather while participating in an event which causes one to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day.

## Do You Have Something to Share with Other Families?

### Honoring our Son, Shawn

My son Shawn M. Nassaney was a passenger on United flight 175 that struck the south tower. He was 25 years old and worked as a sales training manager at APC in West Kingston, RI. On September 11, 2001, he was traveling to Hawaii with his girlfriend, Lynn Goodchild.

We decided not only to commemorate his life but also his traits and values. His natural leadership in college and in his short but unusually successful business career exemplified his belief in the celebration and acceptance of diversity. That has become part of our mission.



Pursuant that mission we have introduced an illustrated children's book. It is designed for children of ages 7-9, the most formative time for values and beliefs. The book, *The Mugwumps & the Magical Crystals*, is a whimsical fantasy story of two young girls overcoming prejudices and obstacles in order to save their way of life. Having no villains and not didactic, it reinforces valuable lessons.

The reactions from teachers and students towards the book have been very favorable. As a result we hope to have printed by next winter a second book of the same Mugwumps. More products are tentatively being planned. The books are given to schools at no cost. We only ask their assurance that they will use them.

Some young readers commented;

*I really loved your book and because of you I learned that everyone is different. I learned that it is ok to be different, I liked how Lulli brought everyone together in the story instead of being separate because they were different, Mr. Nassaney I bet your son is proud of you. Oh yeah, Mr. Nassaney I wanted to ask you a question, are you going to make another book? You are so gifted and now I want to be an author like you.*

*I really like your book. It tells me that I don't need to be a grownup yet, I could be myself. I don't need to be the same as everyone else, I could just be me. You taught me from this book that we could come together, if we do things together we could make it better. So thank you for letting us see your book. Your book was inspiring and it tells me a lot of things.*

**Pat Nassaney**  
Shawn Nassaney's Father

**Would you like to contribute?** Family members who wish to contribute a letter, article or news item for publication in an upcoming quarterly newsletter can do so by e-mailing it to [Teresa.Mathai@massfund.org](mailto:Teresa.Mathai@massfund.org). Each piece submitted will be reviewed and, if approved by the Family Advisory Committee and the Board, it will be published in an upcoming newsletter. 2014 submission deadlines are: July 20 and October 20. Note: The Mass 9/11 Fund does not promote or endorse individual or family foundations.