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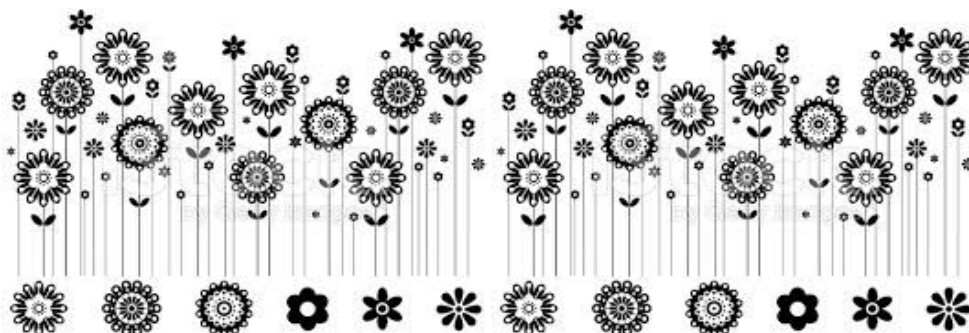
SPRING GREETINGS!

As of this writing, Winter appears to be over, Spring is in the air, and the Family Advisory Committee is working on the our calendar of events for 2018.

Seventeen years out, family members are pleased with the streamlining of the program format for “non-milestone” anniversaries. The program for the 17th anniversary will remain simple yet retain all the elements that are still important to us: reading loved ones’ names, viewing the video montage, presenting the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award, enjoying a meal together, and laying the communal wreath and individual flowers at the 9/11 Contemplative Garden. This year, we again begin with the Flag Lowering at the State House at 8:30 am, followed by the Moment of Silence and Reading of Names. We’ll again enjoy the traditional luncheon format, and proceed to the wreath and flower laying after lunch.

Day of Service events are also in the works and will be announced as plans firm up. You may have already seen the Constant Contact emails regarding service events following the Commemoration on 9/11 itself. A bloodmobile will be available right outside the Taj! Watch your inbox for updates, and also see page 4 for information on a new and different service event.

All of this planning requires effort. FAC members are pleased to volunteer their time on behalf of Mass 9/11 families. Our efforts include producing the three-times-yearly newsletters, organizing social and service events, and planning the Annual Commemoration. The committee work is an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Some remote participation is possible, as are special projects for those who’d like to help but can’t make the larger commitment. Please give volunteering some consideration and contact Karin Charles (karin.charles@massfund.org) or Iris Friedman (iris.friedman@massfund.org) if you’re interested.



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Father Brian Jordan Visits, Discusses the Ground Zero Cross

On Saturday of Patriots Day weekend, members of the Mass 9/11 community were visited by Father Brian Jordan O.F.M. Fr. Jordan is a chaplain at St Francis College in Brooklyn and has 61 marathons under his belt, including several in Boston. However, he came to share his experience of September 11, 2001 and its aftermath. On that terrible day, after saying goodbye to Father Mychal Judge O.F.M., a chaplain to the NYPD, Fr. Jordan went about his workday. Upon hearing news of the attack, he made his way to the WTC site.



He later learned that Fr. Judge was killed while serving in his capacity as chaplain. For the next two weeks Fr. Jordan ministered to the heroic members of the recovery teams, including fire, police, and construction personnel.

On September 23, 2001, Fr. Jordan was shown the two girders—forming the sign of the cross—that survived the devastation at 6 WTC. Fr. Jordan and many other observers were struck by the symbolism of this artifact. He also saw that the deaths of rescuers on the day of the tragedy and the volunteerism of the hundreds who came to help at the site during the long weeks that followed as affirming the essential goodness of people, noting that the 19 murderers (who indiscriminately killed Muslims and citizens of many countries) were directed not by God but by their own free will.

Over the next few years, Fr. Jordan navigated a litigious path to ensure the Ground Zero Cross was enshrined in a permanent home, that being the 9/11 Memorial Museum. He shared with us that its symbolism endures, noting that “the very place where the Ground Zero Cross was discovered, in the rubble of 6 WTC, is now the site of the tallest building in the United States, a beacon of hope for all who may need it.”



EVENTS



Annual Fenway Park Outing Red Sox Versus White Sox



The Mass 9/11 Fund family is looking forward to attending the upcoming Red Sox game at Fenway Park on Father's Day, Sunday, June 10. They will be playing the Chicago White Sox. Tickets are *completely* sold out!!!

We'll hope for lovely weather and cheer for our beloved Red Sox. Spending time with other family members. This event will surely be an enjoyable way to spend an early summer afternoon.

Boston Harbor Cruise

We are pleased to announce that the Mass 9/11 Fund is planning another Boston Harbor cruise for family members. The date is July 22, 2018. The event includes a catered lunch and the ride around the harbor. We'll have the private dining room on the updated Odyssey yacht all to ourselves. The itinerary is:

Boarding Location: 60 Rowes Wharf, Boarding Gate B (*behind the Boston Harbor Hotel*)

Boarding time: 12:00 pm

Buffet Lunch: 12:30 pm

Cruising: 1:00-3:00 pm

The cost is \$35 per person. We have purchased 50 tickets with the option to purchase 10 more. So bring your whole clan to experience a peachful afternoon on the water while socializing with other family members.

Want to come? Starting at 9:00 am on May 24, please send email to Alyse Mazerolle at alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org. The email must include the name of each family member in your party. The tickets will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. In the interest of fairness, please do not contact Alyse before the starting time. If your request is fulfilled, Alyse will send you an invoice that covers the exact number of family members included in your request. You can pay online by credit card, debit card, or echeck. Kindly remit promptly. Unfortunately we cannot refund payments if you need to cancel.



One Mission Day of Service Event

We're planning an event in support of a wonderful charity named One Mission (www.onemission.org). Their cause is doing whatever it takes to get pediatric cancer patients through treatment. One Mission's programs make living in the hospital less lonely and stressful, bring joy in a time of fear and uncertainty, and give kids and their loved ones the support they need to get through the emotional and financial challenges of treatment.

Noodle Caboodle is one of One Mission's programs. Hair loss is usually the scariest, most visual side effect of cancer treatment for children. The Noodle Caboodle hair loss cart helps parents and nurses begin the difficult conversation they need to have with patients about losing their hair. In addition to hats, wraps and other cranium covers, the Noodle Caboodle features hair loss books, specially selected crafts, and even an iPad that allows kids to access hair-loss resources and take selfies of their new looks. The Noodle Caboodle is already a hit, making the rounds from room to room and bringing smiles to patients and families. Check out the video to see it in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpMm8Vpn8I0&feature=youtu.be>.

In honor of September 11th National Day of Service, and Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month, we would love for you to join us in helping One Mission, to help assemble care packages for families dealing with cancer. We will meet on the Boston Common immediately following the Wreath Laying to assemble the care packages.

Until then, we are asking for your kindness and generosity in donating items needed for the packages, which include:

- ☑ \$5-\$10 gift cards (Target or Starbucks)
- ☑ Soft blankets
- ☑ Unscented hand or body lotion (please choose from Aveeno, CeraVe, Lubriderm, or Eucerin)
- ☑ Individual Purell hand sanitizer
- ☑ Blank journal notebooks
- ☑ Blank note cards
- ☑ Nice pens

Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at either of these locations:

- ☑ Mass 9/11 Fund, 470 Atlantic Ave, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, to the attention of Alyse Mazerolle
- ☑ One Mission, 69 Milk St., Suite 300, Westborough, MA 01581, to the attention of Abby Porosky.

Please mention that your donation is for the September 11th Day of Service.

Please contact Karin Charles at karin.charles@massfund.org with any questions. We sincerely thank you in advance for participating in such a worthwhile cause! And to all those who have already donated, thank you so much!



9/11 Memorial Museum Trip

We're planning another day trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in Lower Manhattan. The bus is already chartered for Saturday, October 13th. The plan is to arrive late morning. The group will enjoy a casual lunch at the corporate office, after which staff will make a brief presentation and escort us to the Museum for an afternoon of self-guided exploration. Details to follow, save the date!

Education Committee

The Education Committee is truly an integral part of the Mass 9/11 Fund vision. As we visit schools in the Greater Boston area, we're reminded how young these high school students really are. Most were not even born before September 11, 2001, and have no real concept about the day. Our presentation is a unique history lesson they carry with them.

Our team contacts high schools throughout the area to pitch our carefully crafted presentation to these young people. Planning an assembly of either the entire student body or various history classes is the challenge for the schools. To make our pitch, we preview the video and explain how we can squeeze the entire presentation into a 45 minute period. We emphasize that our schedules are not an issue: we can make it work at any time of the day! This is a great help to the schools but sometimes necessitates extra coffee for us, especially when we need to arrive in time for the 1st period.

To set the tone, we talk about the vivid weather that day, and the importance of the Mass 9/11 Fund and what this amazing organization has done for the families over the years. We then show the video that many family members saw at the Commemoration two years ago. The video centers around the words and thoughts of young adults who were children and teens on 9/11; there's nothing more powerful than a teen talking to another teen about their grief. Finally, a volunteer family member (often someone with a personal connection to the school) relates their experience of that day. It's difficult and yet, it's their desire to ensure students know what happened.

If you have a high school you'd like us to visit, please don't hesitate to ask. Alyse Mazerolle is glad to help and we'd love to have you join us and even speak, if you feel you can. We've experienced a high level of respect and admiration at every school we've visited so far. The feeling comes out right away and persists until we leave the school—and beyond.



Gerard P. Dewan Square Rededication

Gerard P. Dewan NYFD was a Boston-born firefighter who died in the line of duty at the World Trade Center. Many of you know his sister, Maureen Gilligan. A memorial square named in his honor is located at Wellsmere Road/Terrace in Roslindale. The square was rededicated on April 14 with Maureen, family and friends, firefighters, and an honor guard in attendance.

To read more about Firefighter Dewan and his fallen comrades, see the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation website (<https://www.firehero.org/>).



Does Your Loved One Have a Private Memorial?

The Massachusetts 9/11 Fund website includes a [Private Memorials page](#). This page is continuously updated and the FAC still seeks your help. Does your family sponsor an award, scholarship, or event, or operate a foundation? Was a special venue created in honor of your loved one? Please send website addresses, summary information, to Iris Friedman (iris.friedman@massfund.org). We'd also appreciate your checking the web page for obsolete or missing items. Thanks as always for helping with this effort!

Faces of Remembrance Project

Good news! Gina Johnson has completed the portraits of our loved ones. We're in the process of making arrangements for family members to view the portraits. We'll be sure to keep everyone posted and let you know as soon as we have more information.

Private Area on Website for Family Members

We would still like to create a private page on our website for family members, to provide information on upcoming events. Each family member would create their own login and password. This isn't a trivial undertaking and we appreciate your patience.

Reminder: Emailing of Newsletter

Emailing the newsletter is saving significant time and money that we can use for the Commemoration and other events. Please ensure we have up-to-date email addresses for your family so everyone can receive the newsletter and other timely correspondence. And please provide copies to elderly family members who don't use email. Feel free to contact Karin Charles (karin.charles@massfund.org) or Iris Friedman (iris.friedman@massfund.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding.

Current and past newsletters continue to be available for viewing on our [website](#).

Send Us Your Updated Information

Seventeen years have gone by and even our youngest children who lost parents, aunts, and uncles are in college... and there have been many births since that day. We are constantly updating our database to ensure Mass 9/11 Fund communications reach everyone in the community. Please send any updates to your information to Alyse at alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org. If you feel you have not been receiving our electronic mail, please put info@massfund.org on your safe list to make sure your spam filter is not rejecting our email. Of course you reserve the right to opt out at any time.

FAC Corner

The Family Advisory Committee Needs You!!

The FAC represents you, the families, so we encourage you to become more involved. Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month. We meet from noon to 2 pm at our office, located on the 4th floor of the Independence Wharf Building, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston. In the past, some of you who work during the day have helped us in numerous ways, from your homes, without coming in for the meetings. If you are interested in joining our endeavors on behalf of the Mass 9/11 community, we remain open to working with you to see what is convenient for your schedule. Your contributions and active participation in our work actualize the words *We Will Never Forget*. It has been 17 years since that tragic day we lost our loved ones and sometimes it feels like it was only yesterday! We need to honor our loved ones through remembrance and paying forward through service. We need your help to do so.

If you are interested in attending our meetings, calling in during our meetings, contributing from home, or discussing other options for participating in our working committee, please contact the Karin Charles, FAC Chair, at karin.charles@massfund.org.