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Survivor Tree near the Boston 9/11 Memorial at the Public Gardens

## Family Participation—14th Commemoration

Preparations for the 14th Commemoration event this fall are underway. This is a “non-milestone” year with our customary introspective and private ceremony being planned. We are reaching out to you to get your input, collect your loved ones’ photos, and seek your participation.

**Photos of your loved ones**—Each year, we show a video montage of photos of our loved ones. If your loved one’s photo is not included in the montage, please send it to us as soon as possible so we can include it.

**Volunteer name readers**—If you or someone in your family is interested in reading names during the commemoration, please send us your name and contact information. We try to include as many different families as we can so a variety of our loved ones can be represented. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate. We will help you with pronunciation and rehearse with you. (If your loved one’s name has been mispronounced in the past, please get in touch with us and give us the correct pronunciation.)

In addition, every year, we seek out family members who have not participated in prior commemorations. Please get in touch with us if you are interested in any of the following opportunities. We will give you all the information you need and train you for each role. The Commemoration Committee makes these decisions and those of you we cannot accommodate this time, we will keep in mind for future years.

If you have previously volunteered to read names, and are still interested in doing so at this year’s Commemoration, please resubmit your request.

**Family Advisory Committee**

Teresa Mathai, Chair  
 Karin Charles, Vice Chair  
 Christie Coombs  
 Iris Friedman  
 Maureen Gilligan  
 Diane Hunt  
 George Smith  
 Judy Smith  
 Mike Sweeney  
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**In Memoriam**

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
 Loretta W. Kowal

**Wreath layer**—One family member joins the Mayor in laying the wreath at the 9/11 Memorial in the Boston Public Gardens.

**Bell ringer at the State House during the Name Reading**—One family member rings the bell at pre-determined intervals of the Name Reading ceremony. We rehearse with you, and another family member will prompt you during the ceremony.

**Master of Ceremonies at the House of Chambers Commemoration Event**—We will help you prepare a script for the program and will go over this with you.

Our FAC Vice Chair, Karin Charles, is coordinating the flow of information regarding the commemoration and family participation. Please express your interest in participating in the event to Karin at [Karin.Charles@MassFund.org](mailto:Karin.Charles@MassFund.org) by **August 1st**. We work hard to accommodate requests, but given the logistics and extensive work involved in planning the commemoration, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to honor any late requests.

We mail the formal invitation in **July**. Please respond by the deadline. Please know that staging the Commemoration event is expensive and we must pay for family members who do not attend. We appreciate your help in assisting us to minimize our losses by providing us accurate numbers and informing us if anyone in your party intends to drop out, as soon as possible and not later than **September 1st**.

As always, your suggestions are welcome and if any of you would like to join our Family Advisory Committee (FAC), please contact Teresa at [Teresa.Mathai@MassFund.org](mailto:Teresa.Mathai@MassFund.org).

We greatly appreciate your input and participation as we plan for the 14th Annual Commemoration.

## EDUCATION

The Education Committee, chaired by Linda Gay, Second Vice President, is excited that the Board has resumed researching and creating a training program for family members who are interested in presenting the approved Education Program along with their own 9/11 personal stories.

We want to create the 9/11 Education Program and present it to a small select group of schools (5-10). With our involvement, the NYC Tribute Center is developing a workshop for preparing family members to present at selected school in Massachusetts.

AMM, our marketing partner, might develop a slideshow that would help family members present consistently and segue into their personal stories.

We are here to help Family Members feel as comfortable and prepared as possible. The Education Committee will be available to assist and answer any questions for Family Presenters.

This is a work in progress; workshops do not start until Summer of 2016.

We want to get the Program in Outline form and tweak it before going into the schools. Once presented, we will have discussions and tweak it again before presenting to an expanded school base. We will continue this process as many times as necessary while continuing to expand the school base.

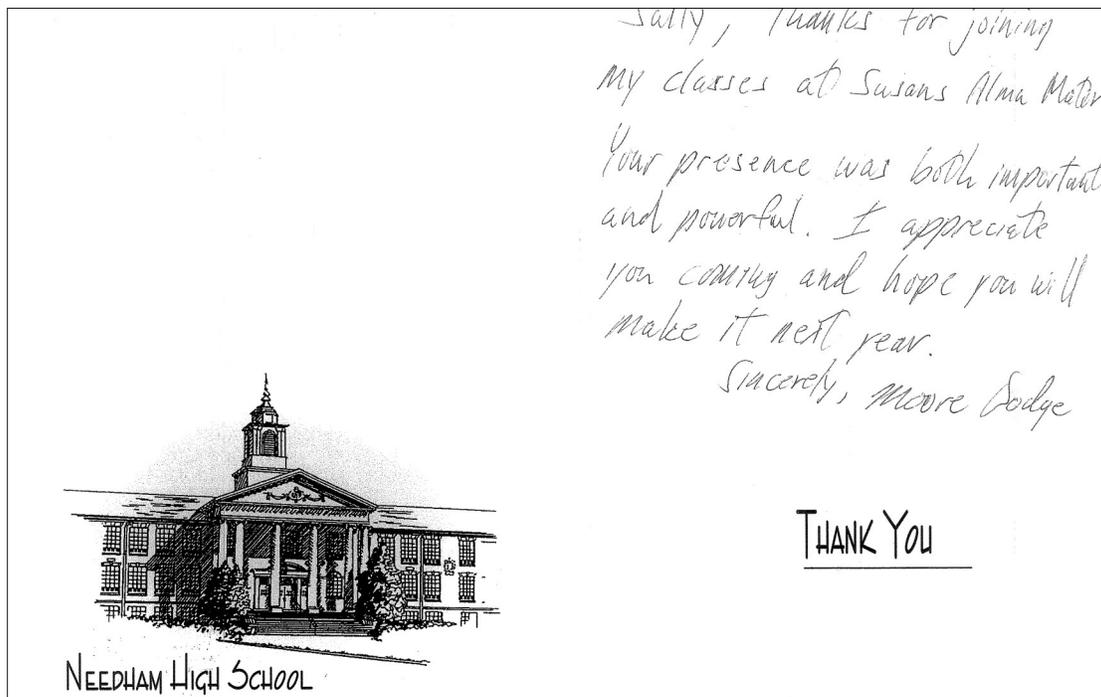
The Education committee will present our revised vision of the Education Program during the 9/11 Commemoration Brunch, this year. We wanted to give you a sneak peak of what has been happening behind the scenes, our goals, objectives, and accomplishments.

We are asking 9/11 Family Members to contact [Alyse.Mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:Alyse.Mazerolle@massfund.org) or 617-482-2911, if you are interested in participating in presenting the Education Program and your own personal 9/11 story. If you have already presented your story please let Alyse know we would be very interested in discussing your presentation and any thoughts/comments you may have. This is a work-in-progress; workshops will not start until Summer of 2016.

We are also asking 9/11 Families to forward names of schools they believe will be a fit in our test pilot. Please send the names of schools to [Alyse.Mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:Alyse.Mazerolle@massfund.org).

## WEBSITE

If you have not already noticed, we have included a new Education Tab on the website. Please click on the link below to view it, <http://www.massfund.org/education>. We welcome comments.



Thank you letter received from teacher, Moore Dodge of Needham High School. Sally White and Linda Gay both shared their story with the students of Needham High School.

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## Chief Prosecutor, Brigadier General Martins' Talk at Harvard



Ed Ryan, Carly and David Gordenstein, and General Mark Martins at the Q&A session on April 14th at Harvard

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Every few months, while the Military court is in session at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 8 to 10 family members, who registered with the department of Defense Victim Witness Program, get selected by lottery to attend the pre-trial hearings of the five co-defendants of the US v KSM et al trial. Other 9/11 families can witness the hearings at various National CCTV venues. In MA, the CCTV site is at Fort Devens. Families, who are interested in visiting GTMO or witnessing the court in session at one of these CCTV sites, should contact Karen Loftus to register.

In addition to these options, family members had the opportunity to meet with a few members of the prosecution team who visited Harvard Law School on April 14, when Brigadier General Mark Martins spoke to law students from both his alma mater, Harvard, as well as Tufts university. 30 family members attended the talk, after which, they had a Q & A closed session with the prosecution team. Gen. Martins talked about the Military Commissions and Ed Ryans explained what to expect during the trial, from the pre-trial motions, witness impact statements, to the guilt and sentencing phase. Karen Loftus and Domini MacDonald of the DOD, Victim Witness Program, described the experience of a visit to GTMO and the facilities provided to families to support them during the visit. As you might be aware, the June hearings were cancelled and Karen Loftus will inform family members when the court is next in session, possibly over summer.

We are very grateful to Harvard and the prosecution team for inviting us to this informative session as families do not often get the opportunity to meet with them and get their questions answered.

## FAC Corner

### Updating the Video Montage

Every year, on the steps of the MA State House, we read the names of the 210 MA loved ones who lost their lives on 9/11. This is followed by the Commemoration and Madeline Sweeney Award ceremony inside the House Chamber. One of the focal points of our annual commemoration of 9/11 is the moving video montage of our MA loved ones projected on two large screens. This is an amazing tribute to our loved ones and we continue to encourage families to send in photos of their loved ones, if they are not already in the montage.

Over the past few months, the Family Advisory Committee members have been reaching out to families whose loved ones' photos were still not in the montage. We were able to collect quite a few new photographs and these will be inserted into the montage in alphabetical order.

Family member, Mike Casey, who lost his wife, Neilie, on September 11th, is a professional photographer ([www.caseyphotography.net](http://www.caseyphotography.net)) who offered to volunteer his time and expertise to help with this effort to include personal photographs in this collection. Rather than using a scanner, Mike duplicated the original photographs sent to us by photographing them. Many thanks to Mike for all his help with this project.

We are also very grateful to Ken London and his colleagues at Cramer who have volunteered to update our video montage, a project that is very close to our hearts as it commemorates and celebrates the lives of our loved ones.



Family member, Mike Casey



Mike Casey reproducing photographs for the 9/11 video montage.

### Join Our Family Advisory Committee

The FAC represents you, the families, so we encourage you to become involved. We welcome your input and your participation in the Family Advisory Committee activities and projects. In order to have a broader representation, we also hope young adults in your family would consider joining our meetings and actively participating. We meet, usually on the second Thursday of the month, from noon to 2 pm at our office, located at 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston. Our next FAC meeting is on July 09, 2015. If you are interested in attending our meetings, please contact [teresa.mathai@massfund.org](mailto:teresa.mathai@massfund.org) or call her at 781-975-1248.

### **Send Us Your Updated Information**

We are constantly updating our database to ensure Mass 9/11 Fund communication is reaching everyone. Please send us the emails and telephone numbers of interested young adults and other family members who are interested in registering with us so we can make sure we are reaching out to each of you with important information and opportunities to participate in our upcoming events, including the invitation to attend our annual commemoration of September 11 at the MA. State House. Please send any updates to your information to Alyse at [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). You always reserve the right to opt out of receiving communication from us. If you feel you have not been receiving our electronic mail, please put [info@massfund.org](mailto:info@massfund.org) on your safe list to make sure your spam filter is not inadvertently rejecting mail from us.

### **Do You Have Something to Share?**

If you wish to contribute a letter, article or news item for publication in an upcoming quarterly newsletter, please do so by emailing it to [alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org](mailto:alyse.mazerolle@massfund.org). Each piece submitted will be reviewed and, if approved by the Family Advisory Committee, will be published in an upcoming newsletter. Deadlines for your 2015 submissions are: July 20.