



A LOOK BACK AND CALL TO ACTION AS WE APPROACH THE  
**20th Anniversary of 9/11**



By Silvana Davi,  
Student Contributor

**G**rowing up in Manhasset, I was always intrigued to hear about the impact 9/11 had on our community, given that many from Manhasset sadly lost their lives. Both my parents were in Manhattan working during the time of the attacks and have always shared their experiences on that awful day. I have also been a volunteer for local charity Tuesday's Children, founded immediately after 9/11, and have learned about the support and programs they have created for the many families impacted.

I was recently asked in my 11th grade AP History class to do a research paper on historic events and selected 9/11. After its completion, I wanted to share what I learned with my generation in the wake of the 20th anniversary of this disaster, to educate and empower others to help give back to those affected by these and other tragedies.

The September 11th terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in 2001 was a crucial event in modern American history. Two hijacked commercial airplanes flew straight into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. These two airplanes were flown by Saudi, Lebanese, Egyptian and Emirian hijackers who were a part of the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda, and killed nearly 3,000 people in these attacks. At 8:45am, the North Tower was struck by American Airlines Flight 11, beginning the terrorist attacks. This airplane struck around the 80th floor, trapping those who were stuck on the higher floors. At 9:03am, American Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower of the World Trade Center around the 60th floor. At 9:59am, the South Tower collapsed and at 10:28am, the North Tower collapsed. The al-Qaeda group was led by Osama bin Laden, who was the mastermind behind this attack due to America's involvement in the Middle East. The attacks on 9/11 resulted in drastic repercussions



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 O 516.365.2252  
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on the American economy and society in 2001. It wasn't easy for employees to return to work after the attacks, as many were still in shock and startled after what happened in New York. The New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq incurred the longest shut down since the Great Depression with a catastrophic loss of 1.4 trillion dollars. In New York City alone, 143,000 jobs were lost, as well as 2.8 billion dollars worth of wages as a result of the attacks. The air transportation industry suffered with 60% of jobs cut as a direct result of the attacks. The damages from 9/11 cost the United States about 60 billion dollars and 750 million dollars alone to clean up the debris from Ground Zero.

The events of 9/11 changed American society, as well as the shell-shocked nation, but it brought the citizens of the United States together, and unified our country to fight back against the forces who tried to destroy our nation through a horrific terrorist attack. The President at the time of the attacks was George W. Bush, and in his address to the nation at 8:30pm on September 11, 2001, he said, "America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world." President Bush reassured the nation that they will take down the evil behind this horrific act and that the American people will be protected and safe.

Despite the emotional distress caused by the attacks, patriotism among Americans did rise. As a result of the attacks, 62% of Americans reported feeling more patriotic than they had before 9/11. After being victims of such a horrific terrorist attack, Americans were united despite their differences, to appreciate their country and become stronger as a nation.

One of the reasons the attackers of 9/11 were able to carry out the attacks was due to the lack of security within American airports. The terrorists were able to get through the airport with weapons and were able to take over the planes. Due to the clear lack of security that was demonstrated by 9/11, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was created and approved by Congress in November of 2001. The Department of Homeland Security was also developed in 2002, where border security is managed through customs and immigration enforcement.

Overall, the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, took a toll on the economic, societal and governmental sectors of the United States. American citizens were united and became stronger as a result, despite all the negative impacts of these attacks. America was able to bounce back from this destruction even stronger than before, to ensure the safety as well as the freedom guaranteed to American citizens.



# ISHAARA

NEW YORK



Sonia Jajoo

718-664-0120

sonia@colorplusjewelry.com

www.colorplusjewelry.com

@Ishaara.newyork



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