One World, One People: Lafayette College Remembers 9/11

September 11, 2001, has been indelibly captured in public images: the Twin Towers collapsing against a clear blue sky; an enormous American flag draped over a charred wall of the Pentagon; smoke rising from a field in southwestern Pennsylvania.

But the events of that day are reflected with even greater clarity in our personal memories. We will never forget where we were when we learned of the attacks or how overwhelmed we felt by shock and bewilderment.



Those who were here at Lafayette on that Tuesday morning learned the news from professors, colleagues, roommates, or classmates – or as we casually checked the headlines on our computers and televisions. The initial numbness soon gave way to action. Students and parents made frantic contact and checked on other loved ones. Concerned calls were made to friends at other colleges. Colton Chapel opened for prayer and meditation, and at noon those on campus and in the surrounding College Hill neighborhood paused for the solemn tolling of the chapel bell.

Most faculty held their classes as usual but replaced the day's scheduled assignments with discussions of breaking news. Social and athletic events were cancelled or postponed, and students quickly mobilized to organize a blood drive and other efforts to assist those most directly affected by the tragedy. September 11, 2001, ended with more than 500 members of the Lafayette community gathering on the steps of the Farinon College Center for an emotional candlelight vigil.

Three days later, on the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, Colton Chapel was filled to capacity as College Chaplain Gary Miller, Father Charles Norman, and Jewish Chaplain Robert Weiner conducted a moving interfaith service. The College organized a series of "campus conversations" in which faculty and others examined foreign policy, religious beliefs, the psychology of terrorism, and other topics related to the attacks. It was especially heartening to see the seriousness and sensitivity with which Lafayette students, including a number of our international students, participated in those discussions.

In the weeks and months that followed September 11, the Lafayette community came together in grief, in solidarity, and in a collective need to understand – and to reach out. Campus choral groups gave benefit performances, and the Landis Community Outreach Center, Greek chapters, and student clubs sponsored fundraising events to benefit the American Red Cross and other relief organizations. Food that had been ordered for the September 15 Lafayette-Princeton football game, which was cancelled, was contributed instead to Ladder Company No. 7 of the New York City Fire Department, one of whose member's was the husband of a member of the College's dining-services staff.

Our thoughts and prayers during those difficult days were focused in particular on the families of the four members of the Lafayette family who died in the World Trade



Center. Alumna Elizabeth LeVeen '98 lost her father, Jeffrey LeVeen, a partner and senior vice president at Cantor Fitzgerald. William Pohlmann, the father of alumnus Craig Pohlmann '96, was an assistant deputy commissioner for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Neil Levin, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, was a 1976 graduate of Lafayette. Eric "Rick" Thorpe '89, a vice president at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, was a former captain of Lafayette's varsity lacrosse team.

One of the most inspiring ways in which the Lafayette community responded to the events of September 11 was through the creation of a commemorative quilt developed around the theme of "peace and unity." Senior Geoffrey Gresh 'o2 and student Resident Advisors coordinated the effort, with assistance from staff members in the Office of Residence Life and the Landis Community Outreach Center.

The quilt was made using inexpensive materials – nearly three hundred 12-inch squares cut from bed sheets and decorated with paint and markers, glue and glitter. Designs for the "One World, One People" quilt were contributed by many members of the community, including Lafayette undergraduates, faculty, and staff and local elementary-school students. The quilt was completed within two months and then hung from the west end of the Landis Atrium of the Farinon College Center until September 11, 2002.

On the morning of that first o/11 anniversary, the guilt was lowered from the rafters and retired during a formal ceremony. Shortly after noon, the Lafayette College Choir and representatives of the Association of Black Collegians, the Hillel Society, the Lafayette Christian Fellowship, the Muslim Student Association, the Newman Association, and Student Government conducted an interfaith memorial service in Colton Chapel. Over the next four days, members of the Lafavette community were invited to write their thoughts and reflections on ribbons and attach them to ropes strung between trees in a landscaped area near the chapel.

The following pages contain photographs of thirty-one squares from the quilt and selected quotations from the Memorial Ribbon Garden. These words and images chronicle a variety of responses to what happened on September 11, 2001, and reflect the struggle that so many have made to transcend their initial reactions of horror and grief.

These expressions of anguish, compassion, and strength convey both the sorrow and the hopefulness of the campus community during a time that none of us who were here throughout that period will ever forget. It is a tribute to the optimism and resilience of the Lafayette community that this booklet offers so many reasons to embrace – and celebrate – "One World, One People."

Arthur J. Rothkopf '55 President, Lafayette College

August, 2004



My thoughts and prayers are with those who were lost on September 11, 2001. They will never be forgotten...*



All of us can do more than some of us.





Increase Peace, Hope, And Tolerance.



Faith Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is LOVE...9/11/01

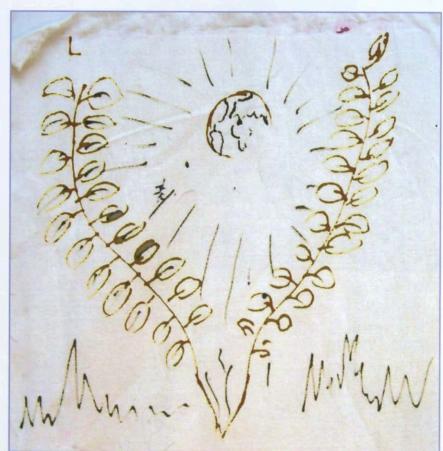


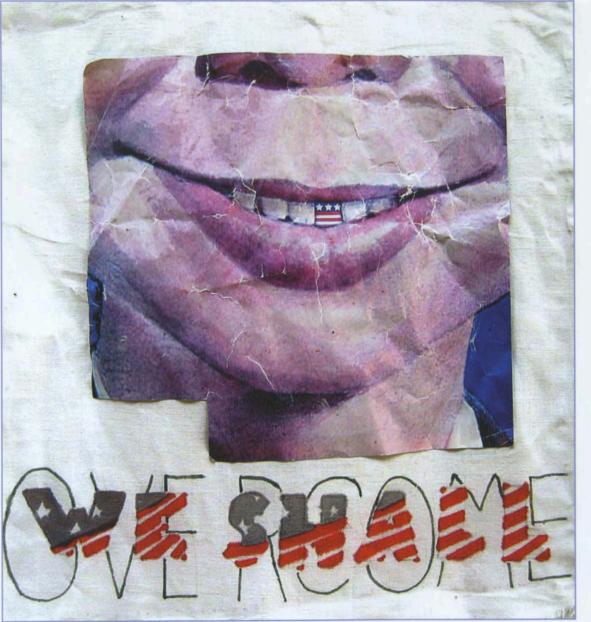
Lord, help us to find Peace- Today, Tomorrow, Forever





Democracy is not a spectator sport. Learn, understand, and take action as an educated citizen of the world. Words are more powerful than the sword.



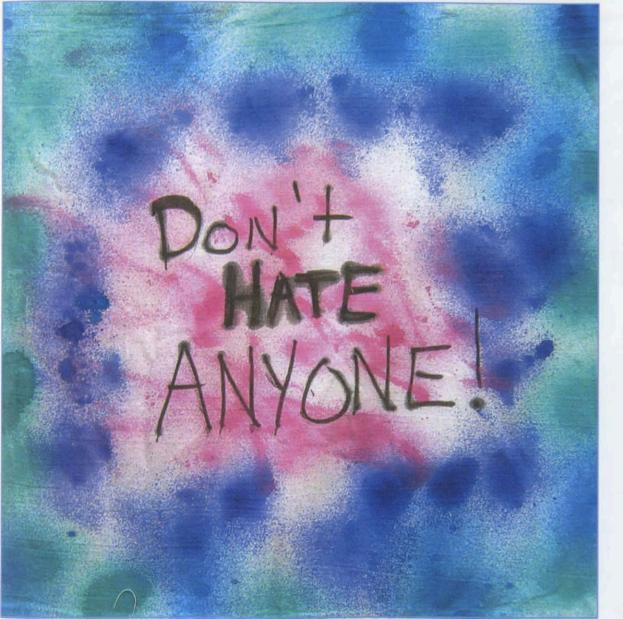


In memory of September 11, 2001, I would love to see the world unite for a common cause. May God bless the world.



Life and Liberty, forever treasured.





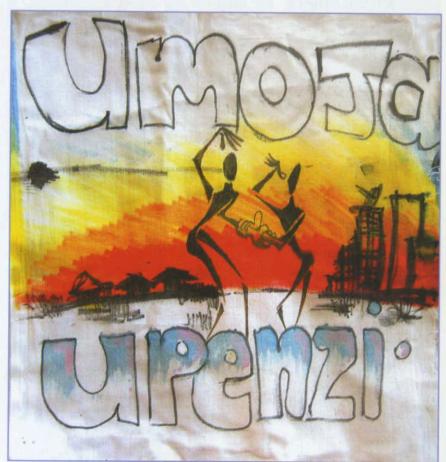
Let love prevail. Smile more because life is precious. Strength of heart, Strength of soul, Strength of mind.



We will never forget September 11th, but let us live each day with love, happiness, and laughter. God Bless America and the world.



The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness shall not overcome it.





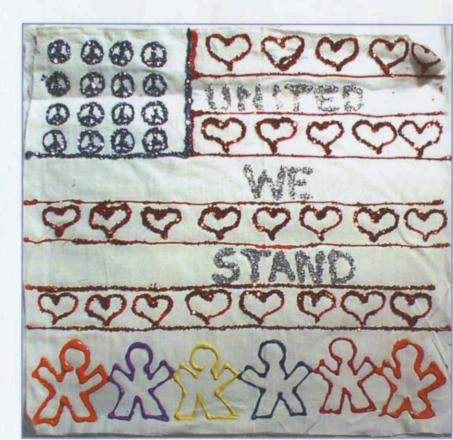
All we have is each other, and all it takes is Love

EACE WILL

NOT COME OUT OF A CLASH OF ARMS BUT OUT OF JUSTICE LIVED AND DONE BY UNARMED NATIONS IN THE FACE OF ODDS.

> Mohandas Gandhi

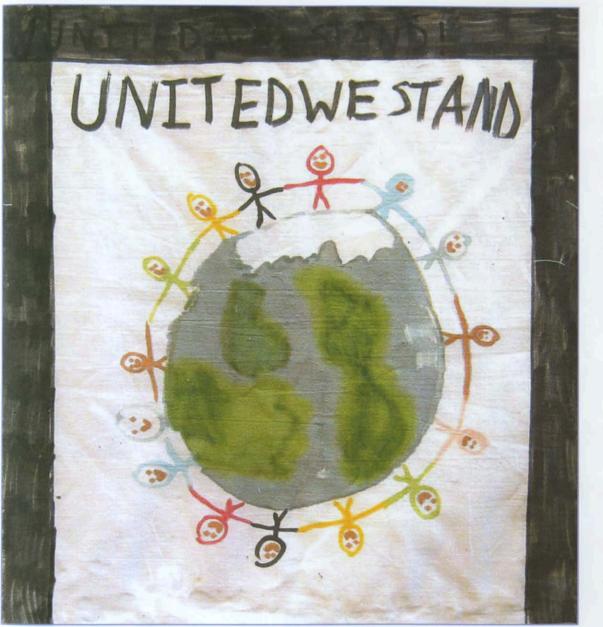
Our greatest heroes will never be forgotten. United we will remain standing.





We ask for peace on earth for all people.





This is a blessing for the survivors who have had the courage to embrace life once again.



May the Source of Peace send peace to all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved. Amen.



Quilt Project Leader: Geoffrey Gresh '02

Quilt and Ribbon Garden Project Support:

Office of Residence Life and the Resident Advisors Landis Community Outreach Center and Chaplain's Office Office of Student Life Programs Counseling Center 9/11 Memorial Planning Committee

9/11 Memorial Planning Committee Members:

Morgan Albus '03 Sarah Bassin '04 Pam Brewer, Student Life Programs Chris Fairchild, Recreation Services Mitchell Feld '05 Karen Forbes, Counseling Jodie Frey, Recreation Services Gary Miller, Chaplain's Office Lisa Vislocki, Residence Life Robert Weiner, Chaplain's Office

Students shown in photo on page 1 are (left to right): Jennifer Gentile '03, Community Outreach, Farahleena Laiwalla '04, Muslim Student Association, and Morgan Albus '03, Student Government.

Shown in photo on page 2 is Ibrahima Bah '06

Editors: Pamela E. Brewer and Diane Windham Shaw Art Direction and Design: Lew Minter Design Assistant: Rosina Bosco 'o6 Photography Pages 1, 2, and 24: Lisa Massey, Rick Smith, Chuck Zovko All Other Photography: Romy Mariano 'o4 © 2004, Lafayette College

The following members of the Lafayette College family were lost on 9/11:

Neil D. Levin '76

Eric R. Thorpe '89

Jeff LeVeen (Father of Elizabeth Ann LeVeen '98)

William H. Pohlmann (Father of Craig J. Pohlmann '96)