

Township Council

Shawn R. Klein - Mayor
Edward Meinhardt - Deputy Mayor
Alfred M. Anthony - Councilman

Rufino "Rudy" Fernandez - Councilman
Michael M. Silverman - Councilman

Gregory J. Bonin - Township Manager

9-11 GARDEN DESIGN COMMITTEE

Bunnie Ratner—Garden Chairperson

Cindy Cherny	William Jones	Meredith Nole
Ellie Cohen	Joel Katz	Jim Osorio
Nancy Eskow	Barbara Long	Steve Santola
Gene Fitzpatrick	Hugh Mahon	Marcia Tabatchnick
Eileen Gardner	Ann Marlow	Chuck Tahaney
Sam Gershwin	Barbara McCullough	York Tsue
Russ Jones	Susan McDonald	Nancy VanDeVaarst

With gratitude, we also recognize the following:

Bunnie Ratner, Liliana Branquinho & Coralia "Cory" Rocha-9/11 Ceremony Organizers

Liliana Branquinho— Senior, Youth & Leisure Services
Coralia "Cory" Rocha - Senior, Youth & Leisure Services
Robert Kilroy - Boy Scouts
Lynn Vossler - Girl Scouts
Renee Resky & Grace Russo and Carolyn Oertzen, Township Clerk's Office
Mike Anello & Dennis Britt - Public Works Department
Robert Anderson - Quinn Hopping Funeral Home
Care One Livingston Assisted Living
The Sumas Family - Livingston ShopRite
St. Philomena's Church
Rick Diamond - LTV
Michelle Bent—Editor, West Essex Tribute
Joshua Salzman - LHS Choral Director
LHS Vocal Chamber Ensemble
Ernie Cuneo, LHS History teacher and students
Susan Ridley - Webmaster - Livingston-9-11Memorial.org
Marilyn Lehren - Livingston Board of Education
Danielle Santola - Editor, The Alternative Press
All Program Participants

*We are truly grateful to William Burris
for the generous contribution of dusk-to-dawn lighting for the Garden.
This gift, designed by Michael Murray, creates a feeling of serenity and
allows people to visit the Garden at all hours of the day and evening.*

It is our hope that the 9-11 Living Memorial Garden will be a place of comfort for all and will continue to be visited throughout the years.

Township of Livingston 9-11 Living Memorial Garden

Ceremony of Remembrance
Monday, September 11, 2017
6:30pm Rain or Shine



Artist—John Wolff

*"When Someone You Love
Becomes a Memory,
The Memory Becomes a Treasure"*

Flag of Remembrance



Luke A. Dudek

Jeffrey Brian Gardner

Donald Thomas Jones II

Ming-Hao Liu

Joseph P. McDonald

John M. Pocher

Kenneth Albert Zelman

Livingston Cares and
Never Forgets

John Michael Pocher-A Details Guy-Age 36

Education: John graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory School, Seton Hall University and Fairleigh Dickenson University. He grew up in Livingston.

Career: As a bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald, Mr. Pocher was known for his ability to play close attention to detail. He was always aware of when and where bonds in his sector were trading.

Personal Memories: John is described by his wife Laura A. Grygotis, MD as a very thoughtful person who was loving and devoted. They enjoyed traveling as well as spending “quiet time” together. Vacationing at the Jersey Shore was also a favorite destination.

Kenneth Albert Zelman-Family First-Age 37

Education: Ken graduated from Livingston High School and Rider University.

Career: Mr. Zelman was a software consultant for Oracle Corp and had been working for a year-long at Marsh and McLennon on the 99th floor of the North Tower. He was known to arrive early and stay late, but Ken’s big thing was his family. As he was leaving for the train to NYC on September 11th, his 14 month old son was blowing kisses to his daddy.

Personal Memories: Weekends were always set aside for fancy outings to crafts festivals, the zoo and ice cream parlors. Their August vacation was spent on Long Beach Island where Mr. Zelman spent hours building sand castles. His daughter Olivia, 4, was “daddy’s girl”. Ken would put her to bed and they would make up stories to tell each other. It was her routine to throw her arms around him when he walked in the door after work and call out “Daddy’s Home!”



Ming-Hao Liu- A Teacher at Heart –Age 41

Education: Ming Hao Liu studied at the Cheng-Kung University in Taiwan. In 1985, he pursued a master’s degree in civil engineering at Rutgers University.

Career: Ming Hao Liu worked for Washington Group International helping to design the Monorail at Newark International Airport as well as a new airport transportation system for JFK Airport. He worked on the reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Line. He was the senior staff engineer.

Mr. Liu was on the 91st floor of Two World Trade Center when the building was struck by a hijacked airplane. While other employees of the firm were able to make it to safety, Mr. Liu did not.

Mr. and Mrs. Liu had two sons, Allen, 2, and Austin, 7. Mr. Liu was the principal of the very successful Livingston Chinese School. Much to the disappointment of his sons, instead of bringing them gifts (which he had already purchased) after a trip to Taiwan, he found 50 textbooks for his school. He left the gifts for his sons with his mother-in-law because they couldn’t fit in his suitcase. Mrs. Liu explained “It’s not for himself; it’s always for other people. He wants to make things good.” Mrs. Liu remembers her husband as a caring man with an inquisitive mind and leadership qualities.

Joseph P. McDonald- Brainy, Brawny, Balanced- Age 43

Education: Born in Brooklyn, he was a Livingston resident since 1989. He was a graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. In high school, he was a standout in baseball, basketball and later on in college, rugby was added to his sports resume.

Career: Mr. McDonald worked for many years as a broker of financial services for Garvin, Guybutler Ltd. and Garban LCC. before joining Cantor Fitzgerald. He was at work at the World Trade center and died with many other associates in the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

For most of his life, Mr. McDonald was known as an outstanding athlete with an intellectual understanding of how to be a winner. In his later years, he changed his focus from clients to his wife Denise and his daughters Kathleen and Brigid as well as his parents, Joseph and May. Weekends were spent hiking and being part of the girls’ soccer and softball games. “His athleticism was God-given, and he had a good time with it, but it didn’t define his life,” said his father. “What defined his life was his marriage and fatherhood.”

Flag Honor Guard	Livingston Boy Scouts
Pledge of Allegiance	Livingston Girl and Boy Scouts
“National Anthem”	Livingston High School Vocal Chamber Chorus LHS Choral Director - Joshua Salzman
Invocation	Rabbi Clifford M. Kulwin, Temple B”nai Abraham
Welcoming Remarks and Garden Description -	Mayor Shawn R. Klein
“Reflections of 9-11”	Livingston High School Students – Ernie Cuneo, LHS History Teacher.
“Let There be Peace on Earth”	LHS Vocal Chamber Chorus
Poem and Reading of Names	Bunnie Ratner - Garden & Ceremony Chairperson
Tolling of the Bell	Vietnam War Veteran– Brian Boyle, Trustee, VFW Post 2856
Presentation of Eight Roses	Livingston Girl Scouts and Daisies
Guest Speakers	To Be Announced
“You’ll Never Walk Alone”	LHS Vocal Chamber Chorus
Benediction	Pastor Daniel Martian Presbyterian Church of Livingston
Taps	Tim Griffin and his daughter, Gabrielle
“God Bless America”	LHS Vocal Chamber Chorus and Audience

Parking is available behind St. Philomena’s Church,

“What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”

Helen Keller

Luke A. Dudek-Wine and Flowers- Age 50

Education: Luke grew up in Livingston and graduated from Fairleigh Dickenson in 1973 with a degree in Psychology, majoring in organizational management and quantitative analysis.

Career: Mr. Dudek was proud of his position as food and beverage Comptroller for the prestigious Cellars in the Sky and Windows of the World restaurants in the World Trade Towers.

Working with his life partner, George A. Cuellar, he was in the process of extending their flower business, Conqui Design Inc., to their own building in Cedar Grove. After taking a weeks' vacation completing the renovations, Luke went back to work in New York on Sept. 11, 2001. He died in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Jeffery Brian Gardner-He always Seized the Day. –Age 36

Education: Jeff was a graduate of Livingston High School and Rutgers University.

Career: Jeff was an environmental insurance broker who worked for Marsh and McLennan. He also found great joy in his work as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He built houses on his vacations and weekends in Newark, Honduras, and Brazil. He described his “great days” when he saw the excitement of the faces of the new homeowners.

Personal Memories: Jeff has a sizable tattoo of the sun on his ankle. His family said he believed, “There are no bad days, only good days and great days. There is always sunshine.” Mr. Gardner was described as a big kid whose “toys” included two motorcycles and power tools. He also read the Torah, the New Testament and the Quran. Jeff embraced life with all his strength.

Donald Thomas Jones II-Brimming with Confidence-Age 38

Education: Donald attended Collins Elementary School and Heritage Junior High School and graduated from Newark Academy where he excelled. After graduating from the University of Richmond in Virginia, he began his career at Cantor Fitzgerald.

Career: Mr. Jones began working at Cantor Fitzgerald at the bond desk. His brother Will Jones said Don was a “consummate salesman” which explains how during his seventeen years of the brokerage firm he rose through the ranks to become a partner. During the 1993 bombing of the WTC, he helped a pregnant woman down the stairs; a journey that took 2 ½ hours.

Personal Memories: Mr. Jones spotted Michele Ramirez on her first day of work at Cantor Fitzgerald and immediately declared he would marry her. A year later they were married and had two children, a daughter Taylor and then a son Donnie. A true family man, Don would race home from the office to play catch with Taylor and work with his son on his mountain bike. He taught his children his favorite Aerosmith songs and how to play Blackjack. “There’s no Go Fish happening in this house,” he said.

Mr. Jones was the son of Judith and Donald T. Jones, the Livingston Chief of police.

On a mountain bike trek with his best friend, Jim Borkan, Donald stopped by a sun-dappled pond and smiled at the scene and said “I love my life.”

