



The Friendship Ambassador

A tradition of service to the field

Volume 30, Issue 1 - September 16, 2001

Love Is Stronger Than Hate.

September 17, 2001

Reverend Dixon
National Day of Prayer, September 14, 2001

The New Day of Infamy

I am writing to you in shock and dismay from New York, six days after terrorists shook the very ground beneath us all. We are slowly recovering, if one can use that word. Too many of us know those missing and hurt. I sincerely hope all those you know are well and safe.

As you may know, our mission is to promote peace through cultural exchange. Our tours have often taken place on grounds similarly, tragically scarred.

None of us on staff ever thought we would see such a horror in our own beloved city. We had young adults under our care as part of a UN conference when it occurred; these Russian and Eastern European travelers are safe, but have had quite a brush with history.

The foundation's own long-standing history has proven to us that even in bleak times, cultural exchanges are our best safeguard against senseless violence. Cultural exchange is not merely travel: It shows the world our best, most generous, and artistic face. Cultural organizations and institutions have written to FAF with words of encouragement and support in large numbers over the past week. The amount of art work relating to this tragedy already being shown and performed in Manhattan is astounding.

We will continue to be a conduit for good works that help us better understand the world in which we live.

I urge you to recognize the importance of continuing your interest in this kind of exchange at this critical time in our nation's history. For educational, artistic, developmental, and institutional reasons, as well as to advance the cause of peace worldwide, please remain involved with international exchange in this coming year and beyond. We all owe this to ourselves. This is a time of opportunity as well as tragedy: It is a time for all of us in the cultural community to make our voices heard worldwide in the name of peace through the arts. For some time FAF has believed that culture would be a definer of our future relations. That future seems to have come upon us in one deadly stroke.

Celebrate our diversity and recognize all that we share. It is only by being together in our differences *and* our commonalities that we will ever find peace on this earth.

In sadness and yet with hope, Patrick Sciaratta,
Executive Director, FAF

In Memorium - 9/11/01



Updated September 13 at 5 PM ET.

Airline Information

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reopened the nation's skies for travel Thursday at 11 AM, but made it very clear that it could take days for schedules to return to normal. Transportation Secretary Mineta said airports and flights would be resumed on a "case-by-case" basis, and only after stringent security measures are in place. With the nation's airports at heightened security, expect the process of getting planes in the air to be tentative and slow.

Most major airlines plan to begin very limited service (service only to a few cities) today, but are saying that it will undoubtedly take several days before full service will resume.

According to the FAA, a variety of stepped-up security measures will be instituted at the airports once they re-open. These measures include:

A thorough search and security check of all airplanes and airports before passengers are allowed to enter and board aircraft.

No curbside check-in at the airport.

No off-airport check in. Passengers must check in at the airports.

Boarding areas will be reserved for passengers only. Only ticketed passengers will be allowed to proceed past airport screeners to catch their flights.

Vehicles near airport terminals will be monitored more closely.

If you are planning to fly, many airlines will require you to have a paper ticket or a printout of your confirmation if you booked online. Don't go to the airport without it.

If you need to get information about a specific flight or want to cancel your travel plans, you should try calling the airline or visiting their Web site if you aren't able to get through by phone.

Cancellation, refund and re-booking policies by airline.

Hotel and Car Rental Information

If you need to cancel a car rental or hotel reservation, either call or visit their Web site. A run through the major hotel and car rental Web sites reveals that many have some very specific, helpful information online already, and you may find your questions can be answered without a call.

"Now more than ever it will be important to continue spreading our message of reconciliation between people through the common experience of art." - *Chris Adamski, Board Chair, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, September 12, 2001*

As one would expect, as flights were grounded nationwide, stranded travelers tried to hit the roads. Many car rental agencies are promising low one-way rentals to help stranded passengers, but availability is incredibly limited. Many are asking that all reservations be made through local branch offices, not online or through the national reservations center.

Budget and other companies announced that all customers with open rental contracts as of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, will be allowed to return their cars to any location in the U.S. by midnight Thursday, September 13, without any additional drop fees or rate adjustments.

If anyone has loved ones who were staying at the Marriott World Trade Center, the company has posted information on their Web site.

Major hotels will not impose any cancellation or no-show charges for anyone with existing reservations at any New York City or Washington, DC locations.

Bus and Train Information

Amtrak trains are running, but capacity is very limited and reservations are required. You can reach Amtrak by phone in the USA at 800-USA-RAIL (800-872-7245)

As of this morning, Greyhound service has been restored and schedules are running in all areas except for New York City. No schedules are running into or out of the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal and that terminal is closed.

Greyhound buses do not accept reservations.
Call 800-231-2222.

Opt-inworld.com will donate 100% of all revenues pledged until Monday September 17, 2001, to the Red Cross. To make a donation directly please visit http://www.nyredcross.org/news/010911_worldtrade.asp

If you need to make sure someone is ok, here is a great resource: <http://okay.prodigy.net/>

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, tax exempt organization dedicated to promoting peace through cultural exchange. Founded as a project of *Readers Digest* in 1973 and re-established in its current format in New Jersey in 1985, FAF has affected millions by facilitating travel for tens of thousands of active, global participants. For more information, visit our website:

www.faf.org
or call 1-800-526-2908

State Department Travel Alerts

How safe is it to travel around places like Indonesia, Kenya, Cuba, Iran, and Peru?

Prerecorded travel advisories for all areas of the world can be obtained on a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week basis by phoning:

U.S. State Department's Office of Overseas Citizen Services at (202) 647-5225.

How You Can Help

Helping.org

Donate online to several relief efforts, including the American Red Cross

NYC Emergency Info
Missing persons hotline:
866-856-4167

Read on AOL:

Airport Security: What's Next?

BY JESSICA REAVES, Wednesday, Sep. 12, 2001

The acts of terror took place hundreds of miles outside Boston, but the horrible chain of events appears to have begun at the local airport.

Wednesday morning, reeling after Tuesday's hijackings, officials at Logan Airport in Boston scrambled to reassure an anxious flying public. Both planes that slammed into the World Trade towers originated at Logan.

EXPENSIVE SECURITY UPGRADES

Analysts said the delays in processing passengers at airports around the world would also slash terminal capacity and force the busiest to scale down peak-hour operations. Small and mid-sized airports would be the most affected at first, because many of them seemed to have the weakest security culture, said analysts.

Tougher security demands would be imposed by the U.S. authorities on foreign airports through carriers that wanted to fly from them to the United States, said analysts.

"I do think we need a stronger protocol," said McNerney of the business travel group. "From a longer term perspective, we are all going to be looking at what new investments that people and airlines are going to have to be making. It's amazing to me what a day can change."

Early Tuesday morning, American Airlines flight 11 and United Airlines flight 175 were hijacked shortly after takeoff from Boston, flown off course and into the World Trade Center towers, causing a series of spectacular explosions which eventually collapsed both buildings. Logan does not stand alone in the grim spotlight — two other flights were also hijacked after taking departing Newark and Dulles; an estimated 266 people died on those four planes — but as the origin airport of two of the four doomed flights, scrutiny of the Boston airport was intense.

Everybody wants to know how this could have happened — how did the terrorists make it onto not just one, but two planes departing within an hour of each other at the same airport? The official response offered little in the way of edification. "Everything seemed normal when they left Logan," Joseph Lawless, public safety director of the Massachusetts Port Authority, told reporters at a press conference. "We don't know how the hijackers accomplished what they did.

"We have a very high security standard here," he added. "We consider ourselves as secure, if not more secure, than any other airport in the United States."

The Federal Aviation Administration vows to increase security at all U.S. airports, including Logan, by employing more plainclothes security personnel, sweeping airports with bomb-sniffing dogs, discontinuing curbside check-in and increasing the occurrence of random ID checks. Airports will also vigilantly tow any unauthorized vehicle parked within 300 feet of a terminal.

All of these measures are, of course, designed to increase the level of safety in U.S. airports, and to make passengers feel more secure. And while the public is likely to embrace these changes in the immediate aftermath of Tuesday's bombing, the true test of American patience will come later.

"There are many security issues the airports can adopt," says Dr. Richard Gritta, a professor at the Dr. Robert Pamplin School of Business Administration at the University of Portland, Oregon, and an expert on the airline industry. "Everyone will be very amenable in the short term. The question is whether the airports will stick with those measures in the long-term, when the shock of the attacks wears off."

U.S. citizens often are unnerved by presence of armed guards in international airports, Gritta points out. Will we see armed guards here? "It's a possibility. The question is, are we willing to put up with the inconvenience?"

It's trying enough, says Gritta, to be an airline passenger on a normal day in America. Add untold delays and checkpoints and general hassle to that experience, and you could be looking at an extremely grouchy flying public. "We've got overcrowded, overscheduled airports," he says. "And now we're going to add longer lines and longer check-in times." And that may very well be the reality we live with in a changed America. Gritta, for one, is hopeful the tightened security is here to stay. In the short term, anyway, we all need to prepare for a new travel experience. "If you go into an airport next week, for example, it will feel different. How different depends on how willing U.S. citizens are to accept the hassles that inevitably accompany increased security."

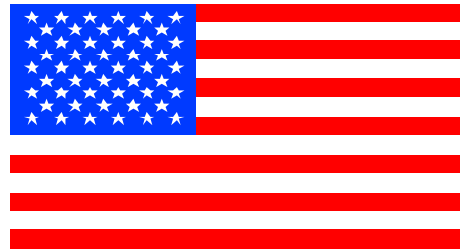


From left to right: FAF founder Harry Morgan with UN Sec'y Gen'l. Kofi Annan (his first visit to the USA was facilitated by Harry at FAF's infancy); the cast from the *Tempest*, a product of FAF's third Balkan reconciliation thru the arts program, in conjunction with the Bond Street Theatre and the Vanaver Caravan of New York, as seen on CNN.COM; FAF choirs singing throughout Europe.

Sent by FAF's Executive Director to President Bush on Sunday, Sept. 16 as a reminder that many of us see this as a difficult, complex issue, not one that can be resolved with a few bombing runs. Since written, we have been heartened to hear/read many other similar statements.

Dear Mr. President,

As a New Yorker and an American who was shocked and overcome with grief over the destruction of the very symbols of my city and this nation: I stand behind you in your search for justice. As I work in an international field, I am heartened to see that so many others worldwide share our resolve and determination to succeed and flourish over the terrorists who are the scourge of us all.



I write today to ask you to consider as many options as possible before you strike. I am certain you plan a capable and strong military response, first and foremost. I wish to make another suggestion as well, however: Be clever. You have shown wisdom in not framing this as a war between nation states but by even calling it a war (as they might), you legitimize thugs who are pretending to be warriors. Many of us, like you, fear that this foe is amorphous and insidious. It might even be the unfortunate case that, although inevitable in your mind, massive bombings now will only throw gasoline onto the flames and ignite the world in a war that may explode on several fronts simultaneously.

If massive military strikes were the best and only plan, I would still say, "So be it". But I think we can find a variety of solutions that would be successful, correct, and useful at this critical time. This is not a question of right or left but of right or wrong. You have been wise not to act yet and I hope you will consider the following points before you do anything:

- 1) Allow the time for your investigators to get all the information. I imagine that the first answer will not be the right one. I think you know this already, and your prudence and search for certainty should be applauded.
- 2) I think we should trade on the sympathy we have justifiably received from the rest of the world. There is no need to go this alone and you have been wise to summon your NATO allies; I am sure you are as surprised as the rest of us to see how many other nations and peoples have rallied around us now.
- 3) In this regard, poll your allies, near and far. They feel for us now but with a step back from the terror and loss we feel, they may make a case for some action you have not yet considered. There are no limits to the number of responses; the military card is not the only one. In fact, it might be the least effective against these people. I think what you need now are more clever ideas, to beat terrorism at its own game. This is the key issue I wish to address to you as our leader: Be clever. Leveling an entire country is an awesome responsibility but may be meaningless if there are cells of these madmen in Boston, New Jersey, Florida, Berlin, or Paris. If wiping Iraq or Afghanistan off the face of the earth would solve the problem, I might agree that this is our first and only choice. Knowing as you do how complex the situation is, however this might not even be close to the answer. I know that this is your real dilemma now.

Dear sir, you have before you such an awesome decision and task. No one envies you this job now. You are committed to the 'long haul' and are not aiming at a simple strike. I have heard that your staff is seeking political and economic, as well as military options at this time. That is the best news of all. It was further encouraging to hear Secretary of State Colin Powell say on television that we seek a route that prosecutes the guilty but protects the innocent; and certainly not a quick-fix, simplistic reaction that escalates into a reckless or dangerous world catastrophe. In the end, a clever response (echoing Secretary Powell's very words today) might be just what we need and certainly not at all what they expect. The element of surprise was their key to last week's attack; it should be ours also.

- Patrick Sciaratta, Executive Director, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation / NY 9/17/01

Adagio in Sarajevo

From Storyteller: Richard Deats

What a difference a few years can make. It's hard to believe that not too long ago, the world looked to Sarajevo as a model of religious and ethnic harmony. People marveled in 1984 when athletes came to this exquisite city to compete in the Winter Olympic games. Here, Orthodox and Muslim, Catholic and Jew peacefully lived and worked side by side in a unique atmosphere of tolerance and goodwill. The ancient city of Sarajevo, with over a half a million people, had been a cultural haven for Croats, Serbs, and Muslims for centuries.

How could it all have changed so quickly? By 1990, Yugoslavia was disintegrating into rival ethnic states and Sarajevo, the jewel of Bosnia, was surrounded in a siege that was slowly destroying the city. Unending civil war engulfed the region; its people were subjected to regular shellings and unpredictable sniper fire. Food and supplies were scarce at best.

Waiting hours on the street for a single loaf of bread quickly became a regular routine. One day in May 1992, a long line at a Sarajevo bakery stretched outside and snaked down the block. As the people waited they spoke about the war, about hunger, about their children trapped at home, too afraid to go to school. At four o'clock in the afternoon, their conversations ended abruptly. A shell exploded directly in the middle of the line, killing 22 people & wounding over 100.

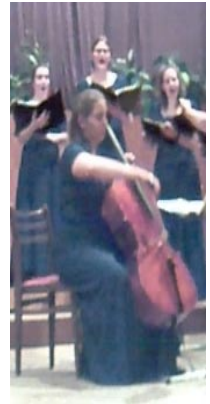
The world was shocked, and to all the families of the victims, the grief was overwhelming. Still, people needed to eat. So the next day, the bakery once again opened its doors. As four o'clock approached, people in line became tense and silent. But instead of another shell, they were surprised to be "hit" by the sound of music. Exactly at four, Vedran Smailovic, the principal cellist of the Sarajevo Opera, arrived at the bakery, carrying a chair and his cello. Dressed in a formal black suit and white tie, Smailovic played the majestic yet sorrowful lines of Albinoni's Adagio, and the music fed the people's souls. Every day for 22 days he came and played again at the same time, one performance for each victim of the attack. With his music, he honored those who had died there, affirming the indomitable spirit of life even in the midst of death. He also set into motion a series of musical and artistic tributes to those victims.

Acts such as this have inspired many to resist despair and celebrate love, life, and that spark of human spirit that can never be put out.

*From the forthcoming book, **Stone Soup for the World; Life Changing Stories of Kindness and Courageous Acts of Service**, Compiled by Marinne Larned. The book will be published in the fall by Three Rivers Press, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group (a part of Bertelsmann publishing.) Reprinted with permission.*

Following is a quote taken from an internal memo by the Random House/Bertelsmann Chair and CEO, Thomas Middelhoff, and reprinted with permission:

"Now more than ever, it is our duty to do our part against hate, violence and terrorism. Let us together step up our efforts to further plurality of ideas and opinions, and respect for diverse cultures and religious beliefs. Let us help speed the return to a more peaceful world!"



Founder Harry Morgan stops in on a warm cultural exchange, July, 2001 in Budapest, Hungary. From the left with him, are: Judy Williams, director and choreographer for the Movement Laboratory (travelers on FAF's peace-thru-arts programming since 1973), Krisztina Molnar, director choreographer for the Budapest-based Black and White Dancers (Their trip to the United States was to begin on September 15 and include a performance at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. It was cancelled last Wednesday.), and Szilvia Agoston, our office manager in Budapest. The photo was taken by her colleague, Anita Forster.