

# The Gazette

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## Buchanan-Cortlandt-Croton dedicate 1st phase of '9/11' memorial

Just shy of three years after suggesting to Croton-on-Hudson officials that the village consider locating a memorial in honor of those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, on Tuesday afternoon—the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy—dedication was made of the first phase of what is the “Buchanan-Cortlandt-Croton-on-Hudson Remembrance Memorial” at Croton Landing.

Ms. Mainiero, a Croton resident and retired Metro-North Railroad planner, is head of the 20-member committee that assembled in early 2011 and, with the concurrence of officials of the Town of Cortlandt and its villages of Buchanan and Croton, solicited design and location suggestions. Among those members are Mary Cain, whose stepson, George Cain, was a New York City firefighter who was among the wave of first responders who perished; and Sara Sprance, whose husband, Randall Sprance, a special agent for the U.S. Treasury Department and a second-responder, died in 2004 of inoperable lung cancer she attributes to his exposure to toxins at Ground Zero. “We were strangers, now we’re family,” commented Mrs. Sprance of the relationship between the 16 active members of the volunteer committee. She led the onlookers in singing “America, the Beautiful.”

Almost 200 attended Tuesday’s 3 p.m. ceremony, most of them walking the more than half a mile to the northernmost point of Croton’s linear waterfront park, where the memorial is located. A procession of members of local fire departments—many of whom spent many days or weeks in New York City to back up the city’s own emergency services in the aftermath of the collapse of the World Trade Center—was led by a lone bagpiper, Stephen Gara.

Though some have questioned the distance from the park entrance for such a significant installation, the consensus of opinion among committee members and officials is that it is appropriate for the memorial not to be located along “the beaten path,” but be a place for quiet contemplation and reflection.

Ms. Mainiero said the memorial, designed by Croton architect James Rhodes, honors the almost 3,000 men and women who perished in the attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field, as well as first- and second- responders and the men and women who, in response to the attacks, chose to stand up for their country by joining the armed services.

Croton Mayor Leo Wiegman said the memorial is also a symbol of how a group of strangers can come together to create a unifying

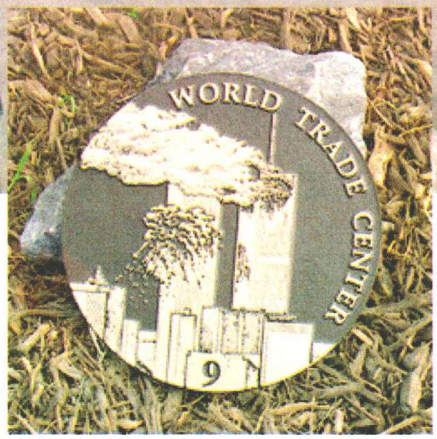
object that also is a statement on this nation “reaffirming our resolve” against terrorism. “We are all indivisible when we live and work together,” he said.

Buchanan Mayor Sean Murray said the memorial is important. “We all know the people who are standing here today will always remember” the tragic events and the need to be diligent against future terrorist attacks, he said. It must serve as a symbol for future generations to be mindful of what occurred before their time, he continued.

Phase One of the memorial, which is virtually complete, includes having situated a 16-ton boulder to support the almost one ton, 14-foot length of structural steel from the World Trade Center’s fallen North Tower which a motorcade of area police, fire and ambulance units escorted to the area in February of last year.

Through the donation of time and equipment, the cost of Phase One was shaved down to \$35,000, with Cortlandt providing \$15,000, Croton \$3,900 and Buchanan \$1,100. The committee fund-raised \$20,000, and has about \$5,000 left toward Phase Two, estimated to cost about \$50,000. That will include a key component of the memorial: a lone heroic figure of a woman, to be fabricated in bronze by Croton sculptor Lauren Davis, reaching up toward the steel, symbolizing strength and hope. Indeed, Mr. Rhodes’ name for his design is “Reaching Through the Shadow.”

“We never lost our vision,” said Ms. Mainiero of her committee, which hopes to have sufficient funds in place to have Phase



Two completed by next September 11.

“We give thanks to all of those who made this dream a reality,” said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi.

As she particularly gazed at the twisted length of steel, with its heat-deformed rivets pointing at various angles, she said softly, “This is sacred steel.”

Phase Two will also include a  
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**Top photo: ‘Reaching Through the Shadow’ designer and architect James Rhodes stands at the location that a bronze statue of a heroic figures is planned to be located for the eventual completion of the Buchanan-Cortlandt-Croton 9/11 Remembrance Memorial at Croton Landing, Croton-on-Hudson. Above, right: a lone bagpiper leads a procession to the northernmost point in the Hudson River waterfront park for Tuesday’s 3 p.m. dedication of the first phase of work. Right: one of the nine medallions that have yet to be installed at the base of the memorial. Above: Janet Mainiero, who heads the volunteer committee behind the memorial and first suggested having one in Croton almost three years ago. Officials of the Town of Cortlandt and Village of Buchanan subsequently got behind the project as well.**

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## **'9/11' memorial**

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memorial garden and a plaque containing the names of three residents of the unincorporated areas of Cortlandt who perished at Ground Zero—William Abrahamson, James Oakley and Joseph Zuccala—and Croton resident Thomas E. Sinton III.

To be completed for Phase One is the installation of nine medallions that will be installed along the base of the memorial. On and about September 11 of each year, the steel will cast a shadow on each medallion at the time individual events unfolded in the course of that fateful

day.

Ms. Mainiero said the committee is hopeful that completion of Phase One will encourage more people and companies to come forward and donate funds or volunteer services. Checks, made payable to the "BCC 9/11 Remembrance Memorial," can be mailed to P.O. Box 153, Buchanan, NY 10511. Further information is available on-line at [www.9-11remembrance.com](http://www.9-11remembrance.com).