



September 2006

# ZOOM

in on america

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In This Issue: Fifth Anniversary of September 11

ZOOM in on America

# Ways of Remembering 9 11



*The Tribute in Light, a temporary memorial to those lost in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Photo © AP/WWP*

## Tribute in Light

The Tribute in Light (see also front cover) is an installation of 88 seven thousand watt searchlights, which creates two vertical columns of light. Assembled next to the site of the World Trade Center, it produces a dramatic illusion of two brightly lit towers that pierce the night sky over Manhattan. First shown in March 2002, the art installation has been displayed every year since 2003 on September 11.

## Reflecting Absence

On March 13, 2006 construction began on a memorial of the World Trade Center. Controversies have arisen not only concerning the high cost (estimated at \$1 billion, it is going to be the most expensive monument in the U.S.), but also the design, which has the names of the victims printed on the walls below the street level. Some families think the names should be above the ground. The memorial consists of a park and two square pools built in the footprints of the destroyed towers, 9 meters below the street level. Water supplying the pools will come from waterfalls along the walls.

## Freedom Tower

If all goes as planned, in 2012 a new magnificent World Trade Center will be opened. Its centerpiece will be the Freedom Tower, designed by David Childs. The tower - a monolithic glass structure topped by an antenna - will be the tallest building in the U.S., soaring up to the height of 1,776 feet (the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776). Apart from the Freedom Tower there will be three other high rise buildings and a residential tower.

*For more information on 9/11, please see the eJournal "Rebuilding and Resilience: 5 years after 9/11": <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/ijpe0806.htm>*

## "Cookie Girl in the Hot Zone"

A busy street in lower Manhattan. People rush. Rescue workers come and go. Camera closes up on 12-year-old Jemma Brown. She offers cookies from a tray to the passing men. "Chocolate chip cookie? Home made?" she encourages them. "How can I resist you?" asks one rescue worker as he takes a cookie and puts it in his mouth. Traditional American cookies, brown with chocolate chips. Jemma's mum helped her bake them. Dad helped with the posters. Tribeca will live. It will be a normal community again though nearly 3,000 people perished just three days before and just a couple of blocks away. There is still smoke coming from the piled up ruins of the World Trade Center in the background...



*Jemma Brown in "Cookie Girl in the Hot Zone"*

Skip Blumberg, an award-winning camcorder-for-broadcast producer made a 4-minute and 31-second film about a girl who wanted to do something for her community at the time of crisis. She couldn't do much. Yet, she did a lot. She showed to her parents, to the Tribeca neighborhood, to herself and - through Skip Blumberg's film account - to the whole world that everyone can act, should act, within their own means, for the good of their surroundings. The film was shown at the "My Hero Short Film Festival". Factual. Free from pomposity. Natural. Simple. Because life must carry on.

You can watch the film online by clicking its title at: <http://www.myhero.com/myhero/go/filmfestival/screeningroom.asp>



*An artist's rendering of the proposed World Trade Center memorial. Photo © AP/WWP*



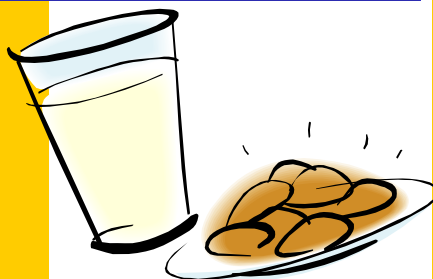
*Architect David Childs next to a model of the redesigned Freedom Tower, Wednesday, June 29, 2005. Photo © AP/WWP*

**That anything can claim or deserve recognition** is particularly visible in the United States. Special calendars and day-by-day directories are published every year to show days, weeks and months when anything, from 'Clean-Off-Your-Desk' or 'Bottled Water' to 'New Year's Eve' or 'Martin Luther King Day', calls for nationwide attention, appreciation and celebration .

**September** is no exception. It features 'Labor Day' on the 4th and the 'Beginning of Autumn' on the 23rd, but it doesn't stop short of a 'Video Games Day' (12th), 'Eat an Apple' and 'Wife Appreciation' days (both on the 16th), as well as others, some of which we show you below.

September is ..  
**National Biscuit**

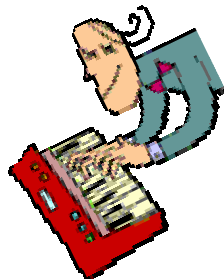
The humble 'biscuit' is responsible for considerable misunderstanding as it doesn't mean the same thing in all English speaking countries. In Britain it denotes a hard baked, flat and usually sweet cake, which in America has gone about under the name of 'cookie' or 'cracker'. In American English



'biscuits' are often put in the same league with 'scones'. Both are made from flour and fat - usually butter - and both can be sweet or savory. Served with butter, honey or jam they taste just as good with gravy or soup. Many variations of biscuits include cheese, ham and meat types. Fast food restaurants, especially in the southern states, have them on their menus in the form of sandwiches.

September is ..  
**National Piano Month**

National Piano Month recognizes America's no. 1 musical instrument. The first piano, called then a 'spinet', was a much simplified version of the modern instrument, with only three or four octaves. In the mid-19th century spinets were replaced by pianos and piano fortes.



The fashion for piano playing has evolved, but it hasn't diminished. From a much-appreciated skill - par-

ticularly in young ladies of the Victorian age, who entertained their households and showed their intellectual potential alongside gentleness of character - piano playing became an expression of America's great adventure with jazz in the early 20th century. Nowadays, with about 17million pianos sold in a single year (2003), young amateur players confess they play for entertainment. They can, however, show their virtuoso in public at the largest piano-playing event in the world, the Annual National Piano Playing Auditions.

September 7-10, 2006 features:  
**37th POWWOW Festival in Bismarck, North Dakota**

The United Tribes International Powwow is held annually at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, which since 1969 has been serving the academic and the cultural needs of American Indian students. The Powwow (the word refers to the sacred in Narragansett Indian language) is one of the major cultural events of North Dakota with more that 20,000 spectators coming to watch and 1,500 dancers and drummers representing over 70 tribes taking part.



Photo by kind permission of United Tribes Technical College

In the middle you can see the poster of the 37th Powwow Festival. It shows a traditionally dressed dancer, whose dance is meant to expand and strengthen the circle of life. The artwork is entitled "I have returned" and it makes a reference to those Indians who served in the military forces (in this case in Vietnam), but returned to their culture.

*You can read more about the imagery of this poster and about the 37th Powwow at:*  
[http://www.uttc.edu/news/story/030806\\_01.asp](http://www.uttc.edu/news/story/030806_01.asp)



Last but not least we would like to remind all **parents** that September is **National School Success Month**. And, interestingly, it doesn't focus on students' school achievement. Too early for that. School has just begun! This observance is to recognize parents who want to support and encourage their children to succeed in school.

*Texts by AIRC Krakow*

