



SUA NEWS

OCTOBER 2009



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

After 6 months of painstaking planning and preparation, Society of Unique Artists' Tribute to the Heroes of 9/11 was a success. Almost 300 were in attendance to salute and show their appreciation to the brave heroes of September 11, 2001.

This event, which was coordinated and funded by Society of Unique Artists, was too long overdue. Society of Unique Artists' founders, Jacqueline and Ronnie, are both very sympathetic and passionate about 9/11. Outside of donating to the families of the lost heroes of 9/11/01, they wanted to do something of significance to show appreciation for the brave heroes who served on that day. Thus, in late February, they began the campaign to pay tribute to those heroes.

Many of the local sports teams, like the Giants, Jets and the Nets endorsed the idea and were very supportive. The New York Giants, one of the most generous donors, showed their support and enthusiasm by donating a wonderful collector's football with an estimated value of \$1,000. It was a white leather football with embossed signatures of the entire 2008 Super Bowl Giants team, including coaches and GM. Minerva Recio, a United Nations employee, was overwhelmed and the envy of all football lovers when she won the football in the raffle.



The NJ Nets donated game tickets; Montecristo Cigars donated boxes of their top brand of cigars Their liquor affiliate, Montecristo Rum, donated cases of their various rums, and received rave reviews for their tasty fruit punch and spirit-lifting mixed drinks. Pipeline Brands, who represents Montecristo Rum, was instrumental in securing the patronage of Heineken Beer. Heineken demonstrated its support to the firefighters by donating a number of cases to the event.

Special thanks go out to all the other small business patrons for their support and appreciation of the heroes of 9/11. We thank VSY Designs, Duos and Trios, Inc., Velvet Bubbles and Draxum Publishing.

Also, last but not least, we extend a great big thank you to the wonderful musicians of The East River Jazz Band, who not only provided the amazing musical mood for our event, but honored one of their very own firefighters who attended in uniform. They were well received by the audience and definitely were one of the highlights of the night.

People from all walks of life paid tribute to the heroes



East River Jazz Band sets Tempo for Tribute to Heroes

The East River Jazz Band (ERJB), with their exquisite selection of melodic classic jazz standards, was an enormous

success on the evening of Friday, Sept. 11th at "SUA Salutes Our 9-11 Heroes." As SUA's featured artists of the night, ERJB's unique mix of soft jazz, infused with soulful sounds, was highly acclaimed by the over 300 audience members. The band's presence enhanced the mood and served as a touching tribute to the fine men and women of the FDNY.

In addition to the band's immense talent, the ERJB must be touted for their philanthropy and support of countless charitable causes. In early June 2009, when SUA first began its search for a Jazz band to play at its 9-11 tribute event, the ERJB immediately stepped up to the plate and contacted SUA to donate its time to this very worthy cause. Through this deed, the 9 band members demonstrated their solidarity with all those who risked their lives on 9-11. Their collaboration made the event all the more exceptional and serves as a great example of the enduring support for our New York firefighters.

The 9 members of the East River Jazz Band are: Alissa Abrams (Clarinet), Gene Coleman (Soprano-Saxophone), John Hagendorf (Drums), Julian Herrero (Tenor - Saxophone), Dan Lorette (Guitar), Doug Magee (2nd Trombone), Kelly Moriwaki (Singer), Rick Roff (Trumpet), and Amy Soffer (1st Trombone).

To contact the East River Jazz Band, or to listen to selected songs, please visit them on My Space at: <http://www.myspace.com/theeastriverjazzband>.



FDNY Heroes

Today's new group of firefighters don't appear scarred by the wounds left from the events of 9/11. Yet, many of their superiors and seniors members carry the heavy burden of remembering their lost comrades. The new generation seems highly motivated and eager to face any new challenge.

It was a difficult task to find 9/11 veterans who were willing to participate in SUA's salute to the 9/11 heroes. Many who served during that horrific event preferred not to remember or be acknowledged for their heroism. They feel that they do not deserve any awards or accolades for that day. Most experience a sense of survivor's guilt, given the fact that thousands lost their lives that day. They feel that any urge to celebrate anything other than their own survival would be considered insensitive and selfish. There were very little rescues on that day and firefighters pride themselves on saving lives. This event took a damaging toll on the morale of all who experienced the devastation.

As SUA visited various fire houses to invite the firefighters to be honored for their courage and service to the public, it was clear that many just wanted to put it all behind them. They weren't interested in telling their stories or reliving the event. We therefore deeply appreciate the involvement of Herman Tyson, EMT for FDNY. As painful as it was to relive the experience, he was one of the few willing to share his story and participate in our function.

We are happy to announce that, on the day of the event, we did receive a nice turnout from the FDNY. Some arrived proudly in uniform, and others preferred to attend anonymously. We do respect the wishes of the firemen who wish to deal with their feelings privately and thank them for their bravery.

FDNY – We cannot thank you enough!

SUA Features Firefighter Art by American Firefighters at 9-11 Event



"FDNY Engine 88 & Ladder 38"
by Paul Walsh

Captain of Engine Co. 2, New Britain, CT



**"American Grace" by Allan
Albaitis**

Engine Co. 6 & Rescue 3, Las Vegas, NV

SUA's mission is to promote unique artists and art forms. Therefore, in addition to honoring the FDNY on 9-11-09, SUA thought it would also suit the occasion to showcase unique firefighter themed art by various incredibly talented American artists, who also happen to be firefighters.

Artwork created by a few brilliant firemen/artists were included on a 9-11 tribute video that played continuously during the event. The fire art exhibited that evening is a testament to the diverse talents and interests of our many firefighters throughout the country.

www.SUArtists.org



**ICE SCULPTURE DESIGNS
DONATES TWIN TOWERS
MEMORIAL ICE SCULPTURE
TO SUA'S 9-11 EVENT**

Ice Sculpture Designs, based in Long Island, New York, is New York's oldest and most prestigious ice sculpting company. They feature a renowned team of artists who create ice designs from conceptualization to finished masterpiece. Working under the direction of master sculptor, Scott Rella, the team has been commissioned to create unique works for prominent events worldwide, including several Winter Olympic Games.

In addition to their reputation and status within the ice sculpting industry, the owners of the company possess a very high level of social responsibility. The company is always quick to support all types of charitable causes and events.

SUA first had the privilege of working with Ice Sculpture Designs in 2008 when they were approached to participate as a featured artist in SUA's "Unique Artists Expo." Then, earlier this year, when SUA asked Ice Sculpture Designs to participate in "SUA Salutes Our 9-11 Heroes," without hesitation, the company immediately agreed to donate a 40" x 40" Twin Towers ice sculpture to commemorate 9-11 and honor the FDNY. Their contribution helped to make the event a huge success!

To commission an ice sculpture or for more information, please visit:

www.icesculpturedesigns.com