

Remembering Joshua

Attack cuts good life short

Those who died on September 11 represent the best that is in us, the calling of our highest selves. We owe them anger; we owe them grieving; we owe them justice. But everything that we do now must reflect the best, not the lowest, of our humanity.

Bill Schultz, executive director, Amnesty International

By JON HUBBARD
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Joshua Rosenthal was a good man.

His father, Skip, wants people to know the son whose smiles and bright, bespectacled face he can still see. Joshua was the kind of man everybody thought of as their best friend.

"I did, too," says Skip, as he sits in his small office at Books Abound in downtown Farmington.

He doesn't want to talk about his own grief, even though it's in every word he speaks. He doesn't want to talk about his reaction to the bombing of the World Trade Center that has most likely taken the life of his only surviving son.

Skip wants people to know about Joshua. And so they will.

Born in 1957, Joshua Rosenthal was a feisty kid. His father says he was "mischievous." He always came up with clever things.

Joshua was a good student, in the debate program at Stevenson High in Livonia, where he graduated in 1975.

"I could never argue with that kid," Skip smiles at the memory. "He could argue any side of any question and win."

The "gang" he hung out with included boys who were also in debate. All of them, now in their 40s, have called to express their condolences.

When he moved onto college, Joshua chose the University of Michigan. In his second year, he became the state's first Truman Fellow. The fellowship was created in memory of President Harry S. Truman, in lieu of a tangible memorial for which \$8 million had been set aside at the time of Truman's death.

The fellowship paid for Josh's last two years of college, as well as two years at the graduate school of his choice.

"My son picked Princeton," Skip says. Joshua received a master's degree from the university's Woodrow Wilson School. He worked for a variety of investment bankers in New York and Boston.

At the time of his death, he was senior vice president of Fiduciary International Inc., which had offices on the 94th floor of the World Trade Center. He managed investment portfolios.

Joshua had also worked with the prestigious J.P. Morgan investment firm and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where his mother, Marilyn, has arranged a memorial service in October. His sister, Helen, is the only survivor

among three siblings. An older brother, Daniel, died 25 years ago at age 22, after a routine physical uncovered a heart defect.

Skip and his wife, Alice McCoy, will hold a private memorial service, whose guest list is already filled to capacity. That's no surprise. Joshua was well loved.

"He had lots of friends," Skip said, adding that when Helen went to check on his apartment, she found numerous messages from people who wanted to know whether he was OK.

Outside of the business world, Joshua was involved in a number of what his father calls "good causes."

Though it's hard not to be consumed with wondering why something so evil could snuff out the life of someone so good, Skip wants to remember the good times. Like playing with their family "band" — Joshua on bassoon, Helen strumming guitar, Daniel on the clarinet and Dad playing the flute.

He doesn't want people remembering his grief. He wants them to remember his son's life. And a valuable life it was, to everyone who loved Joshua Rosenthal. Especially his father, whose eyes fill with the realization he has lost not only a son, but his best friend.

"Any problems I had, I would call him, because he knew how to listen. He always supported me in everything I did."

NFHS hosts marching band invitational

The Instrumental Music Department of North Farmington High School will host the second annual North Farmington Marching Band Invitational Festival beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at North Farmington's Holland Field.

Designed and conceived by North Farmington High School Marching Band Director Jason Lowe, the festival occurs for two

distinct and important reasons: To have each group receive comments and critique from outstanding clinicians, and to allow band members from each school an opportunity to perform for each other, share the camaraderie of instrumental music.

Bands performing and participating at this year's festival will be Farmington High School, Harrison High School, Bloom-

field Hills Andover High School, Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School, West Bloomfield High School and North Farmington High School.

Performances begin at 5:30 p.m. and continue through 9 p.m. Admission is open to the public at \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and seniors. Children under 10 are free.

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Pledging allegiance: The gymnasium at Costick Center was officially designated a courtroom for the naturalization ceremony.

Citizens from page A1

A police color guard presented the flag, accompanied by bagpiper Frank Stassa playing "Yankee Doodle Dandy." Farmington Schools Superintendent Robert Maxfield introduced Hills Mayor Nancy Bates.

"Hold our flag next to your heart. We are a brave and generous people," she said.

"You will discover the freedom to speak, and to move about the country as you please," Bates

said. "Welcome to the family."

Farmington Mayor William Hartsock recalled a plane passing over an Eagle Scout ceremony he recently attended. "Most of them looked up," he said, following the events of Sept. 11.

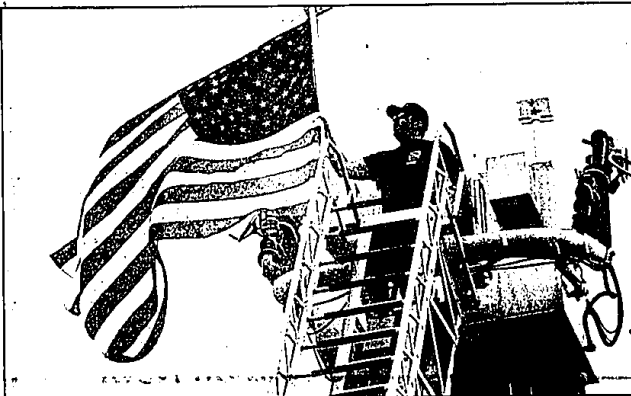
Hartsock speculated that some may have been afraid it was a potential bomb, and for some, the sight may have sparked thoughts of the attack victims.

Some, he said, may have been

heartened that planes were flying again. "I hope you all join in that sense of optimism," Hartsock said.

"I was very sad," said former Bulgarian and new citizen Tania Guerguieva, over the terrorist attacks. But as she clutched a certificate proclaiming her a new citizen, the Plymouth gymnastics instructor smiled.

"I'm happy to be in America," Guerguieva said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

With flying colors: Farmington Hills firefighter Mark Keeley climbed way up to make sure the flag waved properly.

Funds from page A1

long fireman's boot Hansel held. Stuck on the boot was a sign: "New York Fire 911 Relief Fund."

The Station 2 fireman began collecting donations outside Busch's at 4 p.m. Thursday. By 4:15, he said, "We have about \$34 already."

To draw attention, a red department ladder truck was parked near the roadway. A U.S. flag was draped over the back end of the truck, and a second was displayed from the bucket at the top of the extension ladder,

high in the blue mid-afternoon sky.

"They're incredibly generous," said Fire Chief Rich Marinucci, of citizens donating to the cause. "That's happening every place, not just Farmington Hills."

Despite pouring rain the day before, the firemen took in \$3,500 over three hours. Busch's management is offering to match donations collected by firefighters.

"You get little 5 or 6 year-old kids who want to give you their dollar," said Inspector Larry

Henderson. Also helping at Busch's on Thursday were firefighters Mark Keeley and Tim Siegrist.

The Farmington Hills Volunteer Firefighters are presenting an "All American Family Day" from noon to 5 p.m. today at Computware Corp., 31440 Northwestern Highway, between 13 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

The event will also benefit the families of fallen New York firefighters. There will be games for kids, food, entertainment and a bake sale.

Celebrating:
Assistant Prosecutor Cheryl Matthews hugs Lenetta Walker, Pridine Fru's foster mother. Walker was briefly called to testify at the sentencing after Djoumessi's defense attorney questioned the sentence report.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER



Trial from page A1

remain in foster care after Oct. 21, when she turns 19.

"She doesn't have a place to live," Matthews said. "Some people have come forward to see if maybe she can live with them."

Evelyn Djoumessi, also found guilty of third-degree child abuse, is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 11.

After six days of deliberations, an Oakland circuit jury found the pair guilty Sept. 7 on three

of 11 counts they faced in a case that drew wide attention in metro Detroit, and around the country.

Fru and authorities who removed her from the home accused the Djoumessis of enslaving the Cameron teenager.

Her situation was revealed to police through a neighbor, to whom Fru passed notes.

Fru also testified that she

developed the courage to challenge her situation while watching an episode of the Montel Williams TV talk show, which dealt with rape victims.

Prosecution witness Joseph Che, a Detroit teacher and a cousin of Evelyn Djoumessi, testified that Joseph Djoumessi confessed to him he had raped Fru, after coming home drunk.