

Community in a New Millennium

"In the sixties we dreamt about a new world, in the seventies we gave up, in the eighties we sought a better me, and in the nineties we found how lonely me could be."

We choose to naively believe that the years leading to the new millennium provided a new optimism, one in which society seemed to think about the possibilities of a hundred years and working together could create a better place. Individuals began to spur new visions, to seek deeper meaning and to reach out to others.

Millennium celebrations tried to connect people locally and internationally to the possibilities of a new age. An opportunity was upon us to harness a feeling, a hope spurred by the possibility of the millennium, and to translate this into a new commitment for people to make a difference and to build a better world.

SEPTEMBER 11

In a strange way, September 11th strengthened this millennium hope while it showed a darker side of humanity. We were all deeply moved by the caring and helping response of people to the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Centers.

A sense of rebuilding spread beyond New York and Washington as people reached out to others across North America and around the world.

September 11th was as horrific as the war that followed it. Declared on one of the poorest countries in the world, this war was waged in subtle ways on all people who are "different." The problem of community breakdown and the opportunity to build anew live in tandem (seemingly without tension), each seeking the attention of the majority.



The Manhattan shoreline with the Twin Towers (September 1999).

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