

Honoring Those We Lost 31 Years Ago

While more than three decades have passed since the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing, we remain steadfast in our commitment to honor those who were lost.

As an agency, we will forever remember our friends and colleagues who were taken from us 31 years ago – **Robert Kirkpatrick, Stephen Knapp, William Macko, and Monica Rodriguez Smith** and her unborn child – who, along with Windows on the World employee Wilfredo Mercado and visitor John DiGiovanni, lost their lives in the attack that also injured more than 1,000 others.

As is tradition, we invite agency employees to join together to share memories and pay tribute to their lives. The Port Authority will host a commemorative Mass of Remembrance on Monday, February 26, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, located on the corner of Church and Barclay Streets. The Mass honors the faith shared by our fallen friends and colleagues, and is open to all agency employees. Following the Mass, a ceremony will be held at the National September 11 Memorial plaza at noon.

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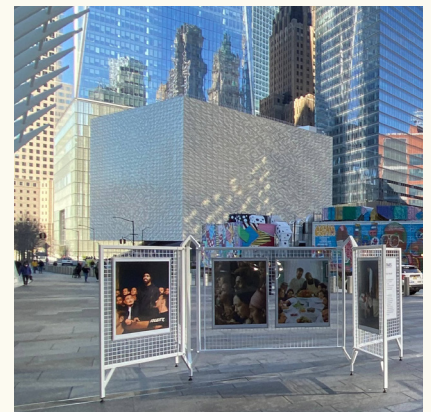
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Black History Month at the World Trade Center

For Black History Month, the World Trade Center has launched a new platform for ongoing arts and culture programming, including outdoor display panels exhibiting a variety of mediums – art, poetry, photography, history, and more.

For the first display panel installation, which launched earlier this month, NYC Culture Club in collaboration with Anwarii Musa,



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New Destinations Land at SWF

New York Stewart International Airport continues to offer affordable air travel out of the Hudson Valley region, having recently launched new service to more popular destinations together with Breeze Airways.

Starting earlier this month, Breeze now offers twice-weekly round-trip service to Orlando, FL, and Charleston, SC.

“We’re excited to see Breeze take flight at New York Stewart and expand the menu of unique, affordable options for travelers in the Hudson Valley and beyond,” said Chairman **Kevin O’Toole**. “From sunny Florida to spectacular Iceland to the stunning Faroe Islands, Stewart has abundant options from several airlines for travelers looking for a convenient and hassle-free getaway.”

The new routes at SWF follows last year’s introduction of seasonal service to the [Faroe Islands](#). More photos and videos from the launch event are available on the [PA Flickr](#).



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For those who cannot attend the ceremony in person, the Mass will be livestreamed at www.panynj.gov. The annual ceremony on the National September 11 Memorial plaza will additionally be shared on their website, www.911memorial.org/watch.

As always, flags at all Port Authority facilities will fly at half-staff in remembrance of our fallen colleagues. A moment of silence will also be observed at 12:18 p.m., and we ask that you join us at that time in quiet reflection.

Their names are forever inscribed in bronze on the North Memorial Pool, together with the thousands of names of those lost on September 11, 2001. They remind us that these events are inextricably linked, and of our sacred obligation to *never forget*.



Robert Kirkpatrick



Stephen Knapp



William Macko



Monica Rodriguez Smith
and her unborn child



Wilfredo Mercado



John DiGiovanni

PA Transportation Leaders and Projects Receive Industry Acclaim

The Port Authority was well represented earlier this month during a prestigious transportation industry gala, taking home several awards and honors.

On February 7, PA leadership, representatives, and professionals from across the region gathered at the annual Institute of Transportation Engineers Metropolitan Section (ITE Met) Past Presidents Night Gala, during which the collaborative efforts between the Engineering, Planning and Regional Development, and Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals (TB&T) departments was on display.

Asheque Rahman, Senior Engineer, Traffic Engineering, assumed the role of 2024 ITE Met President. The ITE Met Transportation Advancement Award went to **Mary K. Murphy**, Director of Planning and Regional Development. **Diannae Ehler**, TB&T Director, presented the award. Further,



the George Washington Bridge All Electronic Tolling project received the prestigious Project of the Year award. **Rizwan Baig**, Chief Engineer, took the stage to present this award.

In addition, Dr. **Allison L. C. de Cerreño**, formerly with the Port Authority as Deputy General Manager of the Midtown Bus Terminal and General Manager of Special Projects, and current Chief Operating Officer of MTA Bridges and Tunnels, delivered the event's keynote address.



Diannae Ehler presenting the Transportation Advancement Award to Mary K. Murphy

Black History Month at the World Trade Center

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founder of ArtMatic, will curate *As We Rise in Times*, an art exhibit in celebration of Black History Month. It features American artists who encapsulate the essence of uplifting oneself and their community as they acknowledge the past, reflect on the present, and inspire a future where unity and understanding prevail. This exhibit will be on display all month long on the North Oculus Plaza at the World Trade Center campus.

Learn more on the World Trade Center [Black History Month](#) page.

GOT NEWS FOR NEXT TIME?

Do you have news from your team, department or employee group to share in the next PA News? Send it to panews@panynj.gov by March 1 to be included in the March 8 issue.



Future City Competition Spotlights Sustainable Energy

Dating back to 1992, the [Future City competition](#), which has promoted STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) in middle schools, seeks to answer a simple question, “How can we make the world a better place?”

As it has in previous years, the Port Authority supported both the New Jersey and New York City regions with volunteers who helped to organize the local competitions and also judged various aspects of the competition. Notably, Deputy Chief of Design **Bobby Kuriakose** served as the keynote speaker for this year’s New Jersey event.

This year, over 45,000 sixth-to-eighth-grade students from across the county and from as far away as Egypt and China participated in a hands-on cross-curricular education program using the Engineering Design Process (EDP) as well as project management skills to showcase solutions to a citywide sustainability issue. This year’s theme was “Electrify Your Future.” Students worked through the Fall preparing four key deliverables: an essay, a project plan, a physical model of their city, and a formal presentation with Q&A. The winning team from each region advances to the national finals in Washington, D.C.

NJ Region Competition

The PA’s **Scott Lubarsky** and **Lucas Baskayan** helped organize the New Jersey region event. **Patricia Chen** and **Bobby Kuriakose** volunteered as judges. **Eduardo Jose, Ahsan Ali, Bharat Faldu, Daymily Ramos, Ryan Laub, and Kess-Ann Grant** spoke to students about their careers and working at the agency.

Congratulations to the top 3 teams: “Namburi” from JerseySTEM in Florham Park, NJ; “Guta Ra Magetsi” from Iselin Middle School in Iselin, NJ; and “SeascapE” from Maple Place Middle School in Oceanport, NJ.

NYC Region Competition

The PA’s **Jason Del Nero** was on the NYC region planning committee. Also participating were **Sophia Abel** and **Steven Wong**.

Congratulations to the first-place team, “Man Gloria” from Bronx Latin School.



From left: Scott Lubarsky, Patricia Chen, Bobby Kuriakose, Kess-Ann Grant, Ryan Laub, and Ahsan Ali.

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Kasey Motley**, Senior Sustainable Design Specialist, Engineering, and **John Kalajian**, Program Manager, Major Capital Projects, who got married in Playa del Carmen, Mexico on February 2. The pair first met during their rotations as 2016 and 2017 Engineering Associates. Since then, they have continued to support each other’s growth at the agency. Best wishes!



PARA WANTS YOU

The Port Authority Retirees Association (PARA) invites active and retired Port Authority and PATH employees to join its almost 4,000 members.

PARA allows you to stay current with news about the agency, its employees and retirees, and with state and federal issues of importance to retirees, such as benefit, pension, and Social Security updates.

The membership fee is \$20 a year. Visit www.paranynj.org for more information and to sign up for PARA’s email bulletins.

CALENDAR

NBE: Black History Month Employee Spotlight

Wednesday, February 28, from noon to 1 p.m. Virtually and in person at 4 WTC, 19th Floor Conference Room A. [The Network of Black Employees](#) (NBE) invites employees to join together in recognizing Black History Month in *Spotlighting Black Professionals in the Finance Department*. Learn from your agency colleagues as they discuss their roles, the contributions of agency Black professionals, and more. NBE members will receive a calendar invitation. Non-members can register at nbe@panynj.gov.

PAPWT: Helping You and Your Child Navigate Through the Teen Years

Friday, March 1 from noon to 1 p.m. Virtual. Join [Port Authority Parents Working Together](#) (PAPWT) for a virtual conversation with Nancy Kislin, LCSW, MFT, who is a child, adolescent, and family psychotherapist, professor, author, and speaker and a leading expert on raising resilient and healthy children. Parents will learn strategies to help foster compassion, love, and respectful boundaries. Non-members: [RSVP to attend](#).

PA-AAA: Lunar New Year Dinner

March 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at House of Joy, at 28 Pell St., New York. The [Port Authority Asian American Association](#) (PA-AAA) will celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dragon in Manhattan’s Chinatown. The celebration will feature a traditional Cantonese dinner banquet, games, and a festive, colorful, and energetic lion dance symbolizing good fortune for the year. For more information and to register, [complete this form](#) by March 10.