



American Corner

Universidad de Tarapacá

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Remembering 9/11 -Dr. Herbert London

From the building I reside in, I can see the World Trade Center (WTC) site, where a hole in the ground is a constant reminder of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States. But in the area surrounding the WTC site, what we local residents call "our hole," there is extraordinary development.

The Goldman Sachs building is going up across the street. A supermarket is being built two blocks away. High-rise buildings seem to rise magically, as if defying construction requirements. Battery Park, where there are sweeping views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, has been refurbished with a magnificent fountain and new gardens. A dramatic tunnel is under construction, connecting the subway system to the Staten Island ferry terminal.

Despite "our hole," downtown New York is alive, prospering, and electric with possibilities. In many essential ways this description is a metaphor for the United States five years after the 9/11 attacks.

Our country has been scarred but remains resilient. The attack has clearly affected American attitudes. People are wary about unidentified packages in the subway system, and September 11 continues to be a day of remembrance and sadness. However, the dynamism that characterizes the United States is undiminished.

As I stood on Church Street staring at the WTC site last September 11, five tourists asked if I would join them for a spontaneous rendition of "God Bless America." My wife and I sang as tears rolled down our cheeks. We were united with strangers who wished to recall what America stands for. We were sad but steadfast; united in our appreciation of America and determined to resist those who would destroy our way of life.

To some degree, 9/11 has faded from our collective memory. Patriotic sentiment is

recalled, as my experience would suggest, but it has lost its immediacy. What is most noteworthy is that the spirit of America remains intact.

William Tyler Page wrote in *American Creed*, "I ... believe it is my duty to my country to love it, support its Constitution, to obey its law, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies." Surely there are many in this land of the free who have the constitutional right to disagree, but, in my opinion, the overwhelming majority of Americans embrace this sentiment. Pegged into this position are words such as love, honor, loyalty, pride, devotion, and sacrifice, words that suggest an emotional attachment. But patriotism for most Americans is not only reflexive emotion; it is also reasoned argument.

Alexis de Tocqueville in *Democracy in America* claimed that customs, traditions, and a reverence for the past are emphasized, but that patriotism for Americans is a state of mind in which "citizens ... grapple with the various aspects of America which are not so rose-colored."





As I see it, 9/11 has brought to the fore liberal patriots who believe that they must work for political change consistent with their interpretation of the national creed and conservative patriots who maintain an allegiance to the nation based on what the Founding Fathers intended. The differences are textured, representing perspective rather than the basic concepts, which remain largely undisturbed.

September 11, 2001, was a fateful day for the nation, yet remarkably the notion of "my country, right or wrong" has not gained a foothold. Americans may be justifiably angry about those who would attack our land and people, but we are perpetually self-critical, as any viewing of television news would suggest. We also have a well-ensconced memory of the good and a faith in our ability to change when that is necessary.

Hence my recollection of the horror of five years ago evokes a belief in human possibility and the stirring example of Americans who pick themselves up, dust themselves off, and look to shape the days ahead.

Jacques Maritain once noted that what set the United States apart from other nations is that it is in "a continual state of becoming." The destruction the nation endured has forced Americans to look in the mirror to see strengths and warts, to regard the remarkable achievements and the challenges over the horizon.

There are, of course, those who embody the "historical grievance" position. What they see are only flaws. In each overheated claim they make, there is an incremental decline in the spirit that sustains patriotism. After all, why should anyone care about a nation of colonizers and imperialists, words that have been transmogrified into crimes?

Five years of reflection after the 9/11 attacks have refurbished Americans' belief in their country. In the end, even reasoned patriots who carefully weigh errors, mistakes, tragedy, and accomplishment will find something positive on which to hang patriotic sentiment.

That hole in the ground sits as a reminder of human frailty and imperfectability, but it has not sapped a belief in ourselves or the will for regeneration.

There is a park soon to be completed where the World Trade Center once stood majestically. Several days ago I walked on this newly constructed path, and in the shadow of the Twin Towers that remains embedded in my mind, I noticed a row of seedlings about to blossom.

Five years ago there was only dust on that ground, now flowers are about to bloom. Here is the United States five years after 9/11: In the midst of despoliation, life appears doggedly fighting for a place in the sun.

Reflecting Absence - Memorial and Museum

Construction began on March 13th, 2005 to build the World Trade Center Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center site. Intended as a solemn space where visitors can remember and honor the thousands of lives lost during the 2001 and 1993 terrorist attacks, the memorial and museum are scheduled to open on September 11, 2009.

"This marks the true beginning," Foundation President and CEO Gretchen Dykstra said in a statement. "After September 11th, many people around the world built temporary memorials, and now it is time to build a permanent memorial to pay tribute to those who died and to bring understanding to future generations."



Designed by Michael Arad and Peter Walker, *Reflecting Absence* -- the memorial -- will

consist of two voids representing the footprints of the original towers. Surrounded by a forest of oak trees, each void will feature rings of cascading water falling into illuminated reflecting pools. Descending from the plaza level, visitors will make their way down two ramps -- each as long as a city block -- that will take them 30 feet (9.14m) below ground into a central hall leading to galleries along the

perimeter of the pools. At the Gallery level, they can view the names of the victims of September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993, inscribed around each pool.

Adjacent to the two pools, a Memorial Museum will extend 100,000 (9290 m) square feet underground and will use artifacts and exhibits to tell the story of September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993. Visitors also will be able to view a section of the massive slurry wall that held back the Hudson River during the attacks.

Freedom Tower

Freedom Tower is a single tower that is being constructed to fill the void left by the Twin Towers. The current design is a revision of an earlier design which require some modification. Maintaining the symbolic 1,776-foot height of the original design, the new tower will feature a smaller, cubic base -- the same size as the footprints of the original Twin Towers -- and will be set back further from West Street, alleviating security concerns raised about the earlier design.

Rising from its square base, the redesigned Freedom Tower will taper into eight tall isosceles triangles, forming a perfect octagon at its center, which will be topped by an observation deck and square glass parapet rotated 45 degrees from the base. From this will rise an illuminated mast, containing a television antenna, that will evoke the Statue of Liberty's torch, in keeping with the original Freedom Tower design.

While incorporating enhanced security requirements, the building will feature entrances on all four sides, making it open and accessible and connected to the community and street life that will surround it. These entrances will also provide views of and access to the adjoining memorial. Additionally, the new tower will serve as a model of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, incorporating state-of-the-art energy-saving technology, environmentally friendly building materials, water conservation features, and ventilation systems to improve indoor air quality.

Other key elements of the original design will be retained, including 2.6 million square feet of office space, tenant amenity spaces, world-class restaurants, below-grade retail, and access to the PATH, subway, and World Financial Center.



Rendering of Freedom Tower and Reflecting Absence

If you are interested in reading more information about 9/11 or the construction projects for Ground Zero, please visit these websites:

- usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/london.htm
- www.wtcsitememorial.org
- www.lowermanhattan.info
- www.renewnyc.org/Memorial/default.asp.htm
- www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/memorial/

T.S. Eliot

Thomas Stearns Elliot, American-British poet and critic, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1888. One of the most distinguished literary figures of the 20th century, T.S. Eliot won the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature. He eventually established his residence in London and in 1927, he became a British subject. After working as a teacher and a bank clerk, he began a publishing career; he was assistant editor of the *Egoist* and edited his own quarterly, the *Criterion*. In 1925, he was employed by the publishing house of Faber and Faber, eventually becoming one of its directors.

Eliot's early poetical works - *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1917) and *Poems* (1920), express the anguish and barrenness of life and the isolation and the individual, particularly as reflected in the failure of love. *The Waste Land*, whose published version reflects extraordinary editing by Eliot's friend, Ezra Pound, compelled immediate critical attention. His complex early poems, employing myths, religious symbolism and literary allusion, signified a break with 19th-century poetic traditions. In his later poetry, notably *Ash Wednesday* (1930) and the *Four Quartets* (1935-42), Eliot turned from spiritual desolation to hope for human salvation. He accepted religious faith as a solution to the human dilemma and espoused Anglo-Catholicism in 1927.

Eliot was an extraordinarily influential critic, rejecting Romantic notions on unfettered originality and arguing for the impersonality of great art. His later criticism attempts to support Christian culture against what he saw as the empty and fragmented values of secularism. His outstanding critical works are contained in such volumes as *The Sacred Wood* (1920), *For Lancelot Andrewes* (1928) *Selected Essays, 1917-1932* (1932), among others.

Following is an excerpt of one Eliot's earlier poems, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock":

*LET us go then, you and I,
When the evening is spread out against the sky
Like a patient etherised upon a table;
Let us go, through certain half-deserted streets,
The muttering retreats
Of restless nights in one-night cheap hotels
And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells:
Streets that follow like a tedious argument
Of insidious intent
To lead you to an overwhelming question ...
Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"
Let us go and make our visit.*

*In the room the women come and go
Talking of Michelangelo.*

*The yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window-panes,
The yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the window-panes
Licked its tongue into the corners of the evening,
Lingered upon the pools that stand in drains,
Let fall upon its back the soot that falls from chimneys,
Slipped by the terrace, made a sudden leap,
And seeing that it was a soft October night,
Curled once about the house, and fell asleep.*

*And indeed there will be time
For the yellow smoke that slides along the street,
Rubbing its back upon the window-panes;
There will be time, there will be time
To prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet;
There will be time to murder and create,
And time for all the works and days of hands
That lift and drop a question on your plate:
Time for you and time for me,
And time yet for a hundred indecisions,
And for a hundred visions and revisions,
Before the taking of a toast and tea.*

*In the room the women come and go
Talking of Michelangelo.*

Here are some websites for more info:

www.bartleby.com/people/Eliot-Th.html

nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1948/eliot-bio.htm

James Dean



James Dean was born February 8, 1931, in Marion, Indiana, to Winton and Mildred Dean. He began acting with James Whitmore's acting workshop, appeared in occasional television commercials, and played several roles in films and on stage. In the winter of 1951, he moved to New York to pursue a serious acting career. He appeared in seven television shows, in addition to earning his living as a busboy in the theater district, before he won a small part in a Broadway play entitled *See the Jaguar*.

James Dean had one of the most spectacularly brief careers of any screen star. In just more than a year, and in only three films, Dean became a widely admired screen personality, a personification of the restless American youth of the mid-50's, and an embodiment of the title of one of his films, "Rebel Without A Cause." En route to compete in a race in Salinas, James Dean was killed in a highway accident on September 30, 1955. James Dean was nominated for two Academy Awards, for his performances in "East of Eden" and "Giant." Although he only made three films, they were made in just over one year's time.

Many writers have written about Dean's life and accomplishments. The following is James Dean in his own words. This is an autobiography

written for a high school composition class at the age of 17:

I, James Byron Dean, was born February 8, 1931, Marion, Indiana. My parents, Winton Dean and Mildred Dean, formerly Mildred Wilson, and myself existed in the state of Indiana until I was six years of age. Dad's work with the government caused a change, so Dad as a dental mechanic was transferred to California. There we lived, until the fourth year. Mom became ill and passed out of my life at the age of nine. I never knew the reason for Mom's death, in fact it still preys on my mind. I had always lived such a talented life. I studied violin, played in concerts, tap-danced on theatre stages but most of all I like art, to mold and create things with my hands. I came back to Indiana to live with my uncle. I lost the dancing and violin, but not the art. I think my life will be devoted to art and dramatics. And there are so many different fields of art it would be hard to foul-up, and if I did, there are so many different things to do -- farm, sports, science, geology, coaching, teaching music. I got it and I know if I better myself that there will be no match. A fellow must have confidence. When living in California my young eyes experienced many things. It was also my luck to make three visiting trips to Indiana, going and coming a different route each time. I have been in almost every state west of Indiana. I remember all. My hobby, or what I do in my spare time, is motorcycle. I know a lot about them mechanically and I love to ride. I have been in a few races and have done well. I own a small cycle myself. When I'm not doing that, I'm usually engaged in athletics, the heartbeat of every American boy. As one strives to make a goal in a game, there should be a goal in this crazy world for all of us. I hope I know where mine is, anyway, I'm after it. I don't mind telling you, Mr. Dubois, this is the hardest subject to write about considering the information one knows of himself, I ever attempted.

To read more about James Dean and his brief but influential life, please visit the following internet sites:

- www.jamesdean.com
- www.americanlegends.com/jamesdean/
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Dean
- www.jamesdeangallery.com/

This Month in U.S. History

September 1, 1875 - *Tarzan of the Apes* creator Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was born in Chicago. Before becoming a novelist, he was as a correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*.

September 1, 1923 - Boxing champ Rocky Marciano (1923-1969) was born in Brockton, Massachusetts (as Rocco Francis Marchegiano). He fought Jersey Joe Walcott for the heavyweight title on September 23, 1952, and knocked him out. In 1956, he retired as the only undefeated heavyweight champion. He died in a plane crash in 1969.

September 2, 1963 - Alabama governor George Wallace forcibly halted public school integration by encircling Tuskegee High School with state troopers.

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States.

September 3, 1838 - Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the underground railway network.

September 4, 1609 - The island of Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson.

September 4, 1781 - Los Angeles was founded by the Spanish governor of California, Felipe de Neve, near the site of the Indian village of Yang-na. The original name was El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles (The Town of the Queen of the Angels).

September 5, 1847 - Wild West legend Jesse James (1847-1882) was born in Centerville,

Missouri. Following the U.S. Civil War, Jesse and his brother Frank formed a group of outlaws, robbing banks, trains, stagecoaches and stores. In 1882, after the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for their capture dead or alive, a member of the gang shot 34-year-old Jesse in the back of the head and claimed the reward.

September 8, 1883 - The Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed.

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.

September 9, 1776 - The USA came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies to the United States.

September 12, 1913 - American Olympic athlete Jesse Owens (1913-1980) was born in Oakville, Alabama (as James Cleveland Owens). He won four medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, defeating Nazi athletes. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler stormed out of the stadium rather than present the medals to Owens, an African American.

September 13, 1788 - The U.S. Congress chose New York as the federal capital of the new American government.

September 13, 1814 - The Battle of Fort Henry in Baltimore Harbor occurred, observed by Francis Scott Key aboard a ship. He watched the British attack overnight and at dawn saw the American flag still flying over the fort, inspiring him to write the verses which were later coupled with the tune of a popular drinking song and became the U.S. national anthem in 1931.

September 14, 1975 - Elizabeth Ann Seton became the first American saint.



September 16, 1620 - The *Mayflower* ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew. The ship weathered dangerous Atlantic storms and reached Provincetown, Massachusetts on November 21. The Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth on December 26.

September 16, 1976 - The Episcopal Church in the U.S. approved the ordination of women priests and bishops.

September 17, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, delegates from twelve states voted unanimously to approve the proposed U.S. Constitution.

September 17, 1862 - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history occurred as Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederate armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by Gen. George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.

September 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.

September 20, 1873 - The New York Stock Exchange was forced to close for the first time in its history as a result of a banking crisis during the financial panic of 1873.

September 20, 1973 - The much-hyped "Battle of the Sexes" took place in the Houston Astrodome as tennis player and women's rights activist, Billie Jean King, defeated self-styled male chauvinist Bobby Riggs in three straight sets. Riggs, a retired tennis champion, had been critical of the quality of women's tennis.

September 24, 1896 - American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota (as Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald). Best known for *This Side of Paradise*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender Is the Night*.

Birthdays - Puppeteer Jim Henson (1936-1990) was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He created the Muppets, including Kermit the Frog, and

Bert and Ernie, entertaining and educating generations of American children via the daily TV show *Sesame Street*.

September 25, 1690 - The first American newspaper was published. A single edition of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* appeared in Boston, however, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate suppression.

Birthdays - American writer William Faulkner (1897-1962) was born in New Albany, Mississippi. Best known for *The Sound and the Fury* and *The Reivers*.

September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.

Birthdays - American folk legend Johnny Appleseed (1774-1845) was born in Leominster, Massachusetts (as John Chapman). For 40 years, he traveled through Ohio, Indiana and into Illinois, planting orchards. He was a friend to wild animals and was regarded as a "great medicine man" by Native Americans.

Birthdays - Composer George Gershwin (1898-1937) was born in Brooklyn, New York. Along with his brother Ira, he created enduring songs including *The Man I Love*, *Strike Up the Band*, *I Got Rhythm* and the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

Birthdays - American writer Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood*.



Book of the Month

Generations of Captivity

By Ira Berlin

""[This book] traces the history of African-American slavery in the United States from its beginnings in the seventeenth century to its fiery demise nearly three hundred years later. It offers a major reinterpretation of the experience of slavery, revealing how slaves and their owners continually renegotiated the terms of captivity. It demonstrates how enslaved black people, through constant struggle, prepared for the moment they could seize liberty and declare themselves Freedom Generations.

Important Dates to Remember

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 4, 2006

Labor Day

September 8, 2006

International Literacy Day

September 11

Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks

September 17, 2006

Constitution Day

September 21, 2006

International Day of Peace

Current American Corner Activities

Due to the beginning of a new semester, the schedule of American Corner Activities will be changing. We will be sending out announcements about new days and times for activities, such as "Conversation Hour," as well as some new activities. Thank you for your patience.

American Corner Staff

American Corner Hours

Monday & Friday:

9:30 - 13:00

and

15:00 - 20:00

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday:

8:30 - 13:00

and

15:00 - 20:00

Contact US!!

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Or Come See Us on the Second of El Anexo del Biblioteca, Campus Saucache.

Sources

September 11 Memorial

- usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/london.htm
- www.wtcsitememorial.org/
- www.lowermanhattan.info/construction/
- www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/memorial/

T. S. Elliot

- www.bartleby.com/people/Eliot-Th.html
- www.bartleby.com/198/1.html
- nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1948/eliot-bio.html

James Dean

- www.jamesdean.com
- www.americanlegends.com/jamesdean/
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Dean
- www.jamesdeangallery.com/

This Month in U.S. History

- www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/index.html