

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

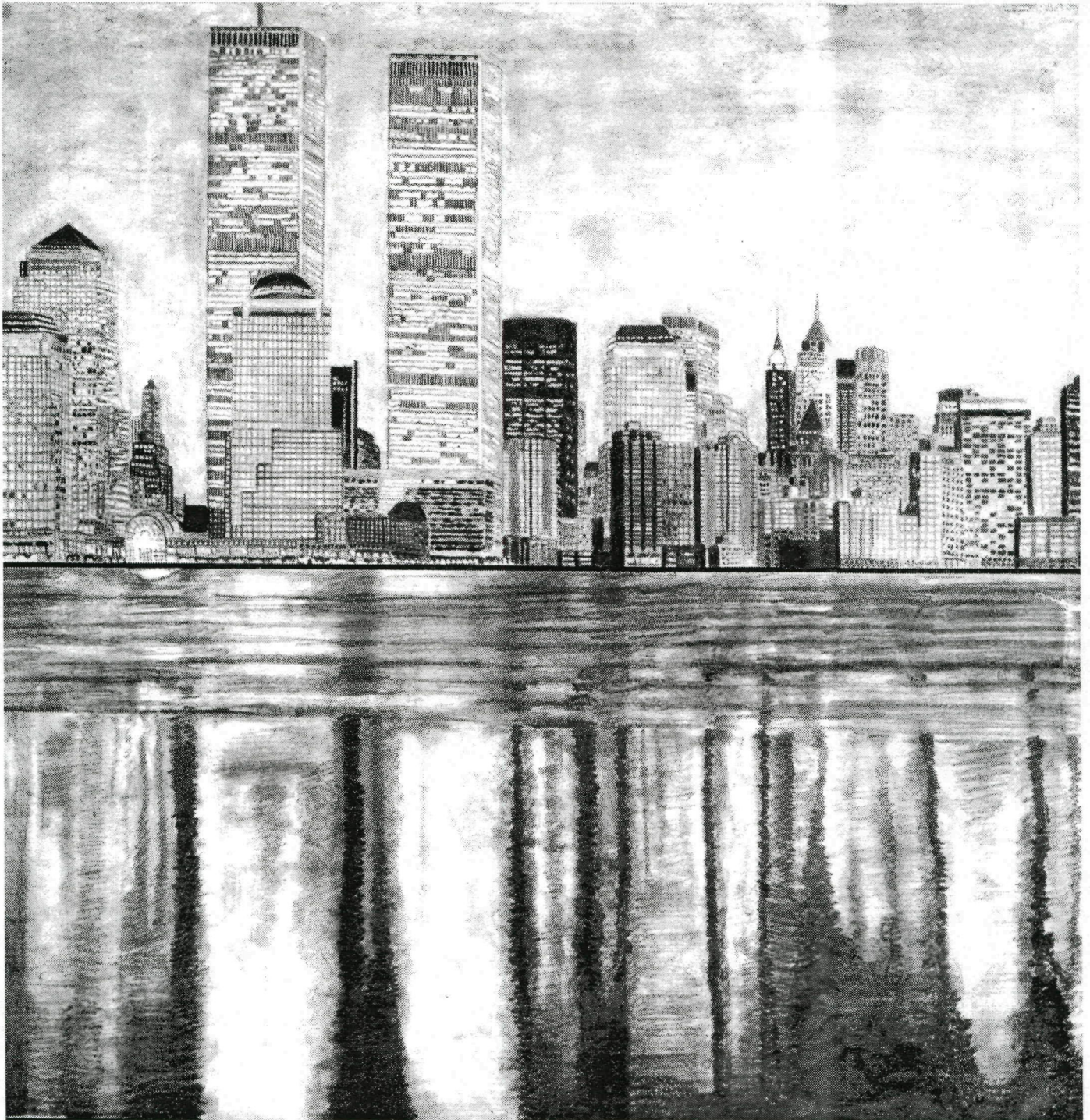
Jillian Jimenez, Ph.D.

This issue of *Reflections* commemorates the first year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York City, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania. The issue is dedicated to those who lost loved ones on this terrible day in American history. Written from the first person perspective of those who comforted others who endured the attacks, these narratives offer us a powerful way to share in the lived experience of that day and all the many struggle-filled days that followed, and continue to catch us in the painful net of grief.

Looking back a year later, I can see how many other things were lost that day. The sense of openness that observers like Alexis de Toqueville have noted as characterizing American life seems to have evaporated overnight. Our previously felt fears of domestic and foreign enemies have been transmogrified into fear of terrorists, inside and outside our borders. Terrorism somehow seems a far worse phantom to live with than invasion or even nuclear attack—the manifestations of war that galvanized Americans in earlier periods in this century. The increasingly closed nature of our society, the contraction of our civil liberties, the shutting down of dissent, have been accompanied by a general disinterest in serious *Homefront* problems such as health care, discrimination, inadequate incomes for families and children and other aspects of the Progressive agenda. The increased suspicion of those we are eager to call foreigners (as opposed to immigrants) darkens our appetite for new experience and

our optimism about our resilience. This shutting down is one of the great losses we continue to incur from 9/11. On this one-year anniversary, *Reflections* hopes its readers will remember those who perished on that day, as well as those who continue to suffer from social injustice today.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the special editors, Alex Gitterman and Andrew Malekoff, for their commitment to excellence that guided them through the creation of this issue.



A Landscape of the End of the 20th Century

By Rachel Feldhamer, 17, Cedarhurst, Long Island, New York (approx. 20 miles from Ground Zero)

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