

The Statue of Liberty Club Newsletter



www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com • Fall/Winter 2014 • Volume 24, Issue No. 3



Above: **Bartholdi Museum Reception (L-R)**

Marianna Chelkova, Vince Swift, Isabelle Bräutigam, Jean-Marie Schmitt, Brian Snyder, Régis Heuber

Left: **Colmar Traffic Circle (L-R)** Vince Swift, Brian Snyder, Amanda Liberty, Laurent Ghesquière, Christian Meyer

Photos courtesy Dernière Nouvelles d'Alsace (www.dna.fr)

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Visits in France ... In their own words

Members of The Statue of Liberty Club gathered in France during the first half of September. They visited all things relevant to Auguste Bartholdi (in Paris, Colmar, Belfort), the Statue of Liberty (in Paris, Chaumont-Semoutiers, Colmar) and whatever else they could squeeze in during their visit. Laurent Ghesquière was the tour guide during the time in Paris, and his stated philosophy was "If you are not tired, you are not visiting Paris!" ... we were tired by the end of 3 days in Paris. Here, in their own words, are the comments of the members.

From Amanda Liberty: (her 'selfie' atop the Eiffel Tower)

Ever since we had a discussion in NYC last year about possibly organizing a Club visit to France, I have been looking forward to it, but I did have to try to not get my hopes up because nothing was confirmed, but that was somewhat difficult for me!! I had a particular desire to visit Colmar, but did not know how to get there by myself and

was told it was quite a challenging journey by public transport, so I did rely upon the Club to help me get there.



We had many discussions via email deciding what we were going to do, and where we were going to stay. Laurent had to sort different bookings for all of us as some

were arriving and leaving on different dates - Thank you for your patience and making sure everything was right! I arrived on the Sunday, the day before activities were due to begin - as I was not going to get (continued on page 2)

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involved with the Monday morning commuters! I am pretty good when it comes to map reading and directions, and all was going quite well- I had gotten myself to the Port d'Orleans Metro (subway) station but I goofed up and I read the map upside down- so I ended up dragging my suitcase in the opposite direction to where I needed to go! After dragging it all the way back after realizing my mistake I hear a call from across the street. "Amanda!" hollers the familiar voice. My green crown had been spotted! Vince had been waiting there for me, and it was a nice surprise! That evening I went to see the best known replica of our Lady on the Seine - I enjoyed the walk along the road leading toward her, with the Eiffel Tower twinkling away in front of me. When I got there I ran down the stairs and under the bridge! I looked up at her, with her golden rays and smiled! I took my photographs and went back to the hotel to bed. It had been a long day!

Our time in Paris was filled with visits to all things Bartholdi related, as well as some well-known Parisian landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe Laurent was our guide for the week and whilst in Paris we would meet each morning in the hotel lobby huddling around a city map with points of interest that had been circled- it became ever tattier as the week progressed! It seemed like we walked for miles, with Laurent and Brian speeding off into the horizon, Vince and I only saw them from the back!

We visited many monuments and statues including the Lafayette and Washington monument, the little Lion of Belfort at Denfort-Rochereou [ED: See URL #1], Bartholdi's grave [ED: See picture on back page], the Flame of Liberty, and replicas of the Statue of Liberty located in the Musée D'Orsay (this is the one that used to be in Luxembourg Gardens, and is now replaced with a clearly marked replica of her in the Gardens) and the Musée de Arts et Métiers [ED: Museum of Arts and Crafts, see URL #2; see picture on back page].

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Soon enough, Thursday morning came and we were up bright and early ready for our road trip to Colmar, out before the traffic! We enjoyed a lot of good conversation along the way- and Brian was looking out for McDonalds! We came to a stop in this rather quiet sleepy village along the way, sure there were no McDonalds to be found there! We looked around a bit but really I thought Laurent had got a little lost! Strange though as the GPS was on in the car...Well we didn't have to wait too long to find out what this was all about! We were driven to the gates of a military base! Laurent had organized access for us as a surprise, as inside stood a replica of our Lady! The former home of the 48th Fighter Wing - nicknamed the Statue of Liberty Wing, still boasted its Lady standing tall and proud for us to see! The regiment moved home in 1960, to Lakenheath, which is about 3 hours from where I live. I felt very honored being in the Semoutiers base, and it was

wonderful! Thank you Laurent! [ED: see picture on back page]

After finally finding a McDonalds, we arrived in Colmar at last!

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After the hotel our first stop was Musée Bartholdi, where we were met by the Curator, Isabelle Bräutigam, who kindly gave us a guided tour around Bartholdi's house (the museum). It was really amazing to be standing where Bartholdi had once lived and worked, and to see the artefacts in the museum, such as the

preserved rooms as they would have looked at the time, and of course the statuary and paintings. A truly remarkable person and so too was his mother. I learned many new things about Bartholdi that day, and in recent times with my new book 'Liberty's Torch by Elizabeth



Mitchell. Reading that and then seeing the museum have given me a real passion to learn more about him and his work besides the Statue of Liberty. I could have spent all day in that museum! Colmar is such a beautiful place! I was awestruck by the architecture it really grabbed me and I did not know which way to look as there was something interesting to look at in every direction! So much color and life! I really did not spend enough time there to thoroughly appreciate it.

On the Friday we went in the morning to see yet another Lady! This time a 39ft replica

standing in the middle of a roundabout! OK that's different!! [ED: see newspaper picture on front] She still has her own little island but surrounded by busy roads and lots of traffic!

We then got in the car and paid a visit to Belfort to see the lion. That was interesting as it is completely different to our Lady in every way, even down to the material and the way it is constructed. Just another reason why Bartholdi was so remarkable to be able to sculpt in different materials that are nothing like each other! Comparing the stone bricks that make up the Lion, to the repoussé copper sheets of our Lady.

There was time for a bit of shopping and looking around Colmar when we got back and Christian directed us to a shop selling small SOLs that Brian and I bought to add to our collections - it was distinctly a replica of the Colmar Lady stood on her roundabout with COLMAR written on the base. There was another small statue as well in an antiques shop with a hexagonal base - asking price? Over €2500! - WHAT???

[ED: over \$3,100] An unusual statue but she wasn't made by Bartholdi himself and isn't worth that much!! So I just took a photo! They all went to their rooms about 8:30pm and I didn't want to go to bed! I wanted to use the short time in Colmar to the fullest so I got an idea in my head to walk to the Colmar replica from the hotel (about 5 miles round trip) so grabbing my camera I left and made the journey, to find her well illuminated in the darkness. I took plenty of pictures, and really enjoyed myself even though it started to rain at one point. It was fun!

Our meeting was over too soon and before we knew it our group was halved as I said goodbye to Vince, then Laurent who dropped Brian and I off at the TGV station in Colmar for our journey back to Paris - Saturday, 20 September.

A high speed train! Wow! We were back in Paris in no time, and it was a surprisingly easy route as well! Not complicated as previously thought, so I can come back whenever I want! I had spent the journey transferring the data from my camera and camcorder to my netbook computer as it was a convenient time. I am very glad I did that, for an unfortunate event was to take place very shortly after, as Brian and I fell victim to a thief who took some of our belongings including both my cameras!

As Brian's passport was amongst the items taken from him, we filed a police report and headed to the US Embassy - only to find it closed on weekends!

So really the last couple of days in Paris did not go as planned, and most certainly was not planned for Brian as he was supposed to fly home on the Sunday, but I tried to keep my chin up and focus on all the good times we had had throughout the week, as well as being thankful for not losing my images or footage!. We both flew home on the Tuesday, 23 September.

Apart from the theft, it really was a wonderful trip and I

thoroughly enjoyed it! It was lovely to see some Club members again and have conversations on subjects we all enjoy talking about!

Some people kindly donated money towards replacing my cameras (Most of these few people are Club members!) - I thank you very very much for that it was very much appreciated! I still had a fare chunk to pay but it didn't hit me quite as hard thanks to the kindness of my friends! Thanks to you I have a new (2nd hand) camera - a Nikon d5100 and I am out once again taking pictures! I look forward to the next Club meeting in NYC next year and to see you all again and our dear Statue of Liberty.

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From Brian Snyder:

Anytime I'm with fellow Club members whether in Las Vegas, New York, or France, life is good. The weather can be freezing with crippling snowfall, raining cats and dogs, sweltering, and all is good. Even having my backpack stolen or having a bird poop on my head can't wreck the experience.

One of the best things about traveling with friends are the surprises, both planned and unplanned!

While on the trip in France there were several surprises! Laurent called the Mayor of Chaumont to get us all military clearance for us to go onto a French Drone base to see the Statue of liberty in the center of the base. What a surprise that was!

Then there was the chance of making something happen by cold-calling the major foundry in Paris to try to gain access to see them making a million dollar Statue of Liberty in bronze. None were in production and they probably wouldn't have let us in but we gave it our best effort!



Curator Isabelle Bräutigam with 1 of 2 American Committee Models donated by Brian Snyder. Christian Meyer with 2004 medal and pins donated by The Statue of Liberty Club.

Then there was our time in the beautiful town of Colmar. We knew there was a "reception" for us to attend at Musée Bartholdi. It turned into a full-fledged reception with the Deputy Mayor of Colmar, the current and 2 past museum curators, and other local officials. The opening speech by

Isabelle Bräutigam, the new curator at Musée Bartholdi, was truly from the heart. Her story hit close to home for me as we were both inspired by a simple poster on a wall. Vince presented Isabelle with a 2004 Bartholdi Medal complete with wearing ribbon followed by a 125th Liberty dedication anniversary Bartholdi lapel pin. Other guests were presented with the limited edition lapel pins complements of the Wiegand Foundation.

Since my first visit to Musée Bartholdi 13 years ago where I noticed the absence of an American Committee Model, I labeled a 6-inch model in my collection for them. Since then I acquired a very nice 12-inch model that would accompany the smaller version someday. This trip was the perfect time to present to the new curator possibly the first item to be added under her direction. The statues were gifted on behalf of the Statue of Liberty Club.

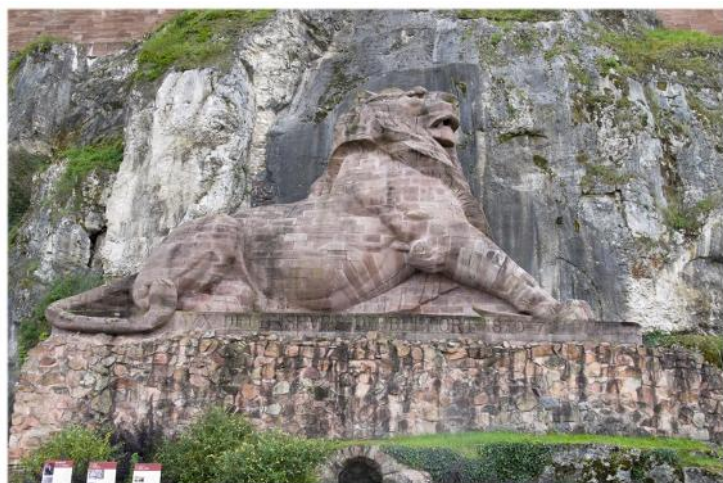
The trip concluded by going up to 201 mph from Colmar to Paris on the famous TGV high-speed train.

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From Christian Meyer:

The Magic of friends of Statue of Liberty always operates. No matter when, no matter where, no matter which events, no matter how long, when long term friends of the Statue of Liberty are gathering, there is always a lot of fun and commitment to keep alive the flame of Miss Liberty and this of your unique and international friendship.

This time in Colmar, again, with these five attendees of this gathering, united like the five fingers of a hand in Laurent's van, we spend a great time, seeking contacts with the new staff of the Bartholdi Museum, rediscovering interesting stuff at the Colmar Cemetery where Bartholdi's heritage is still visible, and in Belfort where the Lion greeted us proudly.



Thanks to all, Vince Mr President, Brian with this incredible tie, Amanda recording and picturing everything accurately, Laurent our star photographer, to come, initiate, and promote these magic moments when memories of past meetings and present experiences are connecting us together, where ever we are from.

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Flame of Liberty with Eiffel Tower in background

Photo by Brian Snyder

From Laurent Ghesquière:

[ED: Laurent's contribution, including tour guide, driver and driving advisor, is most of the pictures in this newsletter. Unless otherwise indicated, Laurent provided all photos of the France visits and group pictures.]

From Vince Swift:

My travel mates have covered all of the highlights of this visit to Paris, Colmar and Belfort. I was in continental Europe for 27 days and 7 of those were with the other club members. My recollections include returning to visit the Musée D'Orsay [ED: see URL #3] on Sunday October 5 and learning that museums in Paris, and maybe all of France, are free admission on the first Sunday of each month – plan ahead! I was going back to buy 2 copies of a book that Amanda had discovered during our 1st visit– *The Statue of Liberty; The Challenge of Bartholdi*, see URL #5. At the museum this book cost about \$10.85.

I recall we visited the Lafayette equestrian statue, in Paris, that was a gift of the United States to France. This statue was funded primarily from the proceeds of the sale of the 1900 Washington & Lafayette commemorative dollar coin, see URL #9. Later, in my separate travels, I saw another Lafayette equestrian statue in Metz, France. For more information and pictures of these Lafayette monuments – and others, see URL #11. I also visited the grave site of Lafayette in Paris. There is an interesting 5 minute video on YouTube showing the annual July 4th changing of the American flag, which flies every day, over Lafayette grave; see URL #12.

I recall collecting, over the 27 days, at least 20lbs of brochures, magazines, books, etc – all things paper and all in French – and ultimately delivering the materials to the French teacher at my High School for her French students. I also gave the French teacher one of the books I purchased at Musée D'Orsay. This is a very neat book, in French, about Liberty from concept through dedication. Every page is a

popup with many historic construction photos I had never seen.

We revisited many of the Colmar sites a larger group of club members visited in 2004, including the statue of Bartholdi, in a Colmar park, with a small Statue of Liberty model on his right side, see the photo on the back page and URL #4. We also visited a Colmar cemetery with one of most powerful Bartholdi designed grave markers for French combatants of the 1870-1871 war, see URL #6. The unfortunate losses suffered by Amanda and Brian in Paris put a damper on what was an otherwise fun visit to France. My 'alone' time is documented later in this newsletter.

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From The President

In addition to the travels in France, we must also report on receiving word of the death of four club members. Brian and Iris have provided comments about several of those members.

2015 Calendar and Membership Directory

With this issue, I am pleased to provide members with my annual gift, the 10th, a calendar for 2015. Please note that the dates of our next New York City meeting are highlighted. We will have more meeting information and details in the March 2015 newsletter.

This issue of the newsletter comes with the annual **Membership Directory**. As always, you have the right to privacy and not have any contact information included in the Membership Directory, except name, state/country where you live. Please provide any changes during the year as they occur.

Sandy Izsak



Brian and I received word from Margaret Izsak of the death of her mother in July. Many longtime members will remember Sandy as an equal part of the Dick and Sandy Izsak couple from Ohio and first year members of the club. Sandy and Dick attended many NYC meetings and meetings in Las Vegas and Rochester. Sandy worked very closely with Dick and closely watched over him

during his last months. Sandy was a fine person and club member.

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Liberty Sightings



Susan Costa, club member and my sister, forwarded a Liberty photo I don't recall seeing but was aware of the background. This photo is after the 1876 Philadelphia

Centennial exhibition (see the 2010 calendar) when Liberty's arm and torch were moved to Madison Square Park in New York City from 1876 into 1882; see URL #7.

New Club Treasurer

Lebo Newman and I are transitioning the Treasurer duties, so be patient if your membership dues are not deposited shortly after submitting. We'll get to you and **THANKS** for being a member of our club!

Be careful during the winter months and we'll talk again in the springtime. ***Cherish Our Liberty, Vince Swift***

From Iris November



Ok-- so where did September go-- it was August and now it's a week from November-- our month of course--so what happened? Don't ask me! I'm just confused.

I did so enjoy the reports from Colmar and remember fondly our previous adventures there. It is such a lovely city, and the friends we made there still make me smile warmly. I remember having to make a little speech at one of our luncheons, and asked Annie Gaines Ashton to deliver it in French. She did so

and beautifully. Paris is still a magnificent city, despite the political ugliness that continuously affects it.

The loss of our long time members has saddened me.

Jo Young from Sarasota, FL, was a once a year lunch date for Mort and me. We would pick up sandwiches and sit in her home and talk ourselves silly about Miss Liberty, and also her love of the Titanic, both her collections. We traded and shared and gifted-- how sweet is that. Her granddaughter, who is a grown woman now, designed many of the front covers on our membership directory-- followed later by Lindsay McDonald's daughter-- and Jo shared her passions with everyone.

[ED: Photo on right of Ethel Fishman was originally printed in the Fall/Winter 2007 newsletter.] No one was quite like **Ethel Fishman**. We met her through friends in Cleveland, the Goodmans, who knew the Fishmans from their antiquing adventures in NYC and other places. When I discovered Ethel's fascination with Miss Liberty, which sealed the deal. She was an educator in design at FIT--Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC-- and she was our "fashionista"!! Dressed stunningly at all times, she proudly wore her Statue of Liberty jewelry on every outfit. We couldn't wait to see what Ethel would wear! And such a kind, funny, warm person-- missed by all. As I always say, these are my golden years-- and they get tarnished, sadly!



Dear friends, Barry Feldman and Paul Wehn, gifted me with a painting by a local artist, Stan Koslen. Stan is a senior, also, and uses many ideas for his artwork. This piece is the bust of Miss Liberty, enhanced with Jewish symbols, dreidels from Chanukah, menorah images, Hebrew letters spelling out Shalom, and all in such a subtle effect that at first you don't notice it! A splendid addition to my not-collecting-any-more collection! How can I not hang it in our living room?!

Hope this Fall is as colorful for you as it is for us from our eighth floor condo, overlooking a Cleveland Metropark. Just stunning!

Stay well and have fun! *Love, Iris and Mort*

Suggestions or questions can be directed to Brian at info@StatueOfLibertyClub.com. More details and the registration form including fees will be in forth coming newsletters.

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Julian Levy

Julian Levy has 3 loves in his life, Wife Ruth, Marilyn Monroe, and the Statue of Liberty. Not necessarily in that order! He was born one day after Marilyn Monroe was born.

Longtime club member Julian Levy, husband to Ruth Levy, passed away April 2014.

Ruth and Julian's last visit together to NYC with the club was



in 2009 [ED: see picture on left]. It was a breezy chilly day on Liberty Island. They enjoyed many trips with the Club.

He was a veteran of WWII, having served his country by servicing the Boeing B29 Super Fortress bombers stationed in Puerto Rico. At his burial in a military cemetery, Grandson Josh (19), recited Emma Lazarus' poem as a tribute to Julian. He was buried with a beautiful Statue of Liberty tie Ruth laid across his chest.

Ruth lived up to her wedding vows "in sickness and in health, until death do us part" to the very end where she was by his side 24/7 in 2013 and part of 2014

Ruth and Grandson Josh attended the 2011 Club meeting while Julian was being cared for by his favorite nurse, Jessica. He will be missed but not forgotten.

Julian Levy

6.2.1926 to 4.24.2014

Laying the Cornerstone of Liberty's Pedestal

I am in email contact with a Librarian from the Fall River, MA library about a document they rediscovered after 4 years out-of-sight – the document is an invitation to the August 5th, 1884 laying of the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World and was issued by The American Committee of the Statue of Liberty. Club sources have only the Harper's Magazine photograph of the laying of the cornerstone and news reports of the event, however no knowledge of the document in a collection or being shown in print. Here is your chance to shed light on this rare document. Do you know of another such invitation? A reference to one in a book or journal? If you have any information about the laying of the cornerstone and invitations to that event, please contact me directly. The library is interested in determining its rarity and then how



From the Vice President

2015 NYC meeting

The Statue of Liberty Club will be meeting October 1-2-3, 2015 in the City of New York. Plans are underway for another busy 3-days including a Thursday group event, Friday on Liberty Island, Saturday's show-n-sell

followed by dinner and program. There are guest speakers lined up for Saturday night's event!

Crown passes must be purchased by each traveler 6-months in advance using the same name(s) on the traveler's I.D.

Select the earliest possible departure from Battery Park.

Ferry-only passes can be ordered on the Club Meeting form in the summer of 2015.

Official meeting hotel information will be provided in the March 2015 newsletter. As always, members are free to book accommodations where they desire.

to best handle it in order to provide maximum exposure for the public.

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Classified Ads from Club Members

1) I am interested in trading, buying and selling **playing cards** that picture the Statue of Liberty. I collect SOL single playing cards and want to buy or trade for cards new to my collection. I have a list of available SOL cards for trade, or I am willing to sell them. If interested, please contact **Joan Manahan**. [redacted].com

2) **Thum's Bowling Alleys booklet/pamphlet.** Covers all medals depicting the Statue of Liberty from 1906 to 1930. \$5.00 ppd. Send all inquiries to **Paul G. Lajoie**, [redacted] **Longmeadow, MA 01116-1251**

3) **Public School Athletic League booklet/pamphlet.** Covers all medals depicting the Statue of Liberty from 1906 to 1930. \$5.00 ppd. Send all inquiries to **Paul G. Lajoie**, [redacted] **Longmeadow, MA 01116-1251**

4) **Safe and Sane Medals booklet/pamphlet.** Covers all medals depicting the Statue of Liberty from 1911 to 1933. \$5.00 ppd. Send all inquiries to **Paul G. Lajoie**, [redacted] **Longmeadow, MA 01116-1251**

5) **Wanted - Statue of Liberty Collections:** I am interested in all types of Liberty collections whether general material or specialized like coins or stamps or ephemera, etc. Contact **Lebo Newman** **3700 Burnham Way Reno NV 89511**

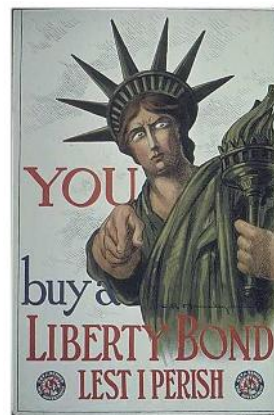
6) **Statue of Liberty post card collection:** Still looking for a member who wants to begin a **free** collection with donations from **Michael Forester** and **Vince Swift**. Expectation is a periodic report for the newsletter on the status of the collection. Contact **Michael** at **3900 Bellvue Rd, Greenville, NC 27834**, or Vince – contact info on page 7. Michael also indicates he has a few copies available of his pre-1986 catalogs on Liberty post cards.

Treasurer's Report

Club Assets		
Checking Account Balance		\$3,157.39
Approximate value of the club's laptop		50.00
Total Club Assets		\$3,207.39
Club Expenses		
Estimated cost of this newsletter, includes printing newsletter and membership directory, mailing supplies and postage		\$900.00
Web site fee (pre-paid through Feb. 2015)		-
Total Club expenses (approximate)		\$900.00
Statue of Liberty Club Membership		
Honorary 20	International 8	U.S. 90

My visits with Veterans by Vincent Swift

During three weeks in September-October 2014, I visited four countries on continental Europe with the planned purpose of visiting American cemeteries containing the graves of our Veterans from two World Wars. These are the same Veterans that answered the call of our country when America entered the wars. During the years prior to war



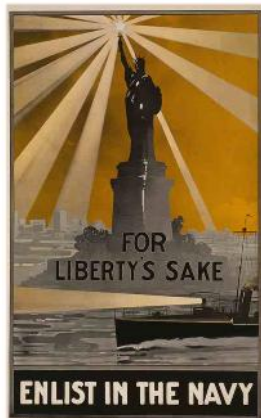
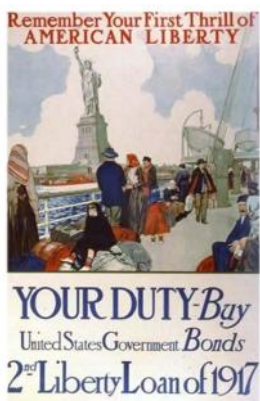
and during the wars, The Statue of Liberty appeared on numerous patriotic posters encouraging the purchase of 'Liberty Loans', 'Liberty Bonds', 'War Bonds' and for military recruitment. Our Statue of Liberty has a secure link to the American Veterans of all wars – Liberty remains a symbol of freedom and that will never diminish ... even if wars cease.

Five years ago I saw a show on Public Broadcasting about the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and its solemn responsibilities of maintaining 24 permanent overseas American military burial grounds (now 25), 22 overseas memorial monuments and 3 U.S. memorial monuments. After the TV program, I knew I wanted to visit some of the overseas cemeteries; I have visited the Arlington National Cemetery on, at least, two occasions, most recently in 2008 with Brian Snyder when we were guests of Don Wiegand, the sculptor of our 2004 Bartholdi Memorial medal, for ceremonies related to the Spirit of Hope award.

I report on my visits to 11 American cemeteries but with words that will not express the pride, humility and sorrow I experienced each visit. I will use appropriate **words of others** and weave in my thoughts and experiences.

"If ever proof were needed that we fought for a cause and not for conquest it could be found in these cemeteries. Here was our only conquest; all we asked ... was enough ... soil in which to bury our gallant dead."

General Mark Clark, Chairman American Battle Monuments



Commission, 1969-1984

~ Inscription in the Visitor Center of Normandy American Cemetery (WW II)

America suffered over 500,000 military casualties during the World Wars. More than 131,000 are buried in overseas cemeteries, at the wishes of their next of kin, and more than 94,000 missing in action are memorialized among these cemeteries and the 3 U.S. Memorials (New York City, San Francisco and Honolulu). Missing in action includes servicemen and women lost or buried at sea during both World Wars, and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Each cemetery I visited was unique in its design and beauty; each share common elements; (1) A non-denominational Chapel with benches for quiet reflection or memorial services, (2) Large murals of the military campaigns where most of the buried Veterans died, (3) A Visitor's Center with a sign-in book and staff that can provide a history of the cemetery and assist in locating a particular grave, (4) Beautiful grounds with very symbolic statuary and informative wall panels and (5) the graves area containing either a Latin Cross or a Star of David at each grave. Each grave marker contains the name of the Veteran, his or her rank, their military unit, their home state and the date they died – date of birth is never displayed. There are markers for the **Unknowns** (the unidentified remains of an American) intermingled with the named markers; at World War I cemeteries the marker reads "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God", at World War II cemeteries, the marker reads "Here rests in honored glory a comrade in arms known but to God". Only one American cemetery contains remains from both World Wars, Suresnes, located in a western suburb of Paris. According to ABMC records, 22 cemeteries also contain the names of the Missing in Action on plaques in the chapel or on walls around the chapel area of the cemetery. If the remains of a missing in action Veteran were subsequently found and identified, a small bronze rosette is placed next to the name; their final burial site is not identified, the rosette indicates that they are no longer missing.



Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium; Sections A, C, E, G. Approximately half of the 7,987 headstones.

For the 11 cemeteries I visited, there are more than 72,000 Veterans buried and more than 7,000 memorialized as Missing in Action. At each cemetery, I had a set of tribute



Chapel altar with the Angel of Peace at Epinal American Cemetery, France

actions I developed to make the visit something special. One of the actions was to walk the edges of the grave rows reading the Veteran's home state. Often I would stop and read more of the information. The cemeteries have unique, but symmetric design so it was easy to walk and read the grave markers. I believe that, in total, I read the information from at least 3,000 graves. At the first cemetery I visited, Suresnes, I had a piece of fruit and a bottle of water in my backpack. It was a beautiful day, the Veterans provided a bench in the shade so I sat and ate the fruit, finished the water and reflected on my visit. Thereafter I decided to repeat that action at each cemetery ... the Veterans always provided a bench or seat somewhere in the shade at each location. The weather was beautiful for each cemetery with the exception of Normandy, my last visit. It was a rainy day and Normandy was the only cemetery I was visiting with a tour group – all others were by myself. However, the Veterans stopped the rain enough for me to have my piece of fruit and drink in the open near the center of the grave area; at Normandy, despite the inclement weather, I was also able again walk the grave rows, read state names and other information on grave markers.



St. Mihiel American Cemetery, France (WW I) Eagle sculpture in the center of the cemetery.

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

General of the Armies John J. Pershing,

Chairman American Battle Monuments Commission, 1923-1948

~ Inscription on Eagle Sculpture in the center of St. Mihiel American Cemetery (WW I).

Each visit surfaced the same thoughts of ultimate loss to the Veteran and his or her family. How could these American have altered the society of the United States in the arts, entertainment, literature, science, religion, or politics? At least two generations of Americans were severely diminished with the battlefield deaths or the missing but never found. An unknown number of WW I deaths were attributed to the 1918 influenza pandemic (worldwide 1918 through 1920).

“Here are recorded the names of Americans who gave their lives in the service of their Country and who sleep in unknown graves.”

~ Epitaph on stone walls at the Epinal American Cemetery (WW II) where 424 names of the missing are listed Each cemetery I visited had the names of missing Veterans and separate grave markers for the Unknowns. When a Veteran was killed, the U.S. Military went to great lengths to positively identify the body before an almost immediate burial in a temporary war-time cemetery. Ultimately hundreds of temporary overseas cemeteries were consolidated into the current 25 overseas cemeteries. After hostilities ceased and the consolidation processes began, the Veteran’s next of kin were notified that the U.S. government would return the Veteran’s body to a U.S. location for a family burial or would bury in an ABMC managed overseas cemetery near where the Veteran died. According to ABMC information, more than 70% of the deceased Veterans were repatriated to the U.S. These Veterans are buried in U.S. private or U.S. national military cemeteries. Each state has one, or more, National Cemetery, examples are: Arlington (maintained by the U.S.

“To you from hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high”

~Inscription on a memorial wall at the Netherlands American Cemetery (W II)

~From the third verse of *In Flanders Field*, a poem written during WW I by Canadian military doctor John McCrae, 3 May 1915

The quote offers a challenge from the fallen to the living to keep the flame of freedom lit.

Another challenge I read from the quote is the perpetual care of the domestic and overseas military cemeteries by the people of the United States. The cemeteries I visited were beautiful displays of simplicity and grandeur and of high standards for the care of the Veterans. There were grounds keeping staff at nearly every cemetery when I visited, cutting grass and shrubs and otherwise keeping an honorable location for the Veterans. Each cemetery had very colorful flowers still growing into early October and being maintained by a local staff hired by the Cemetery Superintendent, an American employee of the ABMC. I talked with American staff at two cemeteries and subsequently had email correspondence with two Superintendents. I learned that each grave marker is inspected at least once a year and if needed, replaced – apparently, over time, the white marble can develop a vein of rust color and if that happens the marker is replaced. Each grave marker is periodically sprayed to prevent mold from growing on it. Each chapel has very well designed symbolism and artistic craftsmanship. I was told all the design work was developed by the ABMC while much of the marble and granite stone work was performed by local artisans.

During my visit to Flanders Field in Belgium (WW I), I was joined by Delphine and Laurent Ghesquière. As we were about to leave, over a public address system a recorded bagpipe selection was played; the tunes were *Amazing Grace*, *America the Beautiful* and *The Caissons Go Rolling Along* (now titled *The Army Goes Rolling Along*). This proud sailor had a large lump in his throat during the playing of those tunes. I later found out tunes are played twice a day at Flanders Field; in the afternoon, the tunes played are *Anchors Aweigh* (Navy), *Marine’s Hymn* (USMC), *The U.S. Air force* (USAF) and *Semper Paratus* (Coast Guard). At each visitor’s center, I signed in and entered a comment to the effect that the Veterans’ sacrifice must never be forgotten. I also picked up an ABMC provided brochure about the layout of the cemetery and the events of the war that ultimately resulted in creation of the cemetery. The brochures were avail in English and French at each cemetery; some also had the brochure in German, Spanish, Italian or Dutch. I collected an extra English and a French brochure for my high school’s French teacher; these provide concisely documented American history and my hope is that they are used to practice the language and learn the history.



Army), Gettysburg (maintained by the National Park Service) and Long Island (maintained by the Veterans Administration). There are at least 147 national cemeteries, maintained by one of the agencies listed (see URL #8)

The last act of tribute I performed at each cemetery was to salute the graves. The cemeteries had a specific structure with the graves area central and in sections. For the 11 cemeteries, the acreage ranged from 6.2, Flanders Field, to 172.5, Normandy. I saluted all sections of each cemetery ... that action is the highest honor I could perform during my visits with the Veterans.



Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg (WW II). Chapel in the background. Grave site of General George S. Patton Jr. who died 21 December 1945, 7 months after VE day.

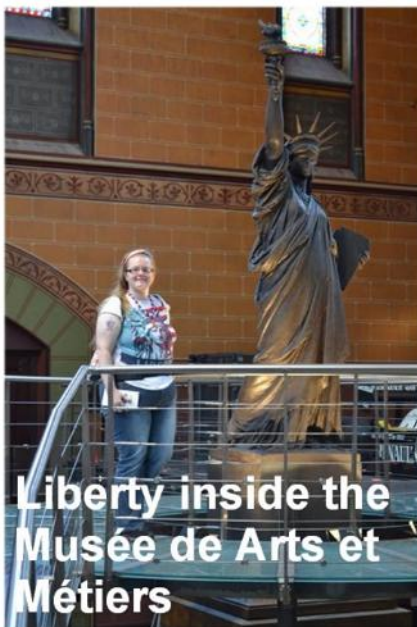


St. Mihiel chapel; the Angel of Victory sheathing a sword after the battle.

I purchased an interesting book, in English, at the Caen D-Day Memorial Museum that provides a detailed history of the establishment of the Normandy American Cemetery; the book cost about \$31 at the museum – see URL #13. For those who would like more information on the American Battle Monuments Commission, their website has information about their duties and responsibilities, and each cemetery and each battle monument under their jurisdiction. *Fields of Honor* is an informative 5 minute website video; see URL #10.



Bartholdi statue of Lafayette and Washington at Place des États-Unis in Paris. An identical statue is located in New York City.



Liberty inside the Musée de Arts et Métiers

LATE addition: The Statue of Liberty is now on Google Street View ... See URL #14

18 Renewing Members ... Thank You!

Marianne Carpenter	Yasmin Sabina Khan
Jeff Dosik	Carol & Jon Kring
Paul Doucette	Ruth Levy
Amy Dougan	Gail & Alan Marder
Dale Dwyer	Robert S Romero
Marilyn Ebersole	Dorothy Shearn
Judy Gambrel	Vincent Swift
Naomi Hills	Paul K Wendt
Susanne Jackson	Jean & Monique Wiart

3 New Members ... Welcome! Information in Directory

Peter B. Kaplan, Delaware ~ Joined November 2014
 Cheryl Lewis, California ~ Joined November 2014
 Tony Parretta, Ohio ~ Joined November 2014

Member Information changed since last November is included in the new Membership Directory sent with this newsletter. Always check the Directory.

Classified Ads in the Club Newsletter

The origins of our club is the collector of The Statue of Liberty memorabilia and admiration of the Statue.

Club newsletters from the first 10 years usually had 1-2 pages containing **Want-to-Sell** and **Want-to-Buy** ads submitted by members. The ads provided members with a forum to buy and sell Liberty items

Submission of classified ads has diminished over the years – but we know the majority of members are still collectors as is evident in the Membership Directory’s ‘Specialty’ information listed with members’ names. **In an effort to rekindle buy/sell information for collector items**, the newsletter editor will accept up to 10 want to buy/sell items from a member – FREE. Ads, from members, are free **provided** they are reasonable in size (12 words per item) and the number submitted is 10 or less. Please send the information to via e-mail (preferred) or regular mail to the newsletter Editor – Vince or Brian for now.

Join, Renew or Donate Online!

\$23 Annual Membership Dues (U.S.)

\$25 Annual Membership Dues (International)

SLC members can renew their annual memberships, or new members can join, using a credit card or PayPal account from the club’s web site at

www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com/club.html

Using online renewal will send your payment electronically to the SLC bank account.

Members, new and renewing, will receive an electronic confirmation of their payment transaction.

A paper application can be found on the above webpage. The application contains a mailing address.

SLC Contacts



President: Vince Swift
~~705 Statue of Liberty Blvd~~, Woodstock, GA 30188
 President@StatueOfLibertyClub.com

Vice President & Webmaster: Brian Snyder
~~5324 - 11th St~~, Fresno, CA 93722
 VicePresident@StatueOfLibertyClub.com

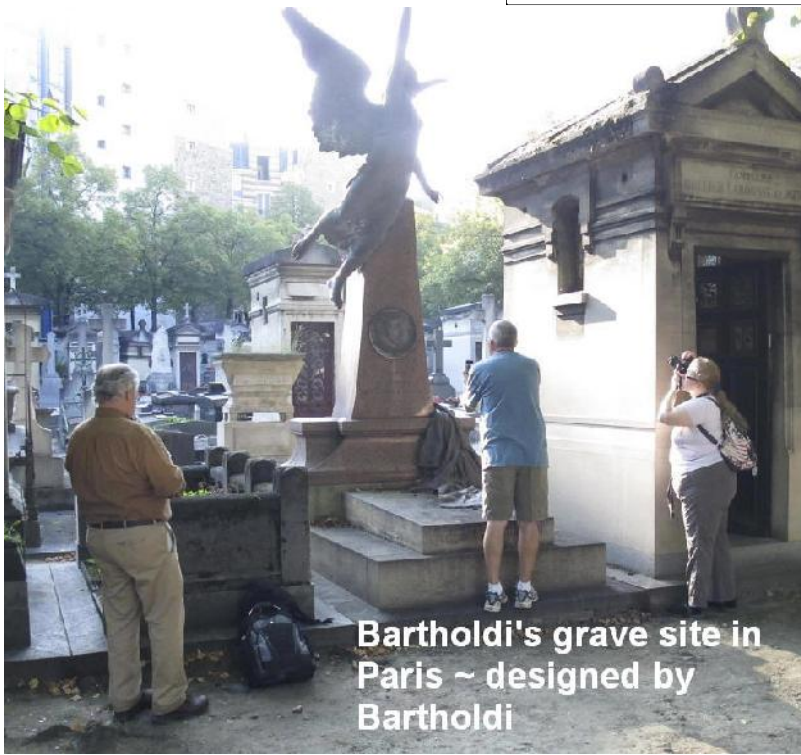
Treasurer: Lebo Newman
~~3700 E. Main Street~~, NV 89511
 Treasurer@StatueOfLibertyClub.com

Editor: position open
 For now, Vince & Brian will work as co-editors
 Editor@StatueOfLibertyClub.com

Founder: Statue of Liberty Collectors’ Club (1991)
 Iris & Mort November
~~Beachwood, OH 41122~~

lbtrclub@gmail.com

URL #	Internet Address	Club Internet Address is: www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com
1	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Place_Denfert-Rochereau	
2	http://www.arts-et-metiers.net/	
3	http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html	
4	http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monument_Bartholdi	
5	http://www.isbnsearch.org/isbn/9782070305834	
6	http://www.crdp-strasbourg.fr/bartho/mon_vou.htm	
7	http://madisonsquarepark.org/about-the-park/park-history	
8	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_national_cemetery	
9	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lafayette_dollar	
10	http://abmc.gov/	
11	http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/laf_mon.htm	
12	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2wIALvJNdQ	
13	http://www.isbnsearch.org/isbn/9782815102001	
14	http://www.myfoxny.com/story/26729637/statue-of-liberty-google-street-view	



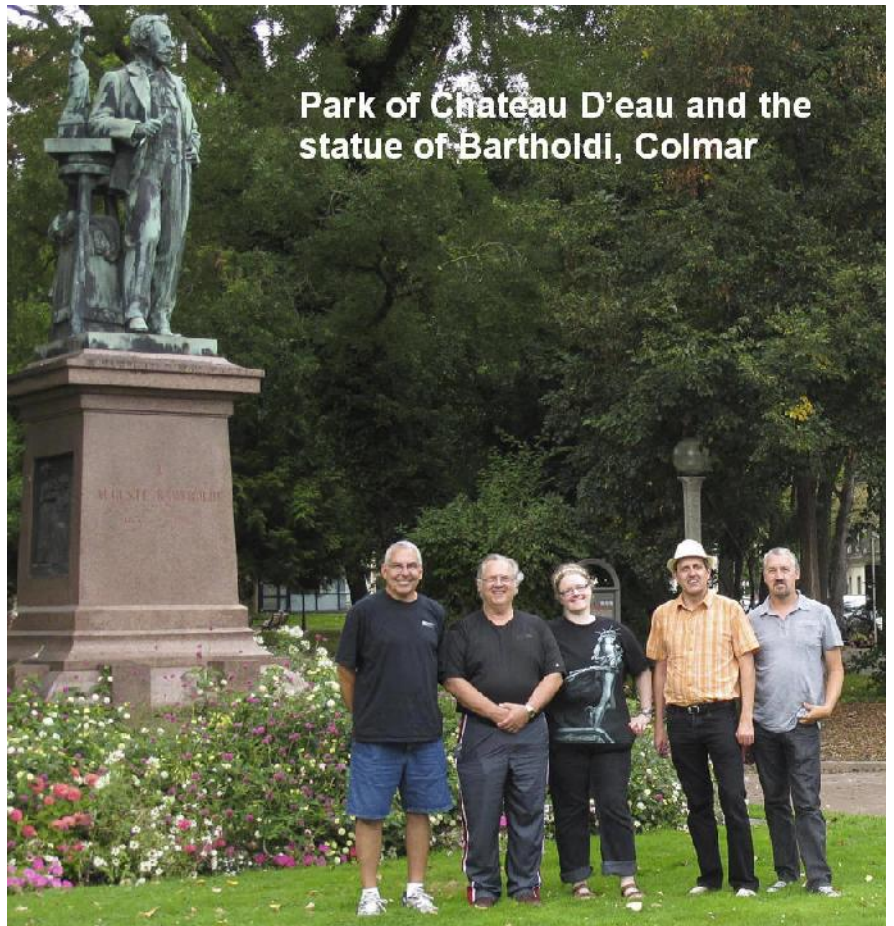
Bartholdi's grave site in Paris ~ designed by Bartholdi



Paris' Musée de Arts et Métiers



Chaumont-Sermoutiers Air Base, with guide Sgt. Lopes



Park of Château D'eau and the statue of Bartholdi, Colmar



Liberty Sighting, submitted by Ruth Levy, of a mural in a McDonald's in Brooklyn.