

# The Statue of Liberty Club Newsletter



www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com • Fall/Winter 2015 • Volume 25, Issue No. 3



## 2015 New York City Meeting

The following is a summary of the locations we visited and activities of the recent club meeting.

**Thursday, Oct. 1:** National September 11 Memorial & Museum. The Club visited the 9/11 Memorial Plaza during our 2011 club meeting – the plaza is a small forest of trees and two square pools with the names of all who died in 1993 and in 2001.

The 9/11 Museum opened May of 2014; the museum contains pieces of twisted steel from the original towers and the FDNY response; memorials to those who died as a result of the 9/11 attacks on America and during the February 26, 1993 attack on the North Tower of the World Trade Center, archival news footage of the four airplanes that were hijacked on

9/11 and of the 1993 North Tower bombing, a memorial tribute to each person who died, typically made by family or co-workers.

There is a large area that contains benches where one could rest while viewing current activity related to the memorial; we saw footage of the recent visit by Pope Francis. The museum is built underground, primarily on the footprints of the original towers and under the Memorial Plaza. For those members who were not able to join us, you can browse through the official web site that includes the museum gift shop – see URL # 1.

I didn't mention the windy and intermittent wet weather till now ... enough said! The museum is all climate controlled space.

**Friday, Oct. 2:** Our much anticipated visit to *The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World* on Liberty Island. It was great to visit with Brad Hill and Jose Sepulveda at the Evelyn Hill Museum Store. Our sincere THANKS to Brad for again treating the 15 club members and guests to lunch and a generous store discount. Because of the 2013 U.S. government shutdown, we had not been able to visit Liberty Island, as a club, since 2011. The weather was a carry-over from Thursday ... wet and windy ... BUT our spirits were great and the visit to Liberty and the Museum Store and staff was a success. For holiday, birthday and everyday gifts, visit the Museum Store – see URL # 2.

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National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL

The **National Park Service** was established August 1916 and is currently celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year; there is merchandise available at the Museum Store and online that notes the anniversary by including the centennial logo design - above.

**Saturday, Oct. 3:** From noon until 5:30pm, we had an interesting and changing gathering of members and guests. We setup for the ever popular Sell-n-Swap event where members can gather and just sit and talk and/or view the tables of other members where often unique items are available for purchase. We had three sellers and **Liberty George Dukov** displaying several of his new Liberty mask creations. Items from **Francine Grillo**, donations from **Jean and Bob Weaver** and **Vince Swift** were identified in our last newsletter, Summer 2015. Some items are still available so if you have an interest, contact Francine or Vince.

**Paul Lajoie** had a table and always brings interesting medals, coins, cards, etc.; if those are part of your collecting interests, Paul's contact information is in the Membership Directory.

During the afternoon event, Liberty George provided two beautiful NYC made cakes for all to share and celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday; George wanted to celebrate in the U.S. We sang to George then enjoyed the cakes. Also during the afternoon timeframe, we had more Liberty related items donated to the raffle; we ended with 13 items for the raffle. Our thanks to Paul Lajoie and Francine Grillo for their additional raffle contributions. Sales of raffle tickets were brisk.

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At 6pm, **Brian Snyder**, our meeting coordinator extraordinaire, called the dinner to order. Our guest speaker for the evening was Elizabeth Mitchell, who recently authored *Liberty's Torch: The Great Adventure to Build The Statue of Liberty*.

After dinner, **Amanda Liberty** opened our business meeting with The National Anthem. Brian then introduced Ms. Mitchell, a Brooklyn resident, who proceeded to offer the group 10 facts from her book and the background for each fact. We'll summarize the 10 facts in a separate article in this newsletter. After her presentation, Elizabeth took and answered questions from probably one of her most 'Liberty Literate' audiences.

After a short break and while Ms. Mitchell signed copies of her book, we started drawing tickets for the raffle items. It would appear that the more tickets purchased and placed in one or more raffle bags, the greater your odds of winning. Next we moved to open discussions about membership and future club meetings.

During prior meetings, we initiated discussions of possible ways to increase membership – we continue to need the entire membership suggesting ways we might reach out to

the public, U.S. and International, and let them know about us and what we have to offer to Liberty lovers. **Your input is requested!** Let us know what way(s) you think we could use to contact the hundreds/thousands of Liberty lovers. We have members suggesting adding different sites for our biennial meeting – we WOULD NOT abandon New York City because that is where THE Statue of Liberty is located. But we are reminded that we had two successful meetings in Las Vegas and three club trip to France and visited Paris, Belfort and Colmar during each trip. Each city has benefits: **New York City** has THE Statue of Liberty, Broadway, Museums, ...

**Las Vegas** has the New York, New York Casino's Statue of Liberty, live entertainment, casinos, THE Hoover Dam, ...

**France** has Paris and Colmar and all Statue of Liberty and museums those cities have to offer; France also has Belfort and the monumental Bartholdi Lion of Belfort.

One idea floating around is to have one trip to France each decade and with a 3-4 year advanced notice so members can save. Currently, it is probably \$2,000 for a 7-day visit to France, not counting airfare or souvenirs!

Another idea is to have one meeting in Las Vegas for every two meetings in New York City. This allows west coast members a shorter trip for a club meeting and different experiences for those members attending.

Again, **your input is requested** on having additional locations for our biennial meeting.

Amanda Liberty sends the following narrative on her experiences at the meeting – she had just returned to NYC after nearly 2-weeks visiting Chicagoland:

"Another great club meeting! It was nice to catch up with people again- as always!

We visited the 9/11 memorial Museum on the Thursday, which was on my 'must do' list anyway

For me it was a very emotional experience. There were things in the museum that made me smile and things that made me upset. It is well worth the visit.

My favourite exhibits were the Statue of Liberty covered in all of the trinkets and relics, and also, the Last Column.

We entered the museum as a group, but we seemed to quickly lose each other!

I didn't get to see anybody after the meeting had finished, and the weather was pretty soggy to say the least!

It remained soggy on the Friday, for our visit to our favourite lady!

At least it was an improvement on two years ago! At least we got to step on the island!

I think most of us just took one quick walk around the front of her before we took shelter!

It was fun going round the shop with Lebo, and actually witnessing somebody else shopping there in a similar way to me! Filling several baskets!

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In the afternoon I went up the pedestal, and looked around the museum. I had fun on the pedestal level as it was so windy!

Near Fort Wood on one of the promenade levels, a large puddle had formed in front of her that I thought it was a good idea to run through it! Bad idea! My shoes got completely soaked!!!

I realised at around 3pm that I had the island and our Lady practically all to myself apart from some employees! So I made some great video footage and had fun. Yes I was soaked to the skin but oh well! It was worth it!

The Saturday event was very enjoyable indeed!

After I bought collectables from Vincent and Francine, I had a lovely long chat with Liberty George- Who I was so happy to meet at long last! I looked at the masks that he had brought along as well as his portfolio full of pictures. I was fascinated by his work! I didn't want to stop looking!

The evening event was good!

There was a change of song at the very last minute thanks to my CD- not that I mind because the Star-Spangled Banner is my favourite song, and it is an honour for me to be able to perform it on American soil!

I got my book Signed by Elizabeth Mitchell, she gave a very interesting and thorough talk on the subject of our dear lady. I won quite a few raffle prizes.

I mentioned the Facebook group that I run called Statue of Liberty collectors group. I encourage anybody in our club to join and share with us your collection! I would really love to see it and chat and discuss. Also anything else liberty related you find browsing online!

As I sit dictating this into my iPhone I am at Battery Park looking across the harbour at our beautiful lady, shining her gorgeous LED torch at me! The lighting on her now is wonderful!

There is not a more beautiful sight in the whole world!!"

### Members and Guests at the 2015 Meeting

(A picture of each person is in this newsletter)

Della Bucher	Lebo Newman
Liberty George Dukov	Mark Plantier
Susan Forbes	Paula Plantier
Laurent Ghesquière	Nancy Sherman
Francine Grillo	Claire Simonelli
Paul Lajoie	Adam Snyder
Amanda Liberty	Brian Snyder
Kevin MacCarthy	Evan Snyder
Alan Marder	Kim Snyder
Gail Marder	Vince Swift
Elizabeth Mitchell	2 guests of Liberty George

### Liberty's Torch ~ 10 Facts

Elizabeth Mitchell was the speaker at our 2015 meeting and presented 10 facts out of her book *Liberty's Torch* – she assured all that there are many more facts in the book! She was kind enough to leave her note pages with President Vince Swift to include in this newsletter. Each fact is supported by notes of Bartholdi or other documentation researched and identified during development of the book.

**1) Bartholdi contemplated putting the statue in Central Park or Prospect Park.**

**ED:** Bartholdi was very anxious to research sites throughout the New York City area upon arrival for his first visit.

**2) I believe that the statue's face is modeled after his brother Charles, not his mother.**

**ED:** A fact that generated much discussion and general agreement that the face is most likely male and of a troubled individual – certainly a description of Charles.

**3) General Charles Stone, the general contractor of the project on the US side was looking to restore his good name.**

**ED:** Stone had a checkered Civil War history and wanted to clear his name from charges never fully explained to him.

**4) Thomas Edison planned to put a massive phonograph in the statue to make her 'talk'.**

**ED:** Today the concept still seems unkind to The Lady.

**5) Joseph Pulitzer invented the modern canvassing fundraising machine for the project.**

**ED:** Nearly a century before the 'robo-call' and 'junk mail' were invented, foot soldiers worked a district and got 20% of the contributions as their commission.

**6) There were unaccounted pieces left off when she was constructed.**

**ED:** During storage on Bedloe Island, French assembly markings wore off, pieces deformed from the heat or were just never fitted to the statue. The arm and head were misaligned about 18 inches upon 'completion'.

All of Liberty's pieces and alignments were corrected during the restoration completed in the mid-1980s.

**7) Secretary of State Thomas Bayard took photos of the inaugural but no one knows what happened to those photographs.**

**ED:** We would value those photos way more than a recently discovered *Billy the Kid* photo, purchased for \$1 in Brian Snyder's hometown of Fresno, CA and estimated at \$5 million!

**8) Bartholdi tried to distance himself from the idea that the Statue would be a lighthouse.**

**ED:** Bartholdi made a case that electrification was "hardly practicable".

**9) The grave statue for Bartholdi is not the one he designed for his own grave. And no one knows why.**

**ED:** Club members visited the grave in 1995, 2004 and 2014.

The grave appears poorly maintained by the City of Paris.

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This is an image of the winged figure on the grave, as depicted on a 2004 medal issued by the Numismatic Circle of Colmar, it reads "In honor of a Colmarien artist".

It has been a sad and difficult time since Mort left us in July. The wonderful newsletter that Vince, Brian and Lebo put together in memory and celebration of Mort's life, and our love and involvement with Miss Liberty and our Club, captured the essence of our journey with all of you and with her. I was so touched by it and Mort would have loved it! Thank you again!

I have been thinking about how this Club began, and how we grew it. In the beginning we put ads in magazines about collectibles, Americana, and antiques. Then we talked about the Club to anyone who would listen to us, and left our contact information wherever we traveled-- in the antique stores, flea markets, people we talked to along the way. Mort used to tell me to stop making friends along our travels-- we had enough friends!!!! Never have enough friends!

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So, what my point is how we can continue to grow our Club, and locate many more Liberty loving collectors. I do believe because we have members in and out of this country, we can look around, perhaps write a letter to the local newspapers, seeking interested people who collect our Lady, or want to start a collection, and be surprised when you discover a new friend! It's very satisfying to share your passion with others. And those people will be so grateful that you found them.

The trees here in Cleveland are at their height of color and I do love to drive in the country to enjoy them. Trying not to think about the snow that will follow. Get your flu shot!!!

*Love, Iris*

## 10) The Statue of Liberty is incomplete.

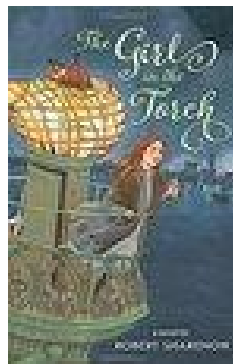
**ED:** Space is provided for 40 State seals-- the number of States in 1886 -- on the pedestal, but never included because of funding. What would the last 10 states think if they were excluded?



### From Iris November

Have you seen this book? *The Girl in the Torch*, by Robert Sharenow-- interesting name--304 pp, Balzer & Bray, \$16.99.

This suspenseful narrative, as quoted in a book review, covers the story of Sarah, an immigrant, 12 year old, who due to circumstances swam to the Statue of Liberty



from Ellis Island, and finds refuge in the torch. The story continues on from there, and with the kindness of many other immigrants, the story evolves.

For those who traveled to NYC for our Club's meeting, how lucky you are! And for those who could not come this year, I hope plans can be made so that in 2 years, you will be able to participate.

I suggest that we find Miss Liberty banks, and, as I do, each night I empty my coins from my purse and my pockets into the bank. It's amazing how quickly it adds up. Amazon has some cute, affordable, piggy banks with Miss Liberty on them.

Might make it more fun to save for the next meeting!



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### From the President

I will offer my highlights and comments about the recent club meeting but I want to first acknowledge this was certainly a difficult year for the club as we became aware of the death of members who were close to our hearts and thoughts.



### City Time in The Big Apple

My travel to New York City for the October 1-3 dates of our meeting actually started on September 25 when I drove, through a lot of rain, to Pennsylvania and spent a few days with family and friends. While there I received a phone call from a number I did not recognize -- it turned out to be our good friend **Liberty George Dukov**; George stated he was in the U.S. and would be joining us. I had last spoke to George while he was still in Bulgaria and his 'plan' was to get on the plane and see what happened at the airport in New York when he arrived.

(Continued on the next page.)

George has a temporary green card so he is here legally and will be returning to Bulgaria on November 24.

On September 29, I drove to the city to enjoy 'City Time' before our club activities started.

I attended the play *Amazing Grace*, at a theater a short walking distance from the Travel Inn, our official hotel. This is the story of John Newton, an English Slave Trader in 1744, when the play's story begins, to 1748, the beginning of his conversion as a Christian and Abolitionist.

All of the play's characters used either English or African dialect and I often found the dialogue hard to follow when it was only 'English men and women' speaking (I have no problem with Amanda Liberty's accent when she is standing across from me!) The play did not soften the brutality of slave trading and if the play comes to your area, consider the effect that might have on young and old alike. Overall I did enjoy the play and will recommend it.

One of John Newton's many poems eventually became known as *Amazing Grace* and, after his death, was joined to a British tune that we now recognize as the much loved gospel spiritual. There is interesting history on John Newton and on the evolution of *Amazing Grace* on the Wikipedia site; see URLs # 3 and # 4.

#### SLC \*\*\* ARCHIVE \*\*\* COPY Club Activities

I thoroughly enjoyed my time visiting and talking with club members and guests – **I always do**. We, the club's officers, were surprised at the relatively low attendance for this club meeting. We usually have twice the number of members and guests and have scratched our heads trying to determine the reason for the decline this year.

But, the members and guests attending all seemed to have a good time at the scheduled activities they were part of.

We had a core group attending all activities and then additional members and guests as part of selected activities. This is normal because of travel to/from the city or not participating in a repeat visit to an activity location.

The 9/11 Memorial will remain important to me whenever I recall this visit to New York City. Many tributes to the victims, including first responders, of each of the U.S. locations effected. I was most moved by the very expressive quote from the ancient Roman poet Virgil;

**"No Day Shall Erase You From The Memory Of Time".**

This quote was located in Memorial Hall; the letters are fashioned out of salvaged remnants of damaged World Trade Center steel – there is a picture on page 6.

After the visit to the 9/11 Memorial, I went to The National Arts Club, located across from Gramercy Park on East 20<sup>th</sup> St. I hope that during a future club meeting we might be invited to visit this club and view its large collection of artistic media.

#### Liberty Books and Videos

My book review of **Yasmin Khan** and Barry Moreno can be found in the Summer 2012 newsletter (Volume 22, Issue 2). In those reviews, I identified Barry's *Wonder of the World* as

"... a pictorial masterpiece ..." and Yasmin's *Enlightening the World* as "... a scholarly presentation and excellent history ...". These books remain favorites in my Liberty Library.

Earlier in this newsletter we mentioned that our Saturday evening guest speaker was author Elizabeth Mitchell. I am reading Elizabeth's *Liberty's Torch*; I hope to provide my book review in the next newsletter.

The three books are available in the Evelyn Hill Museum Store and at its online store. I have included the online item numbers for each book in the URL table on page 7.

The Museum Store has Barry Moreno's book available in English, Spanish, French, German and Italian. It is my hope that when there is a new printing in French, the club can send two copies of each language to the Bartholdi Museum. These might be books they would consider including in their updated museum store.

I invite members to submit their reviews of Liberty focused books and videos – there are numerous books and videos about Liberty and for all ages ... I bought my 3 year-old Grandson an age appropriate book during my visit to the Museum Store and will enjoy reading it to him for then next year or two, then he should start to read it himself.

#### 2016 Calendar and Membership Directory

With this newsletter issue, I am pleased to provide members with my annual gift, the 11<sup>th</sup>, a calendar for 2016. There are two stories associated with the wonderful image used for this calendar. The first story is the origins of the statue depicted and the awareness that it still exists in Paris. In fact if you have recently renewed your membership, the membership card you received contains **Laurent Ghesquière's** picture of the same statue as it appears on the Seine River in Paris. The second story has yet to play out and as soon as it does, we will report on it in a future newsletter.

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

#### Revised Bartholdi Museum Website +



Laurent Ghesquière provided the address for a revised Bartholdi Museum website, see URL #5; he also provided the address for a virtual tour of the Museum, see URL #6. Laurent, a professional photographer, provided the address of one of his web sites

(translates to 'I Know A Photographer') that displays some of his work, see URL #7. These sites are in French but most major browsers will perform the translation to English. While I'm speaking of Laurent, he is our club's official photographer and has provided most of the pictures we use

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in our post-meeting newsletters and a few of my calendars. Laurent is behind the camera on nearly all photos, so I have included a photo of Laurent from our recent meeting.

I offer my thoughts and condolences to the club families who lost loved ones in the past year. Until we meet again in 2016 ... **Cherish Our Liberty.**

*Vince Swift*

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**On the Ferry to Liberty Island;  
Lebo, Paul, Vince, Nancy and Susan**



**On the Sunday morning after the  
meeting, looking for breakfast;  
Brian, Paul, Lebo, Vince and  
Laurent behind the camera**



**In the 9/11 Memorial Plaza and  
ready to enter the 9/11 Museum**



**Paula and Mark**

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## 25 Renewing Members ... *Thank You!*

Shelley J Assenheimer	Stephanie Holman
Brenda & Stuart Beasley-Forrest	Susanne Jackson
Yasmin Byron	Paul Lajoie
Marianne Carpenter	Amanda Liberty
Jeff Dosik	Patrick Meyers
Paul Doucette	Carol Oakes
Amy Dougan	Ginger Plys
Liberty George Dukov	Robert S Romero
Marilyn Ebersole	Sarah Sharpe
Gordon Frost	Vincent Swift
Judy Gambrel	James Wasas
Laurent Ghesquiere	Paul K Wendt
Erica & Aaron Weisinger	

### 1 New Member ... *Welcome!*

**Lyle Turner** is a returning 'new member'; his contact information can be found in the Membership Directory. Lyle is a professional photographer and often travels to work sites in his RV (shown here), named **Liberty One**, which has the Statue of Liberty painted on the side.



### 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](http://www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com/club.html)**

Using online renewal will send your payment electronically to the SLC credit union 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.

**Changes in Member Information** ~ Changes to member contact information, from the last newsletter, are in the new Membership Directory.

## SLC Contacts

*President: Vince Swift*

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*President@StatueOfLibertyClub.com*

*Vice President & Webmaster: Brian Snyder*

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*VicePresident@StatueOfLibertyClub.com*

*Treasurer: Lebo Newman*

~~3705 Bayview Ave, #9541~~

*Treasurer@StatueOfLibertyClub.com*

*Editor: position open*

*For now, Vince & Brian will work as co-editors*

*Editor@StatueOfLibertyClub.com*

*Founders: Iris & Mort November*

*Statue of Liberty Collectors' Club (1991)*

*Iris November*

~~37500 Cedar Road, #883~~

~~Barbourswood, OH 44123~~ *lbrtyclub@gmail.com*



**Liberty George, 2 of his guests  
and 2 birthday cakes.**

URL#	Internet Address	Club Internet Address is: <a href="http://www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com">www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com</a>
1	<a href="http://www.911memorial.org">www.911memorial.org</a>	
2	<a href="http://www.TheStatueOfLibertyMuseumStoreOnline.com">www.TheStatueOfLibertyMuseumStoreOnline.com</a>	
	<b>Moreno</b> ~ Statue Of Liberty: Wonder of the World ~ <b>Museum Store Item # 3335</b>	
	<b>Khan</b> ~ Enlightening the World: The Creation of the Statue of Liberty ~ <b>Museum Store Item # 3753</b>	
	<b>Mitchell</b> ~ Liberty's Torch: The Great Adventure to Build The Statue of Liberty ~ <b>Museum Store Item # 4999</b>	
3	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newton">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Newton</a>	
4	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing_Grace">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing_Grace</a>	
5	<a href="http://www.musee-bartholdi.fr/">http://www.musee-bartholdi.fr/</a>	
6	<a href="http://www.musee-bartholdi.fr/visite-virtuelle">http://www.musee-bartholdi.fr/visite-virtuelle</a>	
7	<a href="http://www.JeConnaisUnPhotographe.com/">http://www.JeConnaisUnPhotographe.com/</a>	



## Pictures from the Saturday Events

Della, Susan and Nancy



Brian  
and Kim



Lebo, George and Amanda



Paul, Alan and Gail



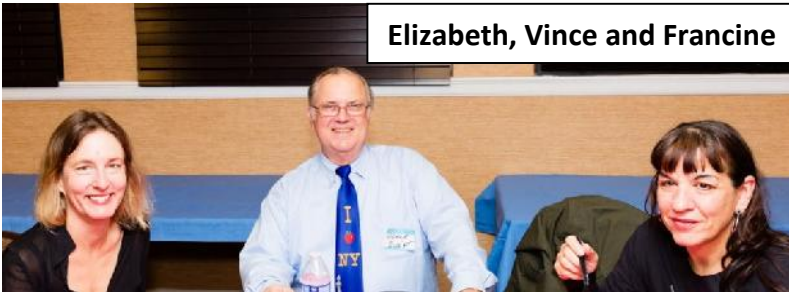
Claire and Kevin



Adam and Evan verify winning tickets



Elizabeth, Vince and Francine



Amanda at the table of 13 raffle items



Paul and Lebo at Paul's sales table

