

The Statue of Liberty Club Newsletter



*Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

Vol. 18, n°3 ~ Fall/Winter 2009

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Club Meeting #12, New York Wrap-Up

~ by Brian Snyder

As your meeting coordinator it gives me great pleasure to have another event behind me. All the hours of planning and searching for events, buses, tickets, food, t-shirts, and my own family's events pay off in one fast weekend. I appreciate all the thank-yous and notes that attendees have sent to both Vince and me.

Each meeting there is a Liberty related event on Thursday's. It's always an optional event but this year had the biggest participation at 69% of attendees. WOW! Thank you for taking the 2-hour evening harbor lights cruise. After having a 78 degree day, the evening temperature was perfect.

The chill set in on Friday for our day on Liberty Island. It was quickly warmed up by seeing the magnificent woman standing in the harbor. Once on the island it got heated by a Park Ranger, who admitted a computer naming error on 6/16/09, still denied crown access to 2 members. Guess he should have looked at the blank spots on his copy where the names were missing and hand-write them in. Things looked up when we all gathered in front of Miss Liberty for our group picture. If you look real close, you might see club member Amanda in the crown. She wasn't about to come down any earlier than she had too!



photo by Laurent Chesquière

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This year an event T-shirt (shown below) was given to attendees and was designed by Mark Rose. Mark was the artist who designed our fiftieth newsletter graphic. The ideas were put to paper while my family was out having dinner with the Rose family. I wanted a colorful front with big bold words and an eye-catching Statue of Liberty. The back has the comic look of Miss Liberty looking up with eyes crossed while a smiley fan hung out of the crown.



Mr. Brad Hill once again showed his generosity and support of our club by buying our lunch and enabling us to spend tons of money with a very nice 33% discount. The largest receipt totaled over \$700. It's a Liberty fans playground inside the gift center and is only available when we have our meetings. Where will you be October 28, 2011?

Saturday's Show-n-Sell was filled with collectibles, from hard to find to rare. It was a big success, just like the raffle. We had over 20 items donated that raised almost \$400. The big raffle event was when the red white and blue Liberty George mask was up and the lucky ticket was drawn. It's rumored the winning club member was heard praying that her ticket was drawn!!! The whole group burst into cheers when she proclaimed, "It's me!" It will have a great life at its new home, thanks to the Ply's for their generous donation and to all members who participated with a donation or buying tickets.

The meetings opening remarks and greeting by Vince Swift was followed by making the dream of singing "America the Beautiful" and Warren Michaels' "Lady by the Sea" for an American audience a reality for club member Amanda Whittaker, from England. It was followed by a standing ovation. Good job Amanda!



The group was treated to several speakers; however, Barry Moreno's talk on the life and works of Richard Morris Hunt was a crowd pleaser. No where will you get that type of knowledge and interaction with Barry, Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Librarian, and author of *The Encyclopedia of the Statue of Liberty*, unless you attend a club meeting.

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At left: Our Staten Island emissaries: Barry Moreno with fellow club members Kay & Bill Brown

Photo by Laurent Ghesquière

As soon as the meeting was over, planning for 2011 began. Late Saturday night in a crowded restaurant /bar, we were hard at work planning for the next event. I took two pages of notes on what worked well and what was liked a little or a lot. In 2011 it will be Miss Liberty's 125 anniversary of her dedication. The festivities are ramping up by the National Park Service, Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation and the Statue of Liberty Club. If you missed this year, you won't want to be left out in 2011. Planning now and keeping it as your goal will make it happen. I have already signed the room block for our next meeting. Now that's planning in advance.

Speaking of planning, I have a location for the optional Thursday event and it will be one of those once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Similar to some of things we have done in the past, the Gaines museum, Colbar Art manufacturing, behind the scenes tour of the NPS's stored collectibles and the ultimate, and the behind the scenes tour of the Bartholdi Museum in Colmar France.

Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to my family for enjoying the experience of NYC while I was in work mode.

I hope to see everyone back in 2011 and all members who missed out, you are invited to experience the best four days related to the Statue of Liberty. Her 125th party only happens once! Why wait for her 150th?

NEW YORK 2009: ONE MEMBER'S IMPRESSIONS

by Paula Plantier

The cliché is true: an association event that is held and reheld can indeed get better and better with each meeting so that attending members are left thinking it will be impossible to top next time. Well, Brian Snyder and Vince Swift manage to do so for every conference, every time.

The group's trip to Liberty Island is always stimulating and exciting in itself no matter how many times we go, and we all love being in the bus together to begin renewing our acquaintanceships. And then we each enjoy simply viewing the Statue of Liberty and thinking our own thoughts about it; there's no more to say about that.



Photo by Laurent Ghesquière

Paula & Mark Plantier have lunch at the SOL Gift Shop Café

Brian and Vince are organized arrangers for putting this together biennially. They're proven master planners for getting us to New York. And they're consummate meeting hosts who find the time to make each individual old or new member feel welcome and valued—especially on the main program day in the hotel meeting room, when we're more relaxed than during the whirlwind of activities on the days before.

Brian's arrangements for the 2009 meeting at New York's Travel Inn were evident: the main event of the week—the program day—was filled with the leisurely and heartwarming interpersonal camaraderie of members reuniting; with exceptionally beautiful and rare items to shop for; with discourses containing information that club members thirst for; and with a delicious meal. Vince and Brian make it difficult to part company after all of the festivities and fun are over, but they leave us with the excitement of anticipating our next engagement.



C'est moi on our Friday trip to Liberty Island

Out and About with the Editor

*L*iberty greetings all! I'm so glad Stuart and I were able to make it to New York to see longtime friends, and to put faces with names of those we'd not met in person. As many of you can attest, it is so much fun getting together as a group and letting our inner child run free. The customized SOL Club foam crowns were the consummate head-dresses to reflect our zeal (thanks Brian!). Several tourists with SLC-envy stopped to photograph our zany group in front of the Statue. Many club business cards were passed out that day to other Liberty lovers. For those of you who have never experience a Liberty Club gathering, **you are missing out!** Some kind of indefinable amalgamation takes place and we become fast friends, united in our uniqueness and fervor for all things Liberty! Check out my Facebook page to view my Liberty Club photos (search "Brendagael Beasley-Forrest" and click on "Photos").

I hope you will all save the date to attend our next reunion in late October 2011, for Liberty's 125th anniversary. Brian is already planning a special event on Liberty island just for our group. Stay tuned!

Don't forget to utilize your free classified ad in the newsletter (see table below). Is there something you're looking for? A collection specialty you're trying to build? Something you'd like to sell? Send those to me for the next issue (contact info back page). And keep those articles and Liberty sightings coming!

****Please have all material for the Spring issue to me by 2/20/2010.****

Thanks to Amanda, Vince, Brian, Paula, Iris, Barry, Laurent, Tom Bernardin, and Warren Michaels who all submitted material for this issue. And many thanks to Stuart for technical assistance, help on the home front, and emotional support!

Yours, United in Liberty,

Brendagael Beasley-Forrest

Price Table for Classified Ads in the SLC Newsletter

Size	Members	Non-members
3-lines	Free	\$10
1/6 page (4"w x 3"h)	\$10	\$20
1/4 page (4"w x 5"h)	\$15	\$25
1/2 page	\$25	\$50
Full page or 1 page insert (you provide printed insert to editor)	\$50	\$100

Free ads are submitted directly to the Editor. Display ads & inserts are submitted with payment to the Treasurer. Once received and approved, it will be forwarded to the Editor to include in the next issue. Submissions must be received two weeks before the beginning of March/July/November. Ads are printed in black & white. Inserts are your choice. Any other possibility must be negotiated with the club's officers. A 25% discount is given each time the same ad is run.

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From the President



Since our last newsletter, I've started a work assignment in the Trenton, New Jersey area—about an hour by train to New York City and I believe near many of the club's members. I hope to make several trips to NYC and Lady Liberty while on this assignment. I have been fortunate to have visited Lady Liberty each year since 2004.

Club Meeting in NYC 2009

The return trip home is completed for the 40+ members and guests who attended this year's events of the biennial October meeting. The weather in the New York City area and the harbor area in particular, was fantastic for those members and guests who were on the Thursday evening harbor cruise. The rain held back for most of Friday and those of us who climbed to the crown appreciated the cool weather. Because the pedestal's elevator was not operating it was a total of 354 steps to the crown; I was very proud of myself for completing the climb to the crown and really enjoyed the view. I think we had 25 members and guests make the climb.

On behalf of all members and guests who made the trip to Liberty Island, **Brian Snyder** and I expressed our sincere thanks to **Brad Hill and his great staff** at the Evelyn Hill Liberty Island Museum Store for the generosity afforded to us again during this visit. Brian and I have a very nice visit with Brad and one of his key assistants, Jose Sepulveda. Brad informed us that he is in the process of building a new gift shop with offices on Liberty Island and that his takeover of the gift shop and food concession on Ellis Island is complete.

During our dinner and business meeting, **Barry Moreno** presented a talk on Liberty's pedestal designer Richard Morris Hunt. **Amanda Whittaker** sang a beautiful rendition of *Lady by the Sea* and led the group in singing the Star Spangled Banner. **Kay Brown** told us of plans in Karmøy, Norway for a new visitor's center at the Visnes copper mines. **Iris November** spoke to the group about the club's past and its future. **Brenda Beasley-Forrest** addressed the members present and reminded all that the classified ads in the newsletter have never gone away – members just need to provide a "want to buy or sell" ad to the editor. Brenda also reminded all that she is in the final year of her 5-year commitment to be the newsletter editor. Despite the heavy evening rains outside we were drawing for raffle prizes indoors. The most sought after prizes were wines donated by **Christian Meyer** and a Liberty George designed USA flag Liberty mask donated by **Ginger and Al Plys**.

I finally got to see the play *Jersey Boys* – it was sold out during our 2007 meeting. One hour after closing the 2009 meeting, Brian, **Laurent Ghesquière** and I were starting early planning of the 2011 meeting - over a couple of cold drinks. Look for more information in each newsletter for the next 2-years; the club expects to be on Liberty Island on October 28, 2011 ... Lady Liberty's 125th anniversary.

Sister Lucilla's Gift to the SLC

Before she died in March, SLC member **Sister Lucilla Berretti** donated a beautiful stamp and picture album to the club – see the July newsletter for a description. During the October meeting the album sold for \$201. Sister's family and friends can be assured the gift has found a very appreciative new owner. The proceeds from the sale are to be used for the club's needs.

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The Spirit of Liberty®

In the July newsletter we provided the Internet address of a New York wine distributor who has a fine bottle of Riesling wine from German with a reverse image of the Statue of Liberty of it. Many members will recall **Jim Wasas**, an SLC member, who was active in marketing an excellent, and award winning, Bourbon Cream Liqueur, known as *The Spirit of Liberty®*, available in decanters the shape of Liberty on her pedestal and in bottles. Information about the liqueur and availability can be found at www.amsupplies.com/spiritofliberty.htm Jim advises me that the other product, *Love Potion #9®*, will not disappoint either!



“Liberty George”

On the eve of my trip to New York City for our meeting I received a phone call from Liberty **George Dukov** (pictured at left) from Bulgaria. Many of our members have met Liberty George at past meetings and have purchased one of his much-celebrated masks from a corner NYC kiosk, or at one of our meetings. George sends his regards to all members, and specifically mentioned Iris November, Brian Snyder, **Stephanie Holman** and daughter Hannah, and **Diana Pardue**. George said he is helping his sister who has been sick and he has started thinking of projects he wants to start when he returns to the United States. His address in Bulgaria can be found in the membership directory.

2010 Calendar

Included with this newsletter is my annual gift to members and honorary members, a Liberty calendar for 2010. I requested specific pictures from the Bartholdi Museum in Colmar France and they came through. **My thanks to Régis Hueber and the Museum staff!** The 2010 calendar picture is Liberty’s arm with torch on display at the 1876 U.S. Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia – officially known as the International Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures and Products of the Soil and Mine.

Colmar also provided pictures of the head and crown of Liberty on display at the 1878 Universal Exposition in Paris. My plans were to have both pictures on the cover of the 2010 calendar, but I determined that I would lose the beauty and detail of the pictures by crowding them on the same cover. So, an advance announcement, the 2011 calendar will have the 1878 photo and will be mailed with next year’s November newsletter. I do hope you can enjoy the calendar all year. I keep one at home and at work and will give them to family and friends over the upcoming holiday season.

Annual Membership Directory

We send the membership directory to all regular club members with the November newsletter. Please look over the information we have for you. If there are any changes please provide the changed information to me. You can send me a post card, note or e-mail. My contact information is in the membership directory and on the back page of all newsletters. It is important that we have your correct contact information. And remember, all members have privacy rights and that includes the omission of any contact information except your name and the state where you reside. So, if you wish to have contact information changed or omitted, you have to let me know. If you are a collector of Liberty items and want to share that information with other members/collectors, make sure that is also accurate and included in the membership directory.

Treasurer’s Report

Checking account balance	\$2,071.	Estimated cost of the November newsletter	\$650.
PayPal balance	<u>104.</u>	Web site costs outstanding	50.
Total Cash	\$2,175.	Miscellaneous costs outstanding	<u>50.</u>
Current value of SLC laptop	\$ 400.	Total Expenses (approximate)	\$750.

Club Membership

As of this newsletter, the club has 102 U.S. and 9 foreign members. We also have 11 U.S. honorary members and 7 foreign honorary members.

I enjoy every opportunity to talk with members and I did a lot of that this meeting; it was a fun-filled meeting but now it’s time prepare for the holiday season and enjoy family, friends and welcome in a New Year. I wish all good health and very comfortable holidays. I will write you again in March with more on the 2011 planning.

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***Cherish Our Liberty,
Vince Swift***

The following 45 SLC members (and one guest) made it to Manhattan, and attended at least one SLC event. They are listed by distance travelled, beginning with those who ventured the farthest, and ending with those who were only a bus or a subway ride away. [Mileage to best approximation] found at www.mapcrow.info (thanks Stuart!) and for those from NYC, Google maps, for detailed accuracy.

1. Christian Meyer, Habsheim, France [3,869]
- 2-5. Laurent, Ludivine, Ophelie & Delphine Ghesquière, Mouvaux, France [3,611]
6. Amanda Whittaker, Penrith, Cumbria, England [3,295]
7. Amy Dougan, McKinleyville (Arcata), California [2,581]
- 8-11. Brian, Kim, Evan & Adam Snyder, Fresno, California [2,452]
- 12-13. Lebo & Merrill Newman, Carson City, NV [2,397]
14. Stephanie Holman, Twin Falls, Idaho [2,071]
15. Bob Snyder, Jefferson City, Missouri [975]
- 16-17. Bob & Jean Weaver, DeLand, Florida [906]
18. Vince Swift, Lansing, MI to Trenton, NJ to NYC [750]
- 19-20. Al & Ginger Plys, Geneva, Illinois [745]
- 21-22. Stuart & Brendagael Beasley-Forrest, St. Helena Island, South Carolina [689]
- 23-24. Andy & Denise Fulks, Whitestown, Indiana [651]
- 25-26. Iris & Mort November, Beachwood, Ohio [394]
27. Paul Lajoie, Longmeadow, Massachusetts [110]
28. Marjorie Dougan, Middletown, Connecticut [92]
29. Elizabeth Dougan, Durham, Connecticut [86]
30. Adela French, Branford, Connecticut [80]
31. Nancy Sherman, Bay Shore, Long Island, NY [63]
- 32-33. Mark & Paula Plantier, Ewing (Trenton), NJ [52]
- 34-35. Ruth & Julian Levy, Plainsboro (Princeton), NJ [43]
36. Barry Moreno, Staten Island, New York [17.6]
- 37-38. Kay & Bill Brown, Staten Island, New York [16.5]
39. Francine Grillo, Brooklyn, New York [9.8]
- 40-41. Alan & Gail Marder, Whitestone (Queens), NY [9.1]
42. Dave McCutcheon, Forest Hills, New York [8.8]
43. Joan Laskoff (+ guest), Manhattan, New York [4.4]
44. Tom Bernardin, Manhattan, New York [2.3]
45. Ethel Fishman, Manhattan, New York [1.5]

Many of us were moved to tears by the Liberty song Amanda sang at the banquet. Per Iris's suggestion, here are the lyrics. Song and music by Warren Barootjian Michaels.

*Printed with the
composer's permission.*

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Ellis Island Library since 1986

Lady by the Sea

Come, where there's a lady by the sea;
Somewhere there's a land of liberty.
There's a quiet dream; a land for you and me.
And if freedom's what you're looking for,
Our lady holds the key.

Chorus:

'Cos she'll be standing here, standing here in America.
Yes she'll be standing here, Guiding the way to our home.
So when you pass her way, try to say you love her...
And there will never be a day she stands alone.

Come where there's a symbol by the sea;
Somewhere where the world seeks harmony.
There's a silent dream; a land of liberty.
And if freedom's what you're looking for,
Our lady holds the key. (repeat chorus)

*Learn more about Warren Michaels and his various
projects, and hear him perform **Lady by the Sea**
along with 120 school children at:*

www.hertitagemusicproductions.com/index.html

(2021 update: www.bing.com/videos/search?q=hertitagemusicproductions)

Laurent Ghesquière has given me permission to share his photographs from the Club meeting. They are so amazing! He is a truly gifted photographer. If you don't have email at home, I promise you it will be worth your while to view them out at your local library. Here is the Web address: <http://www.ghesquiere.fr/Photos/20091020+SLC>

Classifieds (see SLC Membership Directory for contact information):

from Amanda Whittaker: *I'm looking for a Liberty torch lamp I saw in a private collection recently. The hand and torch are metal with the proper patina, and the torch lamp is pane/stained glass, and on a marble base that resembles a round cutting board.*

from Lebo & Merrill Newman: *Interested in selling your Liberty collection? All or part? We have bought many and sellers have found us VERY fair. If you have pictures or inventory, send it! If not, call us and we'll discuss how to proceed. We collect it all media. We love niche collections, older the better, 'interpretations', etc. Collections deserve to stay complete, and landing in ours is a great place for them to be loved!*





A “crowning” moment for Amanda as one of her life goals is met – her visit to the SOL, and arriving in her crown. The NPS rangers allowed her to open the window and pat Liberty’s forehead.

Photo by Vince Swift

Member Profile: Amanda Whittaker

~ by *Brendagael*

One of our newest members hails from Penrith, in Cumbria England, a place with rolling hills, lakes, rivers, trees, and “loads of sheep.” Amanda grew up in the Lake District with a view from her bedroom of Lake Windermere, the largest lake in England. In August '08, the same month she joined the SOL Club, Amanda moved an hour North. to be with her boyfriend, Simon.

Like many club members, Amanda discovered the Club by googling for liberty items. Soon after joining the Club, she acquired her first collectible — an 18” Colbar art statuette. “Once I got sucked into the Liberty bug there was just no stopping me,” she says.

On May 8, I received an email from Amanda, who was bursting at the seams with excitement. “MY DREAM CAME TRUE!!! Miss Liberty’s crown is going to re-open!!! Wouldn’t it be cool if the Club could go up there together!!!” And soon thereafter, another dream came true for Amanda. While in NYC, she went to the SOL 5 times, the crown 4 times (her 1st was with the club), the Staten Island Ferry twice, and a sunset cruise with the club. She got to see Lady Liberty from every perspective, inside and out!

Amanda spent more time than anyone at the Statue and in NYC, arriving two days before the club meet and staying an extra week afterwards. “We already have Christian Meyer, the most Alsatian American as a club member, and now we have Amanda, who is arguably the most **British** American,” said Vince Swift, when introducing her to the Club before she sang at the banquet program. It is safe to say that Jennifer Stewart, who represents NYC and Liberty as a career, is the only one rivaling Amanda in number of hours dressed as Lady Liberty (okay, and those scary guys dressed like Liberty at Battery Park who want to nab you for a paid photo when you get off the ferry!). Amanda frequently dons her Liberty crown and custom-lit torch she fitted with lights, or one of her **many** Old Glory/Betsy Ross outfits for her everyday attire. What some may call eccentric, is a normal to Amanda, who fearlessly and joyfully demonstrates her passion for Liberty and Americanism.



Amanda would love to be Jennifer Stewart's counterpart in the UK. "It would be great to be paid to do something I already enjoy—dressing as Liberty!" she says. "An alternate dream job would be to live in the USA, and be a park ranger on Liberty Island."

By now, you've no-doubt guessed Amanda's other collectible: **flags**—particularly Old Glory. She has over 100 of them. "I have always collected one thing or another throughout my life, be it soft toys, pens or candy. But Liberty is the most interesting of all to collect, after realizing just how collectable she is, and how many different things you can pick up with her on it," she says. Being a very tactile person, she particularly enjoys the statuettes. "Other hobbies of mine include music and art. I like to draw, and use pencil mostly." In addition to being a talented singer, she plays the drums (yes, she has a drum kit!), flute, saxophone, and keyboard.

Amanda loves America for its diversity of cultures and landscapes. From the high-energy cities to the wide-open spaces of the wild West. "I thoroughly enjoyed myself with the Club. I had a fabulous time! I think the winning moment has to be when I got my 1st go into the crown. It was so wonderful, and everything I had imagined! It was great that the ranger let me stick my head right out of the window!"

We enjoyed having you with us. Your love of life and Liberty, are infectious and inspiring!

http://www.blogtv.com/people/Liberty_

On her BlogTV site, you can see more of her collection; hear her sing and play instruments; and feed Hammy the Hamster. She has live shows where you can chat and see/hear her in real time, and some shows have been pre-recorded.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/drummergirl1>

If you go to the above link, there are 3 video clips in the top right corner: 1: Amanda's ascent to the crown, expertly pointing out various features of Miss Liberty's interior as she goes. 2: Amanda's crown experience. 3: Amanda singing at the Club banquet.

<http://176.photobucket.com/albums/w143/vexillologist>

Nearly 400 of Amanda's photos are found here.



Photos at left and right show Amanda winning the auction drawing for the Liberty George's Flag Liberty mask. Can there be anything more apropos for a Liberty/Flag collector? (Photos by Laurent)

Photos below show a ride on the Staten Island Ferry; the percussionist finding SOL bears in a drum at the Hard Rock Café; on a bus in Prague; and holding her huggable-sized statuette, purchased on Liberty Island (with the generous club discount). Above right: Dancing with "Libby"—one of her most cherished liberties—a 7' 5" replica w/golden toga; With her "Photoshopped" Liberty (photo-enhanced).

Previous page: With Ms. Liberty at the Liberty Airport in Newark; at the Statue—at last!! As the Flag Lady; hanging out (literally!) in the crown; With "Libby" & "Liberty Lamp"; On her steamboat in the Lake District; With her beau, Simon; Amanda—somewhere amidst all of her flags; Auditioning for American Idol at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.



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Iris November, SLC Founder

Iris Signs In

What a marvelous time Mort and I had at the meeting of our amazing Club! Though we could only attend the activities on Saturday, due to a previous planned conference that we had to attend, the full day with our group had all the excitement, drama, fun, and warmth of a much longer time spent together. It was exciting to reconnect with members that we have known for many years, and to meet our new collectors. Brian and Kim's 2 boys were absolutely adorable and so helpful and well-behaved--great junior members. Seeing Christian Meyer, and Laurent and his family, all coming so far to be with us--delicious. One of the highlights of the evening program was when our club member from England gifted us with 2 songs, with her recorded background music, and her sweet voice. Needless to say, Brendagael and I were sobbing quietly in the back, at our table--we were so moved by the music, and the moment. Thanks again, Amanda! Meeting Stuart in his kilt walking down 42nd St. with Brenda was so funny because I knew who he was, and I had never met him before!! I am sure he was startled when a white haired lady rushed up to hug him!! Couldn't help myself.

After the meeting we met with friends, Bev and Stan Susskind, in Bayonne, NJ who took us to dinner at a restaurant that was on the water, facing the side view of Miss Liberty (The Pointe at Port Liberte, in Jersey City, NJ). We got to see her at dusk and in the dark, lit up with the NYC skyline in the background. Lovely!

We also passed a passenger cruise ship, called the *Norwegian Dream*, with a huge, stunning Lady Liberty painted on the hull (pictured right). I wondered if it had anything to do with the story of the copper from Norway... Looking into this further, however, I discovered it is so named because it's one of the NCL ships (Norwegian Caribbean Lines). Wouldn't that be the way to go view the mines in Karmøy—and have a Liberty Club meeting at sea! —Oh, I'm dreaming again!!



Then we drove to Hot Springs, VA where Thomas Jefferson designed the bath-houses that still stand at The Homestead Resort. It's old Southern style, with tea in the afternoon, and delicious cuisine. When we went to the hot springs bath-house the first time, the attendant asked me, "Yours, mine, or God's?" I didn't know what she meant, but then I got it--My bathing suit, her loaned bathing suit, or naked!!!

Aren't we lucky to be able to meet every other year, and to stay in touch all the time. Hope your holidays are truly filled with the sweet memories of our Lady Liberty family.

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xxx Iris

Laurent emailed the Editor this link to a video clip of the SOL ads that were launched by Panasonic for the new Lumix Digital Camera. In the commercial, filmed in New York Harbor, a tourist is photographing the Statue of Liberty using her Lumix DMC-TZ7. Two beatboxers start playing, and the Statue of Liberty begins to dance to the rhythm. The tourist quickly switches to HD video mode to "capture the unexpected."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7671>

(scroll down to view 2 videos—1 of the ad itself, and 1 shooting it)

Mr. Pickering's Island

by Barry Moreno

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One quiet afternoon a couple of years ago, a stranger sent me a rather surprising e-mail. It concerned an old-time Statue of Liberty employee whom I had chanced to research several years before; I had even written an entry on him in my book, *The Statue of Liberty Encyclopedia*. The man was called Simeon Horace Pickering (1894-1987) and he worked at Bedloe's Island from 1938 to 1964, first as a night watchman until he was promoted to the post of historical aide. The e-mail message came to me from his step-granddaughter. It seems that her mother had found an old manuscript written by Mr. Pickering and was wondering what to do with it. Should she chuck out old grandpa's book or what? Her daughter paused; she was thinking. Well, he'd worked at the Statue of Liberty and that's what the book was about. Why not ask if the Park Service people would like to have it. So through this thoughtful suggestion, we've come to own one of the only employee memoirs I've ever seen. Although Mr. Pickering was no fancy or fluid writer, his book is full of a number of funny stories and interesting moments. Here are a few of the choicest from *I Carry a Torch*.

The uniformed staff at the Statue used to wear caps, but now they wear big sombrero-Ranger hats. We have been called many things. A little girl asked if I was called a Boy Scout. A little boy wanted to know if I was a Mountie. A woman wanted to know if I was a Mounted Policeman. An elderly woman wanted to know if I was Boy Scout Leader as she said they wear the same uniform in Australia.

I was talking to a man from Texas while on the balcony and pointing out to him the different points of interest in the harbor and about the Statue. When I asked how he liked it, he replied, "I like it fine. First time Ah ever seen this part of Texas.

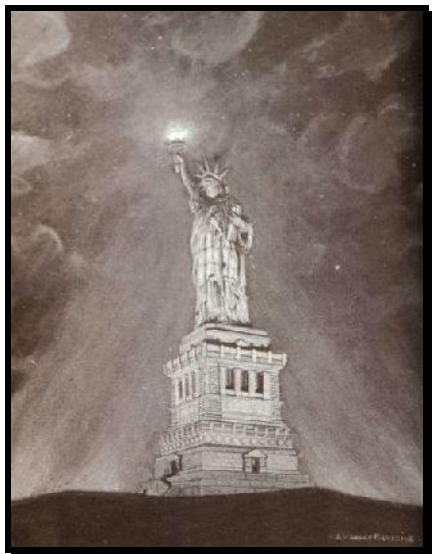
Another man said: "Thank Heaven the country's still free and a man can do just as his wife pleases."

I was on the balcony one day when I noticed a little girl's beautiful hair; I said to her: "What pretty hair you have! Did you get it from your mother?" "No," she replied solemnly, "I think I must have got it from my daddy—his is all gone." This amused the visitors standing nearby and [drew] a laugh from her mother."

On a more serious note, Pickering wrote how the Hungarian athlete and freedom fighter, Istvan Serenyi, climbed to the crown of the Statue of Liberty in 1959 and covered her eyes with a 20 foot black veil so that Miss Liberty would not see Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev's arrival on American soil.

Mr. Pickering had an interest in spook stories, too. Here are a few of his offerings:

The New York daily newspapers reported that George Washington's ghost haunts the Statue at night. Another is that Paul Revere rides through the dark corridors at night on his white horse. The story is told that Captain Hicks, the pirate who was hanged in Bedloe's Island in 1860, haunts the island at night and his ghost scares the night watchmen when they go into the darkened monument to punch the time clock. One guard swore that Captain Hicks's ghost took the watch key away from him and wouldn't let him turn the key in the lock.



Throughout his long life, Mr. Pickering devoted himself to painting in oil, taking pictures, and collecting favorite artifacts. One of his paintings, *The Statue of Liberty at Night*, (1940) is shown at left, and on page 192 of my *Encyclopedia*. He also enjoyed helping authors that visited the park; among them, Willadene Price and André Gschaedler. The latter, in his 1965 book *True Light on the Statue of Liberty and Its Creator*, wrote of Pickering: "A number of people at Liberty Island have given me valuable information. I like to remember Mr. S. Pickering, who had a small piece of the copper of the Statue of Liberty in its original color."

After retiring, Pickering settled down with his third and last wife, and then penned this hitherto unknown manuscript. To us, this is quite a boon and we are grateful that at least one old-time employee wrote a book for future generations. We salute you, Mr. Pickering!

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY



Good Times with Liberty Club

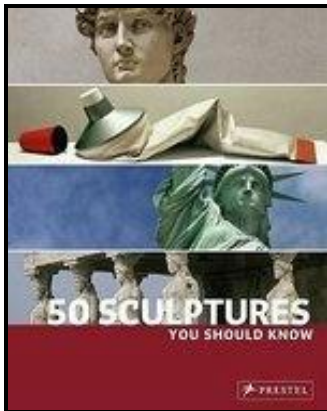
1. Andy & Denise Fulks
2. Mort November clowning around with Ethel Fishman & Iris November
3. The Ghesquières reach Liberty's crown
4. Paul LaJoie always has an impressive array of Liberty wares for sale
5. Enjoying lunch at the SOL Gift Shop Cafe are: Joan Laskoff, Bryan Snyder, Nancy Sherman, Vince Swift, Evan & Adam Snyder (in the background, center), Al & Ginger Plys, Laurent Ghesquière, and Ethel Fishman
6. Gail & Alan Marder with Iris & Mort November
7. Christian Meyer, who travelled the farthest to attend
8. Leapin' Lebo Loves Liberty THIS MUCH!
9. Nancy Sherman and Stuart Beasley-Forrest share a laugh with Bartholdi (aka Glenn Stoops)
10. Vince with Bob Snyder
11. Joan Laskoff (right) with friend, Vivian Cherry

*Photo collage by Stuart Beasley-Forrest from photographs taken by Laurent Ghesquière
(with a few additional photos by Stuart & Brendagael)*



Friends @ the 2009 Meeting

12. Vince & Brian--SLC leaders extraordinaire
13. Brendagael Beasley-Forrest and Ruth Levy at the Silent Auction table with items generously donated by members
14. Stephanie Holman
15. Dave McCutcheon
16. Ruth and Julian Levy get into the Liberty spirit!
17. Nancy Sherman sports her one-of-a-kind antique Liberty glasses. Very cool!
18. Amy Dougan
19. The Weavers share photos and 1st day stamp issues with the Beasley-Forrests
20. Iris greets everyone
21. The Snyder family
22. Vince elicits smiles all around during the program
23. Francine Grillo

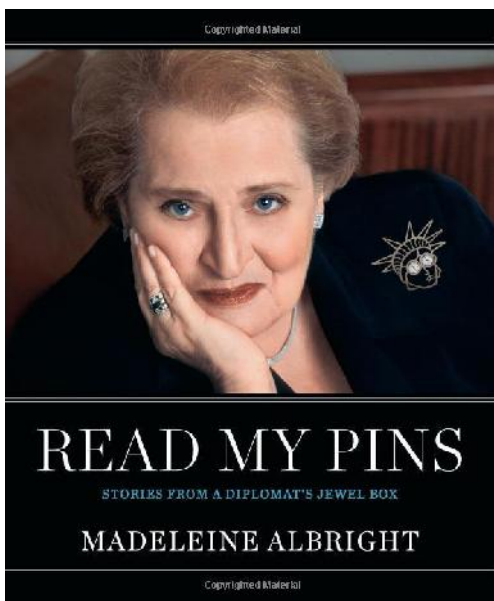


Lady Liberty in Literature

Authors: Isabel Kuhl, Klaus Reichold, Kristina Lowis, & Christiane Weidemann
ISBN: 9783791343389; Prestel Publishing; 2009; 176 pp.

50 Sculptures You Should Know provides a timeline of sculpture worldwide throughout history, with a short chapter on each piece. Starting from ancient times and continuing through the Classical, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic, and Modern periods, this collection introduces readers to the artists and works that make sculpture such an exciting medium to explore. Bartholdi's *Statue of Liberty* [1886] is one of only three works selected from 19th century sculpture. She is in the company of Rodin's *Gates of Hell* [1880]; (one might ask why not *The Thinker* [1881] instead???) and Edgar Degas' *Little Dancer* [1881].

Synchronicity in art: All three sculptors of these renowned 19th century sculptors are from France, these works created within five years of each other. Rodin and Degas are both from Paris (Bartholdi from Colmar). Bartholdi and Degas were both born in 1834 and both studied at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Rodin's first name is Auguste. Born in 1840, he, too, applied for entry into the École des Beaux Arts, but was denied all three times he applied. Some of you will recall from Barry Moreno's presentation that Richard Morris Hunt, architect for Liberty's pedestal, also studied at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. In fact, he was the first American admitted to this School of Fine Arts.



The book at left just came across my desk at the library in time for this issue. It's a large format book full of fabulously photographed images and stories of Secretary of State Albright's pin collection and how she selected different pins for various formal and informal diplomatic events. The Liberty pin at right, and selected for the cover, is a 1997 Guls Bakker (sterling silver & stainless steel, Netherlands). "The clocks [on the pin] are arranged so that I, looking down, and a visitor, looking across, will each be able to tell when the time for our meeting is up." p. 140. Since many of us in the club collect Liberty pins, I thought this might be of interest.



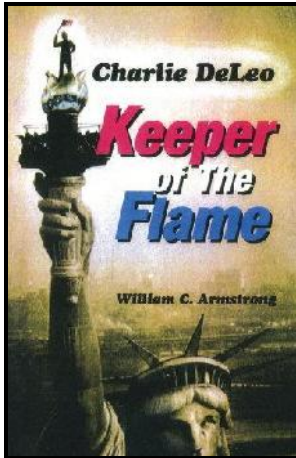
Also shown here are other patriotic pins from her collection.



ISBN 978-0060899189
Publisher: Harper, 2009
Available online or @ your
local bookseller.



For those of you who can make it, the "Read My Pins" exhibit is currently on display at the Museum of Arts and Design: 2 Columbus Circle, NYC ; 212-299-7777 <http://madmuseum.org>. The exhibit will then will travel to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AR. Next summer they will be on view in Washington, DC, and in Indianapolis, Indiana the fall of 2010.

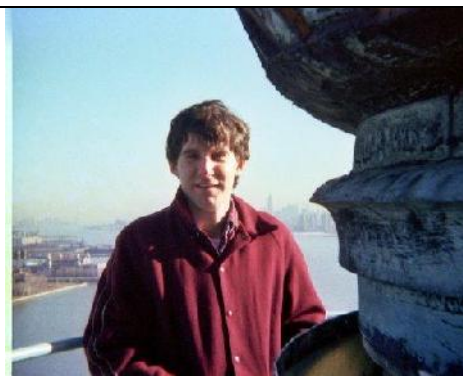


When verifying the spelling of “DeLeo” for the submission below, I came across this book by Charlie DeLeo that had not previously been featured in our newsletter.

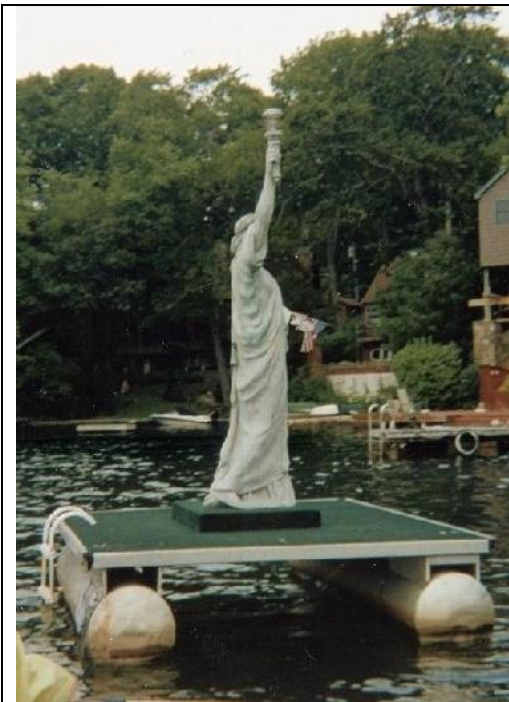
Title: *Charlie DeLeo: Keeper of the Flame* **Author:** William C. Armstrong
Publisher: Xulon Press (2006) **ISBN:** 978-1597819299 212 pages

"This non-stop action thriller takes you on a ride through one man's life from lower Manhattan to Vietnam and back to New York. Dedication, perseverance, patriotism, hope, struggle and love are all part of Charlie's life with Lady Liberty and his resolve to 'Keep the Flame' for all to see. The book captures the warmth and unique childlike-complex personality of Charlie. His biography expresses the deep devotion of millions of Americans to the cause of freedom. This exiting story of one man's lifelong devotion to the most famous lady in the world inspires the heart of the reader."

—Publisher description.



The 3 photos below, taken in 1980, were sent to me by Club member Tom Bernardin. Tom was a seasonal NPS Ranger from 1978 to 1980, as part of the interpretive staff at pre-restoration Ellis Island. In those years, Charlie DeLeo, the 'Keeper of the Flame', would escort interested rangers up to the torch during his frequent visits. As a collector, Tom jumped at the chance, and remains grateful to Mr. DeLeo for this experience. The torch has officially been closed to visitors since 1916.



(L) At the New York meeting, **Kay Selmer Brown** gave me this photo for the newsletter of a floating Liberty on Lake Hopatcong, NJ. This beautiful lake with 45 miles of shore line lies in northwest section of the state. Thank you both! Here is proof that New Jersey loves Lady Liberty!

(R) **Stephanie Holman** was in NJ doing a book signing prior to the NY meeting and came across this SOL made by a scrap metal artist in Egg Harbor, near her hometown of Cologne. Known to some as the “Scrapure of Liberty,” you can see more of Peterson’s Garage Art at: <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/11417>



35 Renewing Members Thank You!

Joan Adelman
 Eugene Albrycht
 Shelley J. Assenheimer
 Kay & Bill Brown
 Marianne Carpenter
 Jeff Dosik
 Marjorie Dougan
 Marilyn Ebersole
 Sandra Finch
 Ethel Fishman
 Gordon & Dede Frost
 Francine Grillo
 Dave Harb
 Helen J. Hoffman
 Dr. Maria O Kalafatic

Ruth & Julian Levy
 Tom Lofton
 Gail & Alan Marder
 Christian Meyer
 Gilbert & Micky Miclo
 Dale Rogers
 Annette Schabowski
 Dorothy Shearn
 Nancy Sherman
 Mary Lou Sulecki
 Vincent Swift
 James Wasas
 Amanda Whittaker
 Arnold Unger

4 New Members Welcome!!**Erica Breder & Aaron Weisinger**

Membership is a gift from Brian Snyder.
 The couple was engaged in Liberty's crown on the first day of her reopening, in July.

Elizabeth Dougan**Amy Dougan**

The Dougan memberships are a gift from their mother, Marjorie Dougan.

Annemarie Micklo**SLC Contacts****President & Treasurer: Vince Swift**

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~~VINCE.SWIFT@LIBERTYCLUB.ORG~~

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Editor: Brendagael Beasley~Forrest

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~~liberty@libertyclub.org 843-253-2861~~

Submit letters, pictures, feature material and classified ads to the editor.

Founder of Statue of Liberty Club (1991):**Iris & Mort November**

~~37800 Oakwood Road, #803~~

~~Brooklyn, NY 11218~~

~~iris@libertyclub.org~~

SLC Website: www.statueoflibertyclub.com

Renew Online!**\$20 Annual Dues**

SLC members may renew annual dues or new members can join the club by using their credit card or PayPal's account online from the club's Web site.

The SLC Web site (below, left) has a link to allow dues payment with your Visa/Mastercard or PayPal account.

Payments can be made from a personal bank account or credit/debit card. PayPal will send the payment electronically to the SLC account.

Members will get an electronic confirmation of the transaction. The renewal membership card will be sent by Vince Swift, club treasurer.