

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°1 ~ Spring 2009

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

From the President

I want to express my sincere 'Thank You' to the many members who again sent me Christmas and New Year greetings, and to those who included a 'Liberty gift'. Corresponding with members is a benefit of the President's position and I enjoy it immensely. Over the holiday period I was able to spend a few days in Georgia with my adult children and grandson and a few days in Florida with an Aunt. The time is always too short, but retirement gets closer month after month, and spending more time with them is first on my retirement to-do list.



Liberty of the Susquehanna

Some members will remember a 'character', who was a member years ago, named Gene Stilp from the Harrisburg, PA area. My single encounter with him was during the club's 2003 meeting in Rochester, NY at the dedication of Iris and Mort November's gift to the Strong Museum. Gene made a surprise grand entrance as he rolled in at the reception, on in-line skates, sporting a tuxedo, an Amish straw hat, and a rubber Liberty torch. I found out then that Gene had erected an 8 ft. Statue of Liberty on a small island in the middle of the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg. There were even postcards made of the Statue on the island. Eventually the Statue came down through the ravages of weather. It had become accepted by the locals as their Liberty icon, and a movement began to raise funds for a more permanent Liberty on the Susquehanna.

During the second half of 2008, I was working in Harrisburg and came across another one-fourth size rendition of the Statue on an old bridge support on a small island in the Susquehanna, this time near Dauphin, PA (just north of Harrisburg) AND there is another postcard. I tried to contact the publisher of the postcard and get permission to reprint it in our newsletter or display it on our web site, but have not heard back from them – I'll keep trying. I just learned from our editor Brendagael, who used to live in Harrisburg and remains friends with Stilp, that he created the current composite concrete statue. She even took the morning off from work to watch the statue being heli-coptered from a nearby park onto her pedestal. This reminded me to encourage all to visit the Strong Museum in Rochester. I've recommended it to many as having very interesting youth exhibits as well as a Liberty exhibit.

New York City in October

All I am going to write about this is that we will be holding our biennial meeting on the dates found inside your 2009 calendar ... and I do hope you are enjoying the calendar. Brian Snyder is our meetings coordinator and has more in this newsletter about NYC.

Le Cadeau (The Gift)

In December, as a finale to my assignment in Pennsylvania, I had the pleasure to visit my high school in Lancaster, PA. I'd been there many times when my children were getting their education there, but had not been back for more than 15-years. During the visit I made a donation of Joan Laskoff's English/French DVD to the French Department (English title *We Put Her There: The Contributors*; French title *Le Cadeau*) and items I had picked up in France. This donation was personal and gave me a great deal of satisfaction and enjoyment. I'll check-back with the French instructor and see how her classes are taking to the real story about *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Look for Joan's DVD on the club's web site; it makes a great gift.

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

Bas Relief Membership Card

Some members have received their membership renewal card, actually a post card that has a wonderful picture of the bas relief the club presented to Colmar and the Bartholdi Museum in October, 2008 (see articles in the last newsletter). I started to use the new post card when I exhausted the older style.

Opening Liberty's Crown

With the transition to a new U.S. administration, we also welcome a new Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. From news accounts, President Obama has indicated a strong desire that the crown of The Statue of Liberty be re-opened. I think most club members will support that goal. However in today's world the Secretary must address the fact that a handicapped individual would, almost certainly, not have access – nor has there ever been accommodation for the handicapped since Liberty was designed and built more than 123 years ago. Access by everyone probably was not on the minds of the individuals behind the concept of our Statue. We congratulate Secretary Salazar on his nomination and confirmation and look forward to improvements on Liberty Island, including the new museum discussed in this newsletter previously.

Liberty Island Museum Store

We were VERY pleased to read that Brad Hill and his company, Evelyn Hill Inc., retained the gift and food concessions on Liberty Island and added Ellis Island to their responsibilities. **Congratulations to Brad and his staff!** We look forward to our visit to Liberty Island each biennial meeting, and Brad's generosity and support are much appreciated by all members. The museum store can be found on-line at **www.TheStatueOfLiberty.com** - similar to our own web address, so don't confuse them. As always, our own Internet address is on the back page of this newsletter.

Ask, what you can do for your club!

We are a very specialized club with a specialized mission and purpose. From our club bylaws:

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be

- to encourage and promote interest in the Statue of Liberty;
- to support special projects for the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island or elsewhere;
- to cultivate friendly relations and a free exchange of information among members; and
- to provide a forum for exchanging information between club members and non-members.

We expect members to let others know of our club, the exchange we promote, the meetings we hold, and the knowledge we possess and share. We also need club members to step forward and help administer the club. Currently, Brenda Beasley-Forrest is the newsletter editor and has expressed her commitment to finish a 5-year run as editor in November, 2010. We need a club member(s) to step-up and volunteer to be the next editor and begin a transition now. After this newsletter there are still 20-months until November, 2010, BUT only five newsletters in that time.

We also need support for your club's officers. Currently Brian Snyder and I are it! I have dual functions as Club President and Club Treasurer. Brian is the Club Vice-President. These are the club's 3 officers. Brian also volunteers as our meeting coordinator and Webmaster. And, Brenda, Brian and I all have day jobs and family obligations. There is always work to be done, even if you do not have a desire to be a club officer. Let Brian, Brenda, or me know if you want to assist, and of your time commitment. We will find work for you! Volunteering will not cost you in personal expenses; approved expenses are reimbursed.

I am anxious to send in my reservation for the October meeting and schedule a vacation 7 months out; I hope others will start making similar plans. Thank you for being a fun group to interact with. I'll write to you again in the heat of July. Until then, please be safe and enjoy *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*.



Iris November
SLC Founder

Iris Signs In

As you read this, picture Mort and me in Scottsdale AZ, doing aerobics every morning in the heated pool!! OK, not a pretty picture, except for the blue sky, sunshine, mountains, and warmth. This winter in Cleveland has been a cruel one, as it has for many of you.

The knitting/crochet group I have formed in Beachwood as a PeacePod of the women-4-women-knitting-4-peace organization founded in Denver, CO by Susan McKee, is going great! We have sent off over 50 shawls and 15 dolls, and just since December, 2008!! Our women are very inspired by the message that each one of us can do something tangible to help make someone else feel the love and blessings we send with each item. We heal the world one stitch at a time. If you would like to form one in your community, or just knit for this group, contact me, or go to the website for more info:

www.knitting4peace.org

We hope to meet with James Muir in Sedona in a week—he is the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty bronze bust, which exhibits the breaking down of liberty, and yet, with the hopeful heavenward gaze, just one tear on her cheek. It's such an impressive piece, 13 of them were made, one for each of the original 13 colonies. Mine represents New York, and has the signatures of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence from New York. We try to see James, and Linda, his wife, and Billy Sue, Linda's mother, whenever we are out here. Will report on our visit next issue.

As for Gene Stilp, (see Vince's article), I first found him after Mort and I were driving East, near Harrisburg, PA, and I yelled at Mort to Stop the Car!! I had spotted a Statue of Liberty in the middle of the Susquehanna River. He could not stop, but I found out that we were near a city called Dauphin, so I wrote to the Chamber of Commerce, and, of course, that reached the Chief of Police, Pat McCorkle. He led me to Gene, who, he said, had placed the Statue, made of Venetian blind slats, when he was a very young man, with a group of his friends. I contacted Gene and thus, our friendship grew, to NYC at our first meeting, in Colmar, France, where he surprised us by just showing up in his signature Amish straw hat, camera, and his joyful presence, and again in NYC on roller blades, crashing into me before I realized who he was!! He came to Rochester, NY, at the dedication of my collection at the Strong Museum, and I welcome his appearance wherever and whenever it occurs!!

Think warm thoughts till summer arrives!!

his xxx

Out and About with the Editor

Greetings everyone! A happy springtime to you all! I so enjoy hearing from you. So please, continue sending me your announcements, Liberty articles and photographs, and remember your free 3-line classifieds! And display ads are available at a nominal charge. Due date for next issue:

June 15, 2009

(see contact info on back page)

I have a "good news" announcement. After 18 months of patiently waiting and eking by on just my salary, my spouse from the U.K., Stuart Forrest, has finally obtained his permanent resident card AND a great job as head of Computer Services for Beaufort County Libraries. We can commute to work together. We are so grateful and relieved! So you see, even in a down economy there *is* hope after all.

Thank you to those who contributed materials for this issue: Annette Schabowski, Rich Wolfin, Pat Krauchune, Nancy Frost, and all the usual suspects: Vince, Brian, & Iris.

Yours united in Liberty,

Brenda
Brenda

St. Helena Island, South Carolina



Brenda
Brenda at work in her cataloging cubby, surrounded by a few Liberty friends. Photo by Stuart Beasley-Forrest



Liberty Watch

Liberty Neckties!

There are some great patriotic Liberty ties that range in date from the 70s to the 90s, and range in price from \$15 - \$35. These vintage designer and novelty neckties are a fun way to augment your wardrobe and show your patriotism and love of Lady Liberty. Call Toll Free 1-888-740-7942 or search online at: <http://www.turtleties.com> (Enter keywords Statue of Liberty). One of the ties is featured below.



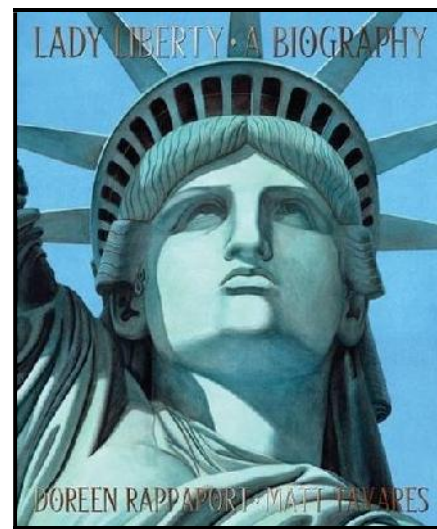
The two images at left are among the most unique **Liberty dolls** I have ever seen. Rosalie Paniyak, a Cu'Pik Eskimo, makes her dolls from natural materials that honor elderly women, mothers, and children. The one at far left (37" high) resides at the National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian) and the one at left (24") is held by the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Both are hand-sewn seal skin and also incorporate seal intestines, seal hide, fabric, wool, sea glass beads, seal hide, fur, and wood. She learned this regional tradition from her mother. President Bush also has one of her dolls.



Lady Liberty: A Biography came across my desk recently at the library. It's full of wonderful images by illustrator Matt Tavares, and told as a living biography. Reading level is 4-8, but suitable for audiences of every age. The story chronicles Laboulaye's original idea, to the workrooms in Paris in 1876, the newsrooms of New York City in 1885, and her unveiling on Bedloe's Island in 1886. It includes a cast of sculptors, poets, newspaper publishers, immigrants, average citizens, and an acknowledgement of thanks to Barry Moreno. Author: Doreen Rappaport. ISBN 978-0763625306.

Publisher: Candlewick, 2008.

Available online or @ your local bookseller.



A sidebar from Vince: *My 5 1/2-year old Grandson picked out and gave me the "Lady Liberty - A Biography" book for Christmas; we read it during my holiday visit. It is an interesting collection of 'people articles' and worth considering as a gift to the young might-be Liberty enthusiast.*

Cloverfield now available on DVD, Blu-ray, or movie poster. Miss Liberty's severed head makes a huge impact! Genre: Science Fiction / Fantasy / Monster / Horror. Available online (Amazon.com and many others).

Search for and purchase SOL postcards here: <http://www.cardcow.com>

CLASSIFIED from Nancy Frost: *I'm looking for a Liberty flag. Any ideas? Also, I would like to invite any members who are in the Bay Area to see my collection (sorry, no meals or lodging provided!). I think my traveling days are over... Please call ahead to make sure I'm home or not playing bridge.*

Nancy lives one hour east of San Francisco in Livermore, CA, home of the famed Wente Winery.

SOL Club to Meet in New York, October 2009

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

~ by Brian Snyder, Meeting Coordinator

The Statue of Liberty Club will have its biennial meeting October 22-24, 2009 (Thursday-Friday-Saturday). I strongly encourage you read more about this exciting opportunity available to club members.

Here is a quick rundown of the events in store for attendees. Thursday usually offer an optional day trip in the city. On Friday, we will be making our pilgrimage to Liberty Island as a group. Saturday is the show-sell-swap afternoon, followed by our meeting and dinner.

What's in it for me? Most meetings there is a meeting-only collectible or gift given to all attendees, special day trips on Thursday, and a special guest speaker on Saturday night. We are looking for suggestions for the Thursday local excursion in the Manhattan area. Some past Thursday excursions have been to museums, factories, parks, and statues. Do you live in the area or know something cool we would like to see or visit? Please send me your suggestion(s), contact information follows.

Who should attend? Anyone and everyone that is reading this! It's a great way to network with others, see the city, and visit the Statue of Liberty with fellow collectors. Never been to New York? This is a great way to be exposed to some of the wonders of the city that never sleeps.

Who has attended in the past? The club officers, members from France and Canada, local members and those from the West coast have attended. Even authors, photographers, artists, private and government employees, and movie set designers have attended. Why haven't you?

What's the weather like? In late October it's usually sunny, cool, and sometimes windy. We have never been snowed on but once it rained a bit on Saturday.

Isn't the big city expensive? It sure can be! We stay at a clean very moderately priced hotel that offers onsite parking. They accommodate us with low pricing, meeting room, and a great location close to Times Square. If there are any females who would like to share a room, our new member from England, Amanda Whittaker, has already bought her plane ticket and is interested in sharing expenses. See Membership Directory for her contact information, or contact one of the officers listed on the back page.

We hope you will plan on attending this year. Watch for hotel and activity details in the next newsletter. Don't forget to send your Thursday group activity suggestion to Brian Snyder, 5001 Franklin Avenue, Fresno CA 93722, or e-mail: briansnyder@gmail.com

Announcement: The New York Independent International Film and Video Festival held five days and nights of film screenings March 19-26 in the city of New York. Club member and documentary film producer, Joan Laskoff, will had her video "We Put Her There - The Contributors", shown on Friday March 20th at the Village East Cinemas in New York City. Congratulations, Joan! Visit: www.nyfilmfestival.com

Beijing Liberty

Everyone loves Lady Liberty! Here a man mimics the Statue of Liberty in a miniature Manhattan at World Park, one of the three Beijing parks where protests were allowed during last summer's Olympics.

Photo by Feng Li,
used with permission



SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY



Member Profile: Annette Schabowski

~ by Brendagael

Our member profile this issue, Annette Schabowski, has had a life rich in the arts. She is a charter member of the Statue of Liberty Club (our 7th member!) having been with the club for 18 years. Annette's collection has a lot of variety, with statuettes, postcards, basically anything with the statue, crown, or torch. While she has not been to a club meeting, she did visit the statue with friends in 1996 and went up inside the crown. "What a wonderful, positive landmark we have," she says. Schabowski also has a twin towers collection; but those must also include Lady Liberty.

At left: Annette poses with her Liberty display at the Berwyn Library, Summer 2007

When her two daughters were young, their bank was selling plastic SOL piggy banks, and she bought one each for herself and the girls. That bank started her SOL collection in 1976, and has grown by spotting liberties in antique & souvenir shops, and with gifts from friends and family. She has never pursued statue collectibles online, and doesn't care for ones that are disproportionate or unflattering. Like many collectors who are running low on space, Annette says, "I've reached a point where I'm going to have to start collecting smaller liberties!" Among her most unusual pieces are the molded plastic SOL ivy trellis in her yard, and the kitschy plastic SOL drinking cup with straw from the Cantigny Museum in Wheaton, IL.

Annette has always shown a penchant for collecting. When she was young, she and her sisters were into stamp and postcard collecting. Her mother, a very creative woman, used to take them fossil hunting. Whenever they would travel, they selected a rock or fossil to keep as a souvenir. One of Annette's favorite is a black sparkly schist rock from Central Park. Her cobblestone walkway is made up of various bricks she has collected here and there over the years. Carrying on a mother-daughters tradition, Annette shared her love of postcards with her daughters. They belonged to the Windy City Postcard Club, where the girls won an award for their 1976 Montreal Olympics postcard display.

Annette Banfi grew up in one of Chicago's many Polish/Czech/Slavic neighborhoods. Her dad was a butcher who organized the meat departments at the A&P stores in towns Southwest of Chicago. The Vacha family, Czech florists who lived across the street, had a daughter, Marilyn, who was Annette's best friend. They loved to paint using Marilyn's grandfather's camel hair brushes. They remain friends to this day. Their friendship proved to be life changing. Marilyn introduced Annette to Sokol, where they learned field drilling and gymnastics, and Sokol has become an increasingly significant part of Annette and her family's life ever since. After Annette married, she and Bill Schabowski lived in a northern Chicago suburb where they started raising a family. Annette found that some days she was spending over two hours a day commuting to the Sokol gym in Berwyn, a West Chicago suburb, for her two daughters' classes, and in the evening for her adult class. Bill and Annette decided to move closer to the gym, and they've been in Berwyn ever since. The Sokol Tabor Gymnasium in Berwyn recently celebrated its 143rd anniversary.

For those of us who have never lived near one of America's many Sokol districts, here is a brief history. Sokol is Czech for *falcon* and English for a great group of people bonded by a common ethnicity, heritage, or interest. A similar comparison is how "Highland Games" promote Scottish heritage. The Sokol movement was founded in 1862 by Dr. Miroslav Tyrš, whose credo was "a sound mind in a sound body;" and Jindřich Fügner, who provided monetary support and cultivated its awareness. It began as a Czech and Slavic youth and gymnastics organization in Prague (then Czechoslovakia). "Today every race and creed is represented," says Annette. Well into its second century, American Sokol remains an organization dedicated to the physical, mental, and cultural advancement of its members, the youth and adults that attend its programs, and the local communities they serve. It provides a safe haven for children to learn personal discipline, physical fitness (with an emphasis on drilling and gymnastics), song, and dance. The American Sokol began early in the movement in St. Louis, MO in 1865, and now has 35 American Sokol units, or clubs, operating in North America. Additionally, Sokol clubs are found in eight European countries and Australia. You may have heard of the term *Sokol Slet*, which means festival or event, with each *slet* being a milestone in the Sokol movement. Slets are as significant as the Olympic Games were to the ancient Greeks. International slets occur every six years in Prague, and American slets are held every four years, usually in Chicago. Read more about the history of the Sokol movement here: <http://american-sokol.com/sokol.asp> and here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sokol> and enjoy the many historic photographs and postcards.

The American Sokol has drilled among the Grecian columns of Soldier Field (home of the Chicago Bears). There are classes for all ages, and after each class performs there is typically a grand finale with all classes participating. Each Sokol gym has its own annual exhibition.

Sokol has provided the Schabowski family with many opportunities to travel, perform, and compete. In 1976 they all went to the Montreal Olympics, where they saw Nadia perform her perfect 10 gymnastics routine. In 1979 the entire family worked the XX World Gymnastic Championships in Fort Worth, TX where they saw Olga Korbut perform, and met many world class gymnasts. Annette's mother was a translator at the event, Annette did tabulating, and one of her daughters carried the placard for Germany. Annette went to Vienna in 1982 and won the first place medal in the Master's Division with a combined winning score in balanced beam, uneven bars, and floor routine. They took a side trip to Prague to visit Tyr's Museum of Physical Culture and Sport, showcasing the history of Sokol. In 1987 Annette was a part of the U.S. Sokol team, a 40-member group from Chicago, New York, and Texas that performed a long number at the Gymnastrada in Denmark. They took side trips to Lausanne, Switzerland to see the Olympic Museum (and discovered a 1910 Sokol trophy there), to the beautiful town of Novigrad in Yugoslavia, and then to Monet's garden in Giverny, France. Annette has enjoyed incorporating images from her travel photos into her paintings, lending her unique perspective of the world.

As you will see, much of Annette's pursuits are agreeably interrelated. Annette used to work in an art supply store which has served her well in framing her own work and in reframing and restoring documents in the Sokol archives. Through her involvement in Sokol over the years & serving on the Educational Committee, the American Sokol Organization asked Annette to be the ASO Library, Archives & Museum Curator. She has held this position for 20 years at the ASO headquarters in nearby Brookfield, IL. This ties in beautifully with her love of Sokol, and her creative aptitude for doing exhibits, and preserving historic documents.

Annette has done many exhibits for Sokol events over the years with materials from the Sokol Museum & Archives that are in her charge. This summer Annette will be sending several boxes of her personal SOL collection ahead, then she and Bill will fly to Texas for the American Sokol Slet and 2009 International Sport & Cultural Festival, June 23-29, in Fort Worth. One of Annette's three sisters, Henrietta, also an artist, met her husband Jerry Milan at a Sokol event in 1955. The Milan family runs the Milan Gallery in Fort Worth. One of Annette's most cherished Liberty items is a program signed by Peter Max with one of his Liberties on the cover when he had a show at the Milan Gallery (photo below, the image to the right of the Arizona tea bottle). Jerry and Henrietta are on the host committee that will be coordinating the Sokol event in Ft. Worth. Annette's Liberty display in the Sokol exhibition hall will segue nicely into Jerry's immigrant display.



Annette's husband, Bill, is a partner in every way, always lending a hand with art projects, by being a judicious critic of her artwork, and helping move things around the library and archives. They have three grandsons—one in Fort Worth, Texas and two in Washington D.C. Annette enjoys the outdoors and working in her perennial flower garden. She and Bill have a summer home about 90 minutes North, on Fox River. She loves to go antiquing, and is very fulfilled with her involvement in the Berwyn Art Guild. She and two other artists founded the league 30 years ago. While she has painted in oils, watercolors and pastels, she prefers collage and printmaking. She enjoys participating in macro photography workshops, which involves assembling small items like SOL pins and photographing them at close range (above left). She designs greeting cards from her macro collages and photography (above right), and teaches workshops for the Guild in monotype printmaking, a reverse printing process. She also creates collage cards for Sokol events, some of which she will be selling in Texas this summer. She incorporates the Statue of Liberty into many of her Sokol designs. When she's in her home art studio, listening to Sinatra at her drawing table, working on an art piece Annette says, "It's like being in heaven, where nothing else enters my mind." "Life is good," she adds.

The Story of the Liberty Piano

by Richard Wolfin; abridgment by Brendagael



All club members who are interested in historical connections to the Statue of Liberty will find this piano's history fascinating. In 1882 a seven foot model B Steinway art case piano was born into America's *Gilded Age*, a period during the late 19th century that was rooted in industrialization, particularly factories, railroads, and mining. Those who invested in or founded these ventures amassed fortunes, creating a great imbalance of wealth between the upper class and the skilled worker. The "nouveau riche" displayed their wealth through highly crafted architecture and furnishings. It was in this time setting that both the Liberty Piano and the Statue of Liberty came to be. Their history contains many common *threads* ...remember that word for later in the article.

Art case pianos can consist of carvings, oil paintings, veneer work and inlay and are made in limited quantities. A custom art case piano is a one of a kind, and produced only once. The Liberty Piano exhibits the highest level of a custom art case, and is one of but a handful, made for the elite, with every aspect of the piece being uniquely designed, possessing workmanship of the highest level of skill. Pianos of this type are considered art by any standard, and are truly rare.

In April of 1882 the plain case piano was delivered to the factory of George A. Schastey, where the cabinetwork was to be carried out, and in the same year on December 30th, the completed piano was shipped to the home of William Clark. The book: *Opulent Interiors of the Gilded Age*, shows the interior of the William Clark mansion in Newark, New Jersey, which includes the drawing room with the Liberty Piano in its original setting, along with a matching suite of furnishings.

It was a hundred years later in 1982 that the Liberty Piano was discovered when a New Jersey piano dealer, having an ordinary day purchasing used pianos at a cost of \$50 each, was making his way through a church complex where he was led to the third floor of an auxiliary school building. A door was opened and a treasure in the form of a Steinway grand piano was found in miraculous preserved condition.

The Bartholdi Connection. The Clark family had its beginnings in Paisley, Scotland, known throughout the world for its weavers, where they enjoyed a successful business selling loom equipment and silk thread for use in the looms. In 1806, Napoleon blockaded Great Britain, preventing the flow of silk to weavers. Patrick Clark, William's father, developed a cotton thread for use in looms and hand sewing. In 1812, the Clarks opened a factory in Paisley for the manufacture of cotton thread. In the mid 1860s, William's brother George developed a six-cord thread of such consistent quality and strength that it could be used reliably in sewing machines. George opened a branch of the Paisley Works in Newark, NJ to avoid an American tariff imposed on imported thread. In 1873 George Clark died leaving the fortune of the multi-million dollar business to his brother William. While the Clarks were amassing wealth selling thread for sewing machines, Isaac Singer grew wealthy through sales of his sewing machines made possible by the new Clark thread. William Clark and Frederick Bartholdi were socially connected through Isabella (Eugenie Boyer) Singer, Isaac's wife. While it is widely accepted that Bartholdi's SOL was made in the likeness of his mother, it was rumored that the attractive Isabella, recently widowed and living in Paris, was called upon to be Bartholdi's model. (*Singer and Sewing Machine, a Capitalist Romance*, p. 211)

As members of this club already know, Bartholdi traveled as a young man to the Middle East where the young artist was inspired by the pyramids and colossal sculpture to construct works of art on a grand scale such as the Lion of Belfort (completed in 1880) and the Statue of Liberty. There are so many elements in the artistry of the piano that resemble those used by Bartholdi, the current owner has named it the "Liberty Piano". There are two repetitive Middle Eastern patterns along the front of the piano. Schastey incorporated Bartholdi's concept of the Goddess, calling



the figure the "Goddess of Abundance" (at left). She is a large breasted woman holding a garland of flowers [that would have been taken from formal gardens on the Clark estate]. This repetitive theme of abundance celebrates the wealth of William Clark. The cornucopias which frame the face have an outpouring of pomegranates, also a traditional symbol of abundance. The most striking characteristic that parallels the SOL is the similarity of the faces that follow those of classical Greek carvings, where the forehead and nose are on the same plane. Also similar are the protruding concise lips, the center part of the hair, and the design of the crown. Since it was impractical to have seven spikes emitting from the crown on the sides of the piano, these were transformed into seven prominent feathers on her necklace (see figure at left). The ivy pattern found along the bottom edge of the cabinet is similar to the one found on the trophy designed by Bartholdi and presented to Pulitzer for his contribution in fundraising for the pedestal of the Statue (at right).



While it is not conclusive, it is quite possible this wealthy industrialist could have imposed on the artist through his social connections. With limited reference material available, the author is not entirely sure, but it certainly seems plausible that Bartholdi was involved with the design. With the help of club members, other designs may be identified as Bartholdi's. If a club member has access to Bartholdi's written material mentioning a piano or his sketches that coincide with the designs on the piano, contact with the author would be greatly appreciated. Also, should a club member know of a museum that would be open to displaying this great example of Americana, please contact the author at: info@libertypiano.com, or refer to the listing for Richard Wolf in the SLC Directory.

Within the next year the cabinet will undergo museum conservation. Upon completion, this unique treasure will likely return to the New York area for display. For a detailed history of the Liberty Piano, and to view her many exquisite details, please go to www.libertypiano.com.

The image at right was sent to the editor from her pen pal in Alsace, France. It depicts 36,000 tulip bulbs in the shape of Lady Liberty at the Keukenhof Gardens, near Amsterdam. The tulip display celebrates the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's journey from Amsterdam what is now New York City (formerly called Nieuw Amsterdam). Hudson, an Englishman who worked for the Dutch East India Company, discovered Manhattan Island on September 12, 1609, and continued up the river bears his name, until he arrived at the site that is now New York state's capital city of Albany. The founding of New Amsterdam is commemorated on the official Seal of New York City ensuring that New Netherlanders "shall keep and enjoy the liberty of their consciences in religion", negotiated with the English by Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch Director General of the colony before it was ceded to the English in 1664.





Mailbag

Hi Brenda,

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

My partner and I were at our second home at Yarmouthport and were shopping for a washer and dryer. As we were talking to the owner who had a massive collection of Maytag memorabilia, I mentioned that I had a very large Statue of Liberty collection and that we had a memorial built to the 9/11 tragedy at our home in Shirley. He then produced a poem that he wrote the day after 9/11. He had never shown it to anyone before. I am enclosing a copy, with his permission... it moved me and we wanted to share it with other club members. I have also enclosed a picture of our 9/11 memorial.

Have a save and blessed holiday. Regards,
Pat Krauchune



With Her Torch Held High

She stood in the harbor with Her torch held high
as hijacked terrorist planes flew by.
She did not move bend, flinch or bray
as the threat to freedom was on its way.

Thousands of people lost their lives that day,
when Two Towers were hit and imploded away.
Saviours by the hundreds ignored all the risks,
and worked for a rescue with shovels and picks.
And all through the night the world shared a cry
as She stood in the harbor with Her torch held high.

Our buildings were ruined but our foundation grew strong,
for justice and freedom rings louder then wrong.
People from everywhere came to offer a hand
and worked day and night till they could no longer stand.
The world offered tributes and wanted to know "Why?"
and She stood in the harbor with Her torch held high.

For freedom is something we can't compromise,
and when there's a challenge this country will rise
and face its enemy both at home or abroad;
for we bow to no masters, kings, or false lord.
We have always stood for freedom;
we are prepared to die to keep Her in the harbor
with Her torch held high.

Oh, Lady Liberty don't stand with a tear;
this nation will never succumb to the fear.
We will always hold our heads up proud
and talk of our freedom, no, shout it out loud!
Our airports were shut down, now we're back in the sky.
Watch from the harbor with Your torch held high.

Richard Capobianco
Yarmouth, Mass.

Editorial note: The 9/11 tragedy moved so many Americans that a litany of songs, poems, artworks, and memorials were born as a way to cope with the tragedy, as a way to do something to honor those who lost their lives, and for the hole left at the base of Manhattan and in America's heart.

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

St. Louis's "New Lady Liberty"

Excerpted by Brendagael from several online articles*



Your Travel Biz, an Internet travel agency business based in Wood River, Ill., paid approximately \$1.5 million to Beryl-Martin, a creative design company in Griffith, Ind., to build a gargantuan replica of the SOL for YTB's 2008 national convention at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. At 85% height of the original, she's 130 feet tall from her big toe to her torch. The statue weighs about 50,000 lbs. and her nose is four feet long. It took artists six-and-a-half months to carve her from 377 chunks of Styrofoam-like material, each measuring 4 ft x 6 ft x 8 ft in size. A computer program modeler was used to create the structure in 3-D. Artists then used hand-held wires to



shape the large foam pieces and circular brushes and sandpaper to finish the surface.

The original SOL arrived by ship in 350 individual pieces and was packed in 214 crates and took four months to re-assemble her on her pedestal. By comparison, The New Lady Liberty arrived in St. Louis packed in 80 UPS trailers. Members of the public were invited to bring their grills and barbecue while watching employees loaded the monument for transport by UPS. The BerylMartin crew of 60 artists had only four days to reassemble her. The foam pieces were assembled with an adhesive on a steel frame and sprayed with a plastic weatherproofing material. The statue was then painted to realistically resemble the Statue of Liberty.

The creation has stirred much controversy by environmental groups and has even been called "Lady Liberty's Ugly Step-sister" by *Chicagoist*, the Windy City's most popular blog site. One activist thought the New Lady Liberty was a fitting tribute, with all its Styrofoam and plastic—a metaphor for a country that has worn the 'World's Biggest Polluter' crown for so long. Environmentalists were outraged over the nonrenewable resources used for the project and all the gas and exhaust for the 48 semi trucks to move the statue to St. Louis and back.



YTB's 2008
Conference Logo

But it appears the statue has been saved from the landfill, as BerylMartin's owner & CEO has donated the statue to the city of Hammond, Indiana, a South Chicago suburb near the tip of Lake Michigan, and near the company's head-quarters. The New Lady Liberty will stand as a monument on an island in Hammond's Wolf Lake. Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott says the city will provide the base and lighting, and funds for its upkeep. "I have a feeling that this is going to be something that Hammond will be known for a long time," he added. Hammond officials hope to have the statue in place by next Independence Day, if city plans run on schedule.

For months the homeless 'faux-leather Gucci bag of Ellis Island, Lady Liberty Knock-off' has been languishing in a Hammond warehouse. The City of Hammond reportedly paid \$27K to see if the statue replica in question would stand up to the exposed elements if mounted on the island. It appears the statue is a no-go for Hammond's Boy Scout Island on Wolf Lake. Structural engineer Don Corson told the Hammond Redevelopment Commission that wind and ultraviolet light would damage the resin-covered statue and it would require extensive renovation for an outdoor display.

But soon she may find a home in Hammond's South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority, a multi-ethnic area of Indiana, described as the best example of the melting pot in the Hoosier State. Well, at least part of her anyway, as only the head and torso would fit inside. She would be part of a display that would show different cultural groups on how they got there, and their importance to the history and building of the region. Marty Wielgos, Chief of Staff for Mayor McDermott, said the statue could be a drawing card for NW Indiana if nearby Chicago is awarded host for the 2016 Olympics. "Many thousands of people could see it. It would be a great thing for the city of Hammond. In a controlled environment, it could work out perfectly," he said. Stay tuned for the final chapter on the largest Liberty replica ever produced.

* http://huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/05/news/lake_county/doc98765e687f41f2e98625749c000e66d5.txt
 * http://chicagoist.com/2008/09/04/hammond_to_install_crappy_secondrat.php
 * <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/05/news/lake/1408453.lcliberty.article>
 * <http://huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/17/styrofoam-statue-of-liberty-a-big-polluting-mess/>
 * <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/17/styrofoam-statue-of-liberty-a-big-polluting-mess/>

SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

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

3 New Members Welcome!!**Sister Lucilla Berretti**

~~*****~~ / Nyack, NY 10960 USA

Jeffrey Davis

~~*****~~ / Bay City, MI 48706 USA

Betty Pratt

~~*****~~ / Seabrook, TX 77586 USA

Kay Selmer was recently married and is now Kay Brown. We heard the wonderfully heart-rendering story at the NY meeting of how Kay and Bill reunited after many years. Congratulations!

New address for **Francine Burke:**

~~*****~~ / Brooklyn, NY 11220 USA

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

~~*****~~ Isle, Lansing, MI 48917
~~*****~~@comcast.net

Send membership dues and address/email changes to Vince.

Vice President & Webmaster: Brian Snyder

~~*****~~ Paso Ave., Fresno, CA 93722
~~*****~~@gmail.com

Editor: Brendagael Beasley~Forrest

~~*****~~ Hipp Rd, St. Helena Island, SC 29920
~~*****~~@comcast.net ; 843-252-2864

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

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

~~*****~~ Road, #803
 Beachwood, OH 44122 USA
~~*****~~@ol.com

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.