

The Statue of Liberty Club Newsletter



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www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com Spring 2019 Volume 29, Issue No. 1

An Inspirational New Home for the Liberty Museum (Part 1) By Lebo Newman
 As I sit, about to watch the 53rd Super Bowl between the Patriots and the Rams, I contemplate a recent trip I made to New York City to see The Lady's new Museum on Liberty Island. It was a goose bump inspiring two days of events. The moving of the original Torch was just a number of events that will lead up to the opening of the new Statue of Liberty Museum coming up this May. My memories of the trip are priceless!



That effort has been called the original crowd funding program by those in that industry. Pulitzer's idea to incentivize people was to publish the name of everyone who donated funds for The Lady's pedestal. SOLEIF and IndieGoGo incentivized people by offering many different packages – such as an Atlantic crossing on the RMS Queen Mary 2 ocean liner – in order to generate funds for the ongoing maintenance of the new museum. I was lucky enough to be able to grab a ticket to several different events - the Torch moving ceremony, a behind the scenes tour of the new museum with the building's architect from FX Collaborative, as well as a meeting with the design firm of ESI who is creating the Liberty experience inside the new museum.



Acquiring all of these packages allowed me to cluster them together into a visit to NYC November, 2018. This is the story of my adventure.

(continued on page 2)

The Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation (SOLEIF) recently held a fund-raising effort through IndieGoGo. This was a crowd funding type program not unlike Joseph Pulitzer's fundraising efforts so many years ago through his newspaper The World.

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Nadia Lee and Ryan Treacy from SOLEIF were my gracious hosts for the events and Ryan was exceptionally helpful arranging all of the details (Thanks, Ryan). First up was the early morning ferry trip to Liberty Island to witness the original stained-glass torch being moved from the lobby of Liberty's pedestal to its future home in the spacious gallery of the new Museum. It was a very frosty morning and everyone was bundled up against the wind and weather to come, but all were excited for the momentous event. The trip to the island went quickly as I had conversations with the 'celebrities' of the SOLEIF and Park Service such

more. (I can be seen in the background of several of the network broadcasts as it was hard to find a place out of the cameras angles!) Welcoming speeches thanking all of the folks involved in the move were made by Briganti, Piltzecker and Doug Phelps, the owner of Phelps Construction Group, the General Contractor in charge of building the museum. Once all the speeches were complete, the torch and the duplicate face were moved on the special multi wheeled unit across the plaza accompanied by many Park Rangers and SWAT team members guarding the relics. (Should have had a band – in the olden days they would have!) Once it was expertly maneuvered into the museum's fenced off compound, a few more comments were made, celebrity photos taken and the ceremony was over. They ushered us out of the fenced area so I proceeded to the Statue for a visit with the Lady. I was able to go to the soon to be 'old' museum and then over to see Jose Sepulveda at Evelyn Hill's gift shop to do some shopping (Of course!).



as its CEO Stephen Briganti, Richard Flood, the Foundation's Director of Fundraising, and John Piltzecker, the Liberty Park Superintendent. They were all so very excited to see the Torch move and having reached this next milestone in the development of the museum, they were almost as giddy as kids on a school field trip. They were all very aware of the efforts the SoL Club has made with our new museum donation drive and were very appreciative.

Once on the island, the crush of the invited media was evident as they interviewed all who were responsible for this grand step. All of this occurred while the torch sat on its moving rig ready to head to the new home across the Flag Plaza. Reporting teams from China, Japan and Mexico were among the throng, along with all of the major American network crews and many



I headed back over to the museum compound to take another fond look at the torch. As I was observing through windows in the compound's gate, a policeman noticed that I had a media pass around my neck and invited me back in to more closely see the activity. This allowed me to photograph and video the actual craning of the Lady's duplicate face as well as the torch into the open walls of the display gallery. I was among just a handful of people, two or three other videographers and photographers from the Foundation and the Contractors doing the move as I took in this rare event. This moment was VERY special and as I said – goose bumps!

doors in the base. Again, no damages and only inches of clearance! These were the experts who actually made the move possible. I know there were many more on the crews and I apologize for not having gotten all of their names! It was an amazing operation; even more interesting when they reassembled the torch the next day while I met Nick Garrison as the guide for a personal tour of the new building. **SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY**

When the torch and face were completely moved into the new building, it was time to head back to Manhattan to meet with the ESI folks. I must add that this leg of the trip was during a huge snow storm that caught the City by surprise. The intensity was so great that the roads and bridges were completely backed up. Thank goodness for the subway! I headed to Union Square to meet Preston Brown, who had recently finished working on the National History Museum, to get the full 'skinny' on the plans for the displays inside the new museum. Preston is the lead designer for the collective interior displays and joined the team 3 ½ years ago. He graciously led me through the project history and design process. As we spoke, Edwin Schlossberg, the owner of ESI who led the company through many unique projects such as the EBAY Main Street, Wells Fargo Center and the Mount Fuji Heritage Center, stopped by to say "Hi".



BOOTS ON THE GROUND: Most of the actual folks involved with 'boots on the ground' were very friendly and I was able to meet many of them. One was the transport operator from Supor Construction who meticulously ran the unique transport vehicle as well as the crane lifting the units into the building; a true expert who remotely operated the unit through the gate with only inches to spare and without any damages. Tom Watson, who was the chief stonemason supervising the crew for the Museum's new granite steps, walked me through the details of how they were moving slabs weighing up to one ton each into place. The stone used for these steps and the entry plaza is from the same quarry that supplied the pink granite for the Lady's pedestal. I was also very impressed with Larry Silgatti, with Phelps Construction Group. Larry created and welded the unique cradle rig that lifted the Torch from its place in the pedestal. This allowed it to be tilted and then moved through the huge copper

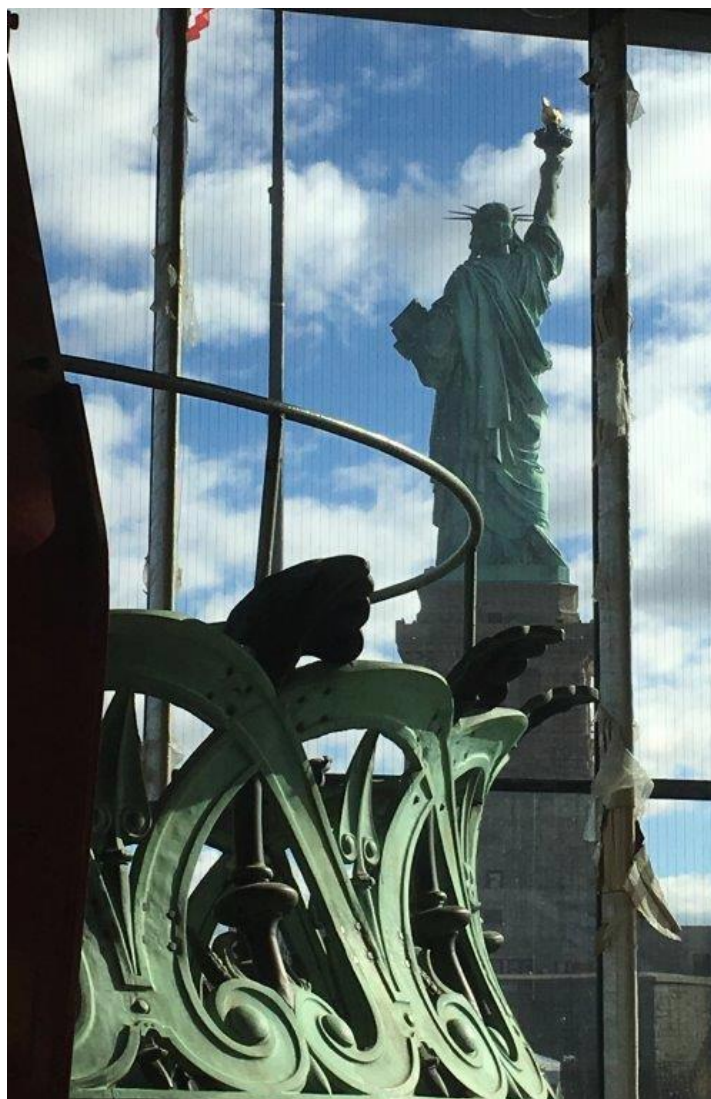
IMMERSION: The walk into the Museum's new interior takes visitors on a trip through the history and original construction of the Lady. The walls of the theatre are designed to replicate the wood molds used in the repousse process of the pounded copper for the Lady's skin. From the Immersive Theatre, which will have floor to ceiling screens in a surround design, to the Engagement Gallery which will have a replica of Bartholdi's Paris workshop, one is enveloped with the history of the Lady. Carpenters will reconstruct Bartholdi's shop from old photos so it will be historically accurate per Preston. The sounds and sights of the Lady's assemblage being performed will be a highlight of the new displays. From there the path will wind through the Park Service's display of memorabilia and how the Lady has influenced everything from art and advertising to politics.

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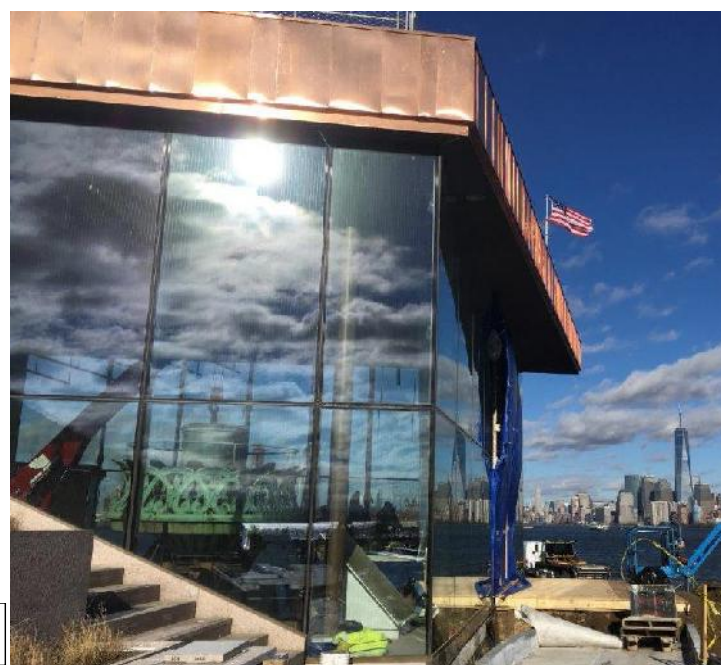
An Inspiration Gallery will be interactive, allowing visitors to select inspirational quotes and pictures that will then be made into an ever-evolving mosaic photo of the Lady on a digital display. Finally, one will be led into the Torch Gallery where the original torch is displayed surrounded by huge vista windows allowing for expansive backdrops of the Lady and the New York skyline across the Hudson. Beautiful, simply beautiful!

(I'd like to thank Emily for her assistance in coordinating my visit to the ESI studios and meeting with Preston.)

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ED: Part 2 of Lebo's article with more pictures will appear in our Summer 2019 newsletter.

From Iris November

Spring is on its way-- I hope! Though our winter here in Cleveland has not been bad, snow wise, the excessive cold temperatures have kept me inside more than usual. So, I have been purging and tossing, and otherwise organizing my "stuff"-- a tedious job. The funny thing is that I keep finding things that I thought were long gone.

The 3-D photos from my wedding to my first husband in 1952 and the viewer that went with them, I thought had been lost in many moves, were right there in a closet on the floor in a plastic bag! The kids will love to see them when they are here. Also, my Apple Computer, the one that came in colors like blueberry and tangerine, which I stopped using long ago but couldn't part with its colorful shell was on a top shelf in the storage locker-- who knew? It's not helping with the purging, but it sure is a pleasant surprise.

Ok --there is the elephant in the room, and I am trying not to pay attention to it. However, you all know me well enough that I can't ignore it, so here goes. How can I keep my feelings of love for this wonderful country we live in, and not be fearful that it is changing on both the national and international scene, in a very dangerous way? I'm not even sure what to do to assure myself, but I do believe that the ebb and flow of history will eventually resolve into a good solution and our country will be safe and our citizens will be united, and peace will reign. Amen!

I recently bought a t-shirt online that says "Build bridges, not walls" with a graphic of Miss Liberty surrounded by images of people of all diversities, races, faiths, and a bridge in the background. I wear it everywhere and people stop me or point at my shirt and nod their heads, so I am striking a note. So far no one has been rude or angry, so I feel good about that. I think there's a classified ad for it in this newsletter. (teespring.com --search by Build bridges not walls)

It's really attractive and I have it in 3 colors!!



Happy Spring, Easter, Passover, et al.

Love, Iris

ED: Iris requested I use her newsletter picture with the t-shirt she writes about for this newsletter only.



From the President Editorial Comment

This is the first Editorial I felt the need to write and it deals with the social and political symbolism that The Statue of Liberty is frequently used to express, more so the past two decades.

History would support my own collectable observations that Liberty was 'used' early in her American citizenship to advertise commercial products, on 'store cards', such as motor oil, peanuts and sewing thread.

As the world entered global wars, Liberty was used, on posters, in America to encourage the purchase of war bonds and to stimulate military enlistments.

I do not have a history of when Liberty was first used to express social/political comments, but she was the perfect American icon and the perfect symbol of American's many freedoms. Political and social comment, in the form of Liberty caricatures (cartoons), soon became a frequent part of the U.S. newspapers. A well-developed idea was adopted and Liberty caricatures became the 'voice' of pro/con activists. It seems that regardless of the

social/political point-of-view, Liberty caricatures can be developed to support any side of a social/political message. SLC *** ARCHIVE *** COPY

As today's America works through social and political divide, Liberty is very often in the media to emphasize an opinion on one of the many divisive issues that have America's focus. I have seen or been referred to many Liberty caricatures; as the primary Editor of our club's newsletter, I made the independent decision that none of the social/political cartoons should be included in the newsletter, regardless of my personal opinion.

The last Liberty caricature included in our newsletter was on page 4, Spring 2016 (March 2016) showing Liberty hugging France's Eiffel Tower after the November 13, 2015 Paris terrorist attack; this caricature showed Liberty's (USA) compassion for her French 'cousin'.

We are a club of many members and therefore many opinions so we must respect our members' individualism, but there should be no doubt that we respect America's best social values and Liberty's symbolic support of those values. I welcome your feedback on Liberty's use as a media for social/political commentary.

Attack in Alsace

Tuesday's, Dec. 11, killing of three people and wounding 13 others at the Christmas market, France's largest, in STRASBOURG, France ... about 1 hr drive north of Colmar, in the Alsace region of France.

The Christmas market in the French city of Strasbourg reopened two days after the attack carried out by a gunman on Tuesday evening.

Received December 13, 2018
from Christian Meyer

Dear friends

As we are heading to Christmas Holidays, a major symbol of our Alsatian Heritage has been attacked. The century old Christmas Market, called Christkindelmarik in Strasbourg. We feel disappointed by this unbelievable violence.

In this hardship, anyhow, we feel stronger than ever and united to cope with these dramatic events. Among various pictures seen on social media, one took my attention. We just would like to share it with you as a universal message of both peace and resilience.

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Translation in English.

We are enlightening the World with our Liberty ideals for more than 1000 Years. We are not afraid.

Your friends in Alsace

Roseline and Christian MEYER

Cherish Our Liberty.

Vince Swift



From The Vice
President

October 2019 Club
Meeting

You are invited to attend
the Club's NYC meeting
and island tours October
2-6, 2019.

Arrive on Wednesday on
your own. Thursday we will be on Ellis Island
with a Museum Collection Tour, of items not on
display, before lunch and a building tour after
lunch. Friday morning will be a guided tour of
the new museum by a representative of SOLEIF.
More tour details next month. If you are up for
the challenge, add PEDESTAL or CROWN passes
to your ferry boat ticket for Friday, see timing

below. It's beautiful inside and outside of the statue! Saturday night we will gather for our dinner and meeting. Depart Sunday on your own. There's plenty of free time at night, except for Saturday night, and all day on Saturday to sight see, explore museums, shop, or attend plays. There are 7 theaters located on the hotel's block, Booth, Schubert, Broadhurst, Majestic, Golden, Schoenfeld, and Jacobs.

The Official Club Hotel is Row NYC, 700 8th Ave at W 44th Street. This hotel is much newer and closer to Times Square than our previous location. As always, you are welcome to stay at any hotel of your choosing. We will meet as a group each morning to subway ourselves to Battery Park. Anyone wishing to Uber or Taxi to the Battery is fine too.

Booking at Row NYC is open. This hotel gave us a special rate and eliminated the \$40/night "resort fee". They have included for our group free continental breakfast each morning, free high-speed WiFi, and an automatic upgrade to a deluxe room. There's limited inventory, book your room early, our block of rooms expire on Wednesday, July 31st.

Booking your hotel using devices with different screen sizes gives a different experience on the exact steps used to book and where the group code is entered. To book your room using an iPad or larger screen device, go to ROWNYC.com, select reserve, enter your dates and select enter. Enter our group code STATUE, select reserve, room option should be Statue of Liberty Club Deluxe, then enter guest details. The Statue of Liberty Club's special offer should already be selected: Deluxe City View \$359 double or \$399 double/double. Don't select any of the "other available offers" as it will incur the \$40/night resort fee. Enter credit card details, no charge is made at time of booking, it's kept on file to guarantee the reservation. Select confirm booking then select view the confirmation to print the page. There will not be a portage charge or a resort fee. Using a smartphone, the box to enter the group code STATUE is found on the "special offer" drop down. If your dates are outside of our block you will get a "no rooms available" alert, email me and I'll get your dates added. Book by phone is also available by calling 212-869-3600 and give our code word.

Inventory is tight all over Manhattan as the first weekend in October is the giant ComicCon which draws over 200,000 attendees. As usual, it's a busy week in the city.

Purchase ferry tickets from StatueCruises.com only or call 877-LADYTIX. October ticketing is scheduled to open on May 1st. I suggest checking a few times in April should they open October early as crown passes can sell out very quickly. On Thursday October 3rd, you will need a New York Reserve ferry pass for the first morning ferry over, adult \$18.50 as of printing.

On Friday October 4th you have several ticket options. New York Reserve is the ferry pass only to Liberty Island, New York Reserve with Pedestal gets access to the top of the pedestal but no access to the crown; both options are \$18.50. The New York Reserve with Crown Access gets pedestal access too at \$21.50. The higher you go up the monument the less passes per hour are available. Senior prices are less and all prices and descriptions are subject to change. For all tickets purchase the earliest morning listed. If you are getting pedestal or crown access added you can access those locations at any time that day.

Saturday night's group dinner and meeting location is to be determined. We anticipate upwards of \$125 per person for dinner. Hey, it's New York, we will do everything possible to keep the cost as low as possible while providing a good dining experience close to the hotel.

We are looking forward to a fun time to hang out together and see the sites. If this is your first trip to NYC, now is the best time as you will be with some seasoned travelers. I believe this will be my 17th trip to the city, not bad for living in California. We will also have some locals joining us, the real experts on enjoying the city.

Our Saturday night dinner and meeting is very important to discuss future NYC and Europe trips as well as the Club's direction. Got something to say or looking to help shape the club, this is the meeting for you. Join us for an experience.

More tour details and a registration form coming in the July newsletter but don't wait that long to act.

26 Renewing Members ... Thank You

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mary & Dennis Ackley | Tom Lofton |
| Joan Adelman | Gail & Alan Marder |
| Laura Cortner | Nancy Martinez |
| Ronald Cutadean | Harry Misuriello |
| Michael J Forster | Joyce & Ted Mueller |
| Louisa French | Tony Parreta |
| Kitty Gustafson | Lolly & Steve Sample |
| Asher Hetrick, Jr | Sarah Sharpe |
| Robert R. Hieronimus | Kathy Sheeran |
| Morgan L. Jones | Ted Smardz |
| Patricia Krauchune | Mary Lou Sulecki |
| Jon Kring | Vincent Swift |
| Cheryl Lewis | Jean Wiart |

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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

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Join the Club or Renew Your Membership 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/join/

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.

1 New Members ... Welcome!

Carl Balestracci, Jr.
 [Redacted] 37-2230

Liberty Sighting submitted by Judy Gambrel
 Madison's own Statue of Liberty first appeared on Lake Mendota in 1979. An arsonist destroyed the original Lady Liberty, but a fireproof replica occasionally graced the lake's icy surface in the years since. On Friday, she returned for the first time since 2010.
 Marking the return of a tradition that dates back 40 years ago this month, a to-scale replica of Lady Liberty's head, arm and torch is inflated on the surface of Lake Mendota near the UW-Madison Memorial Union. JOHN HART from: Wisconsin State Journal Feb. 2, 2019



URL#	Internet Address	Our Club's Website Address is: www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com
1	www.ROWNYC.com	~ Hotel for club's October 3-5 New York City meeting
2	www.StatueCruises.com	~ Site to purchase tickets for ferry to Liberty Island and Ellis Island