

LADY LIBERTY

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Board Representatives: Marvin and Dianne Polan, Melville, NY

The Lady Liberty Chapter has currently 47 families (64 individuals) who have paid their dues for 2009. A few people decided not to renew due to health problems. Every year we have people who think that they have paid, even though they have received numerous notices, electronically, hard copies and by phone. Most of these usually pay eventually.

The usual organ rally at Coney Island was not held due to a very early date and the very cold and rainy weather.

Our first meeting of the year was on Jan. 5th at the home of Paul Cancia and Dennis Westervelt in New Jersey. This was actually the Dec. 2007 meeting, but was delayed due to weather and holidays. We enjoyed a great meal, the Hupfeld Violina, Mills Violano, a disc phonograph that used a violin as the speaker, various reproducing pianos and many other marvelous instruments, all of which have been restored to "new" condition.

On April 26th we met at the home of Joe and Judy Hanulec on Long Island. As always there, the star of the show was the Wurlitzer Pianorchestra model 33-A. Three videos of this instrument have now been placed on You Tube. Also, two CD's of music from this instrument are available from Joe Hanulec, Walter Kehow or Bob Stuhmer. The instrument is also for sale. Other instruments there are several reproducing pianos, a Mills Violano and assorted music boxes. The chapter also held our first pumper contest on the newly restored 66/88 player piano. The winner according to the panel of judges was Joe Hutter. Since we don't have a "Footsie" we substituted with a CD of Bob Berkman's Klezmerola CD. By the way, if anyone reading this has yet to purchase that CD, they are missing out on some fantastic music.

On June 21st we met at Bob Stuhmer's house for lunch and were entertained by his Wurlitzer 103 band organ, which he kept in his dining room. (He has since sold it and is in the process of replacing it with a larger instrument.) Bob arranges rolls for Wurlitzer 125 and larger band organs, many of which are now found in theme parks and on carousels across the country. His Halloween rolls are favorites in October. We then caravanned to close-by Chaminade High School and were entertained on their large pipe organ by fellow chapter member, Keith Gramlich. The organ was rescued from an old theater in Queens Village, which is now a church and the console was rescued from another theater, whose owners now wish that they had it back.

On Thursday evening, September 25th we had a special meeting at the home of Marvin and Dianne Polan with special guest, Hi Babit. These meetings are always well-attended. Ira Malek and Walter Kehoe sang nearly every song from the 1920-s and 1930's. I don't think Hi was able to stump them on even one obscure number. We all sang some of the songs, laughed a lot and had a great time.

In December we met at the wonderful home of Glenn Thomas and his wife Kim Kleason in Belle Meade, NJ where we saw his new music room that contained an almost finished Wurlitzer 165 band organ (waiting for the restored façade), and several other instruments waiting in line to be fully restored. We enjoyed the newly acquired Link and many other instruments. Among those in attendance were 11 people who are now restoring, or have restored, mechanical musical instruments. We were overjoyed to learn that our chapter has so many talented people in this field. We also have other restorers who were not able to make it to the meeting.

No officers were vacating their positions, so we did not need to have elections this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin and Dianne Polan, Board Representatives Melville, NY