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Liberty is an exceptional lady



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. One of The Big Apple's most popular sightseeing attractions, the Statue of Liberty draws nearly two million visitors yearly. Located on Liberty Island off the tip of Battery Park in Lower Manhattan, the Statue (open every day of the year) is being spruced up in preparation for her 100th birthday. The American Museum of Immigration is housed in the base.

*Feature and Photos
by Arline Zatz*

New York/New Jersey--Not too many ladies admit their true age, but Liberty is an exception. Not only will she be celebrating her 100th birthday this year, but she doesn't mind if the entire world knows about her recent surgery.

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi would be happy to know that restoration work was a success on the sculpture he created and named "La Liberte Eclairant," meaning "Liberty Enlightening the World." Later shortened to "Liberty," most people refer to the lady as the "Statue of Liberty."

Presented to us in 1886 by the French government to commemorate the alliance of France and the United States during the American Revolution, the sculpture represents many things. The flaming torch symbolizes liberation, dignity and authority, while the seven spikes in the crown represent liberty radiating to each of the seven continents and seven seas. The broken shackles at the statue's feet signify freedom from tyranny, and to further the link with the American republic, Bartholdi sculptured a tablet bearing

the date July 4, 1776, for the Declaration of Independence.

Although the Statue was a gift and France transported her here, it was agreed that we would design and pay for her pedestal. However, in 1885, the committee in charge of collecting donations realized there was a problem--while businesses were donating, individuals were not. Many people thought the Statue was sheer folly. Finally, thanks to the efforts of Joseph Pulitzer, Americans changed their minds. He began a fundraising campaign which literally appealed to our pride, promising that he'd publish the name of every giver in his newspaper, the "World" no matter how small the donation. Contributions poured in--dimes, quarters and half-dollars. School children helped tremendously: finally one day the paper announced over \$100,000 had been collected from 120,000 people.

Liberty stands on an island previously used as a fishing ground, quarantine station, hospital base, fort, farm, gallows, military prison and dump. It was first named Minissais (lesser island) by the Indians, but colonists

called it Great Oyster Island. When the Statue was placed on it, the island was called Bedloe Island after Isaac Bedloe, its first owner. In 1956 Congress renamed it Liberty Island.

The Statue of Liberty, belonging to every U.S. Citizen and taxpayer, is a sight to behold year round. Once inside, visitors will soon again be whisked up to an outdoor observation balcony at the top of the pedestal. Wear comfortable shoes and prepare for a long climb; there are 168 steps each way in the spiral stairway leading to two rest platforms. It's thrilling to stand in Liberty's head viewing New York harbor and the tablet in her left hand.

Inspiring to all who see her, not only is her size impressive--she stands 151 feet on a pedestal 89 feet high, and rests on the 65-foot, star-shaped base of old Fort Wood--but so are the words fastened to her base written by Emma Lazarus in 1883, "The New Colossus," reading: "Give me your tired, your poor, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, Please turn to page 13

DECA students sponsor award-winning banquet

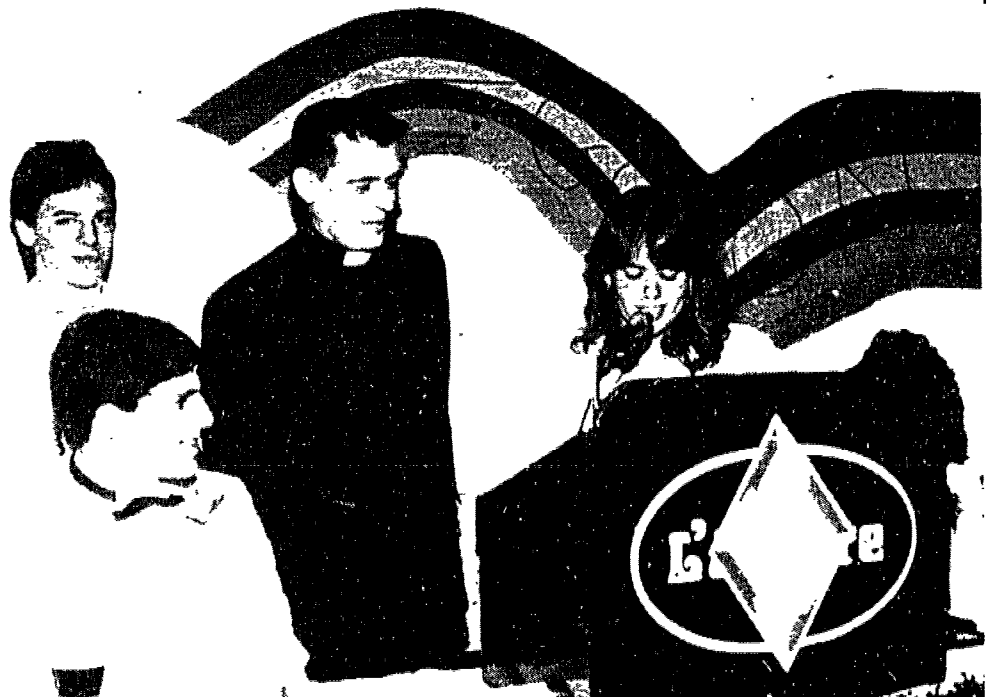
For 16 years, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) has been sponsoring a year end Recognition Banquet which has been called by many as our community's 'Social Event of the Year'. Last week DECA's 16th annual Banquet proved to be as entertaining an evening one could hope to attend, as 60 DECA students staged a spectacular Awards Dinner at L'Affaire Restaurant. Five hundred and twenty, including school administrators and staff, business leaders who employ the students as part of the school's Marketing Program, local and state political leaders, parents, civic leaders and DECA Alumni, sat witness to a fast paced, emotional and fun filled

evening as DECA students, showing all the poise and confidence gained through DECA, presented awards to many who have assisted DECA during the year. Entertainment was provided with a colorful and entertaining fashion show staged by DECA students and coordinated by Alumna Dana Brockett.

The awards program, emceed by Chapter President Denise Aversa, began with 30 businesses and over 100 managers honored for their participation with the Marketing Program. DECA also recognized Outstanding Employers of the Year. They included Robert Amberg Sr. of Hershey's Deli, Paula Leighton of the Beautiful Things Factory, Marion Urban and Roger Millard of Sears Roebuck & Co.,

and Anne Sobel and Richard Anderson of Lincoln Federal Savings. Each was presented with a plaque for his or her service to Marketing Education and DECA.

DECA's highest award, their Honorary Life Membership which many have compared to being named 'citizen of the year', was presented to Chuck Dettmar, a High School Business Education teacher who is retiring after 38 years, Mickey Yessman, secretary at the High School and Father John L. Doherty of St. Bart's Church, with whom DECA has been working on food drives for 12 years. Other retiring high school staff members recognized were Secretary Elsie King, and George Esposito, Business Education Department Chairperson, both



Christine Flauraud, right, is presenting the Honorary Life Membership award to Father John L. Doherty, center, of St. Bart's Church, as Marc Sorkin, front, and Chris Aversa, back, look on.

Honorary Life Members of DECA. High School Principal, Dr. Terry Riegel also received a

special award for his support of DECA and other youth groups. Riegel also the subject of

humorous presentation which seems to be becoming another DECA tradition. Please turn to page 19