Manual Elevator Still Around

According to the building’s website the building was remodeled in 1895 to be a home to working artist. In the Fine Arts Building today some of the services you’ll find available are a violin maker, a yoga studio, and a bookstore. As stated in multiple travelling sites, many of the passengers find it an intimate experience riding the elevator with an attendant who is familiar with them and who knows what floor they will be exiting from. They have found it quite refreshing allowing them to experience in the present time a lost tradition from many years ago. Both elevator operators, Mr. Wacław Gutt and Mr. Wacław Kalata, were neighbors in Poland when skilled attendants were needed at least 25 years ago. Not only does the elevator feel as it is from another time but is also offers a great connection of neighbors from another country who became friends across the Atlantic. They both mentioned to The Last Holdouts that as long as the elevators keep running they plan to operate them.

The Last Holdouts.

The Fine Arts Building has maintained a traditional style elevator that has dark gold doors, embossed with raised carvings of wreaths that also includes glass doors. The design of the elevator dates back to 1885 along with other traditions. The elevator in this building is far from quiet and has plenty of “elevator talk” through out the day as passengers boarding shout out floor destinations. Although this may appear to be a normal elevator, this is far from ordinary as you will not find any buttons to press. What you will see inside the elevator, is an elevator operator who manually uses the lever to shift the car to floors going up and down. As technology and innovation advances this unit is among the last of it’s kind in the Chicagoland area with an attendant operating the elevator.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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                        | Lamb Little Speaker |
| Thursday March 1st      | CEA Meeting Oakbrook
                        | Helios Speaker |
| Thursday April 5th      | CEA Meeting Oakbrook
                        | GAL Speaker |
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                        | Hawthorne Race Track |

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