



The Franklin Inn Club

Newsletter

April 2009

Club Calendar

Call Steward Shefqet at 215-732-0334 to reserve for all meals and events. For reduced fee parking at Central Garage at 12th and Sansom, ask your waiter or Shefqet for a coupon (for three or twelve hours) to present with your parking chit.

Note that regular evening parking rates Sunday to Wednesday may be the same as, or lower than, the reduced day rate given to the Club.

The Club is now open 10:00 to 5:00 daily for members' convenience. The computer is available in the first floor bar area.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. April 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Innmate Howard Lewis, the perfect Philadelphia lawyer, will discuss how the Pennsylvania Historic Society reorganized itself to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. April 6, 12:30-1:30 pm. Art historian and dealer Douglas Schaller will be quarterback.

Board Meeting, Tues. April 7, 6:00 pm. The meeting will begin promptly and will be followed by a Buffet Supper with wine. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. April 9, 12:30-1:30 pm. Sam Katz, expert on municipal financing, former aide to Pennsylvania House Speaker Herbert Fineman, and twice the Republican candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, will talk about his projected film history of our city and show clips from it.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. April 13, 12:30-1:30 pm. Dennis Faucher will lead the discussion.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. April 16, 12:30-1:30 pm. Laurence Saltzman, photographer and anthropologist, who is the proprietor of the photo and cultural Gallery West, will talk of his work and show some of his outstanding photographs.

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Inn Dinner Greet Spring with *Granting the Seasons*

Nathan Sivin, past president of the Franklin Inn Club (1995-1997) described at the Club's March 27th Dinner the culmination of his thirty years of research on the Chinese Astronomical Reform of 1280.



His scholarly work, *Granting the Seasons*, describes the system of computational astronomy created for the Mongol emperor who conquered China in the thirteenth century and provides both an overview of Chinese astronomy and a complete translation of the records provided by Chinese scholars and scientists of the time.

When Chinese emperors "granted the seasons," they were providing an almanac containing a lunisolar calendar from which it was possible to predict eclipses of the sun and moon.

Professor Sivin discussed the philosophy and politics of the Yuan dynasty; he noted in passing that bureaucracy was invented in China, and commented on the difficulty of explaining some Chinese concepts in Western words. Discussion following his talk ranged from comparisons of the philosophies of ancient China and ancient Greece to a comparison between the Chinese almanac and Benjamin Franklin's almanac.

Dr. Sivin is Professor Emeritus of Chinese Culture and of the History of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of M.I.T. and of Harvard. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, has travelled in the Far East, and has published extensively on Chinese culture and science. On the flyleaf of the copy he has given the Franklin Inn, Nathan has promised "Any member who reads this book from beginning to end will be entitled--after a brief written examination--to be my guest for lunch."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Casinos in Philadelphia?

First of Evening Buffet Series

Jethro Heiko, a founder and director of Casino Free Philadelphia (267-984-3493), launched the Club's evening night buffet series on Tuesday, March 24, with a discussion of the risks casinos pose Philadelphia.

Casino Free opposes the predatory aim of the casino industry's plan to place casinos in established Philadelphia neighborhoods. This project will degrade neighborhoods by increasing traffic flow, lowering real estate values, and damaging local businesses which will be unable to compete with the subsidized restaurants and free liquor casinos provide. Casinos will encourage gambling addictions in vulnerable populations. Already almost 50% of the addicted are women, and the court system is experiencing the fallout from resulting bankruptcies and embezzlements. In addition, casinos distract from and undercut Philadelphia's heritage tourism industry.

The current proposals, which remain in flux, are to open the Sugar House casino on the waterfront, 194 feet from the nearest houses. A second casino, Foxwoods, is now proposed for Market Street, at the former Strawbridge and Clothier department store. To provide the necessary zoning for Foxwoods, a Commercial Entertainment District is being established, extending from the south side of 6th and Chestnut (or possibly Walnut), north to Arch and West to Broad Street. ~ Norma Van Dyke

The Franklin Inn Club
205 South Camac Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Telephone: 215-732-0334
www.franklininn.org

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FRANKLIN INN COMMITTEES: What They Offer

The Membership Committee, chaired by Lou Bluver (215-636-0880 or LSBTravel@aol.com), is vital to the life and health of the Franklin Inn Club. Members of that committee include the following:

Charles Barringer (cmbarringer@gmail.com)

Margot Barringer (mydogbone@aol.com)

Jonas Brachfeld (jonas@brachfeld.org)

Ann Kalbach (215-620-6770)

Dan Rottenberg (d.rottenberg@verizon.net)

Audrey Walters (215-665-8876)

Prospective members need to submit a brief resume of their activities and interests, and two letters from members supporting their candidacy (one from the proposer, a second from a sponsor). The applications are reviewed by the Committee and the Board.

Bring anyone to visit who might make a good addition to the Club, and notify Lou or one of the members of his committee. On page 3 you will find a voucher which authorizes members to bring a prospect as a guest of the Club to either a luncheon or to one of Lou's inimitable Exceptional Screenings.

The Program Committee organizes the series of Roundtables, Monday Morning Quarterbacks, Buffets, Dinners, Film Screenings and Forums which are the lifeblood of the Club. Chair Lenora Berson (215-732-4070 or lenora113026@aol.com) regards the total membership as her committee and welcomes the input of all Innmates. She clears and schedules all programs.

Particularly active in recent weeks have been Gresham Riley, Lou Bluver, Jan Gordon, Teddy Ashmead, Dan Larkin, Mickey Herr, Howard Lewis, Nathan Sivin, and Norma Van Dyke.

The House Committee is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Club House and its collections. Charlie Hancock, Chair (215-545-0770 or bluefeya@gmail.com), has carefully reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the facility and compiled an exhaustive list of the work needed, which the Board has taken under full advisement to be attended to as funds become available. He has also compiled a list of reliable repairmen for the Club's use.

The Food Committee works with Chef David Heydt to meet the Club's culinary needs. Chair Cynthia Adams (215-627-6363 or cynthiadams.com) particularly requests that Innmates remember to RESERVE, RESERVE, RESERVE--twenty-four hours in advance for any program, lunch, or dinner at the Inn. "Both quality and quantity depend upon your reserving in advance." Her Co-Chair, Helen Pratt, can be reached at hnmarch@aol.com.

The Finance Committee, chaired by William J.D. Jordan (215-732-7495 or quincy24@verizon.net) oversees Club finances.

Palmer Hartle (215-925-1992 or kphartl@aol.com) has been appointed Chair of an **Ad Hoc Committee to Review the By-Laws**, with the objective of recommending those changes which will bring them in line with the current needs of the Club. A preliminary review has led Palmer to conclude that "one of the main questions will be defining who we are as a club."

Club Calendar

Hamlet Dinner, Fri. April 17; 5:30 pm Cocktails, 6:15 pm Presentation followed by Dinner. Celebrate Shakespeare's birthday! Charles McMahon, Director of the Lantern Theatre's production of *Hamlet* will preside. Innmates will remember Charles McMahon, Artistic Director of the Lantern Theatre, from February's "Sexy Sonnets." Two blue tickets.

Buffet Dinner and Performance of Hamlet, SATURDAY, April 18, 6:30 pm Dinner; 8:00 pm Curtain at St. Stephen's Theatre (10th and Ludlow). Innmates can get discounted tickets (\$31.00 instead of \$35.00) by telephoning Lantern Theatre at 215-829-0395 and mentioning the Franklin Inn Club. Tickets are going fast. *Separate reservations must be made at Franklin Inn for the Buffet Dinner.*

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. April 20, 12:30-1:30 pm. President Deborah Goldstein will facilitate the discussion.

Exceptional Film Screenings, Mon. April 20, 6:00 pm Buffet Supper, followed by film at 7:00 pm. Lou Bluver presents *The Saltmen of Tibet*. "Ravishing! The closest you'll get to a Himalayan trek without bringing your own Yak!" (*New York Post*) Official Selection at Sundance Film Festival. "Riveting! Brings us into an exotic, self-contained culture as privileged observers." (*Variety*). More on p. 4.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. April 23, 12:30-1:30 pm. Raquel Evita Saraswat will introduce Innmates to the Changing Role of Muslim Women.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. April 27, 12:30-1:30 pm. Don Harrison will be Quarterback.

Buffet Dinner, Tues. April 28, 6:00 pm. No program. Just Conversation. This is to provide Innmates with the chance for a light supper with other Innmates.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. April 30, 12:30-1:30 pm. Virtuoso flutist Mimi Stillman, Yamaha Performing Artist, is the founder and Artistic Director of the Dolce Suono Chamber Music Concert Series and a PhD candidate in history at the University of Pennsylvania.

Daniel Hoffman Accepts Award from LSU and will speak at Rosenbach

The Louisiana State University Press has awarded Innmate Daniel Hoffman the 2009 Phillabaum Poetry Prize for his latest collection of poetry, *The Whole Nine Yards*, to be published by the press this month. The collection spans the work of Hoffman's long career and includes serious poems on life and death, lighter poems on New England life, and lyrical celebrations of love and childbirth.



On the 22nd of April, Dan will appear at the Rosenbach Museum in a program honoring the poetry of his late wife, Elizabeth McFarland, which will be on display from April 18-26 as part of the Museum's observance of National Poetry Month. Dan will speak at 6 pm about Liz's life and her poems will be read by Nathalie Anderson, the Rosenbach's poet-in-residence.

Progress on FIC'S Co-operation with Preservation Alliance

Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP have received \$4,886.75 for legal fees to pay for researching the question of whether the Preservation Alliance could receive contributions from members of the Franklin Inn Club to fund a capital program for the preservation of the historic building and collections of the Club which would allow those contributions to be tax deductible for contributing Innmates. These fees were paid by gifts from four members of the Inn on February 26th through contributions to the Preservation Alliance.

Gregory Harvey has been the go-between who helped make these arrangements for the Club. He is no longer a partner of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP and does not share in legal fees the firm receives for business done on behalf of the Franklin Inn Club.

New in the Library

New acquisitions of recently published works by Innmates in the Inn Library are:

Peter Collinson and the Eighteenth-Century Natural History Exchange, by Jean O'Neill and FIC member Elizabeth P. McLean.

Death of a Gunfighter: The Quest for Jack Slade, the West's Most Elusive Legend, by Daniel Rottenberg.

Granting the Seasons, by Nathan Sivin.

May Preview

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. May 5, 12:30-1:30 pm. To be announced.

Board Meeting, Tues. May 6, 6:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. May 7, 12:30-1:30 pm. Come hear Joe Paprzycki, Playwright and Producing Artistic Director of the South Camden Theatre Co. got help from the Heart of Camden and the Domenica Foundation to build a 99-seat Waterfront South Theatre in Camden. Scheduled to open in September 2009, the SCTC confounds those doubters who claimed "No one will come."

COMPLIMENTARY MEAL COUPON

YOUR GUEST IS OUR GUEST

The Board invites you to bring a guest to your choice of Monday or Thursday Luncheon or an Exceptional Film Screening and Buffet Supper at no charge to you. Simply make your reservation in advance, specify you are bringing a "Free Guest" and provide his name.

LOU BLUVER'S EXCEPTIONAL FILM SCREENING presents;

THE SALTMEN OF TIBET

Shot under extreme conditions in one of the world's most remote locations, THE SALTMEN OF TIBET is a work of sublime beauty and epic scale. It documents the ancient traditions and day-to-day rituals of a Tibetan nomadic community untainted by foreign invasion or encroaching modernity. Four men meticulously plan their grueling three-month yak caravan to fetch the "tears of Tara," the precious salt from the holy lakes of Northern Tibet. "Profoundly absorbing! A spiritual palate-cleanser--" *New York Times*; "Dazzling, jaw-droppingly beautiful cinematography--" *New York Post*, "SPECTACULAR, Poetry in motion!--" *Newsday*.

At the Franklin Inn Club on Monday Evening, April 20. A delicious buffet dinner will be served, and, as always, there will also be a unique collection of vintage films from Lou's private archives. Only ONE Blue Ticket, with Popcorn included!