



The Franklin Inn Club

Newsletter

February 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 am to 5:00 pm daily for members' convenience. The computer is available in the first floor bar area.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Episcopal clergyman and management consultant Palmer Hartl will look at the news and opinion from an ethical point of view.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 5, 12:30-1:30 pm. Philadelphia City Paper music critic Peter Burwasser will anticipate the Cleveland Orchestra's Feb. 8 performance of Shostakovich's Lenin-grad Symphony. He celebrates the composer's personal bravery in his conflict with Stalin, considers music as political propaganda, and explores the revisionist theory that the music is an anti-Stalin statement in code.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 9, 12:30-1:30 pm. College president and educator Gresham Riley will choose from the potpourri of weekend opinion to lead the discussion.

Film Screening, Tues. Feb. 10, 6:00 pm Buffet Supper, followed by film at 7:00 pm. *Trapped by the Mormons* is a notorious 1922 British silent film, based on Winifred Graham's 1911 book, part of an energetic anti-Mormon campaign in Great Britain. Scenes showing the reaction of members of the Mormon Church in Utah will follow. Thoms Edison's 1905 short film, *A Trip to Salt Lake City*, will also be shown. One blue ticket. (Cont. p.3)

ANNUAL MEETING AND WM. WHITE DINNER January 16, 2009



Final Report of Outgoing President: "A slow-motion roller coaster [ride] from embezzlement to sewer collapse" is how out-going President Janice Gordon wryly described the five years of her tenure. The Board has followed closely the process of partial reimbursement of missing funds. The sewer collapse in mid-December was an unexpected blow and is costing \$17,000 to repair. Insurance covers only \$2,600.

In the meantime, much has been done to increase the comfort of members at the Club. Most recently a new chef, David Heyde, was hired and the position of Club Steward was initiated and filled by Shefqet Osmanollaj. Having a steward allows the Club to stay open from 10 am to 5 pm, ensures proper maintenance of the facilities, and responsible record keeping of daily activities, like the sale of meal tickets.

Charles Hancock has made a thorough study of the Club building, identifying structural and electrical weaknesses. Implementation of a plan to correct problems could cost \$80,000 or more. The Board is working on obtaining tax-exempt status to help raise the money to pay for the renovations.

With the help of Wesley Parrott, the Club has cleaned up the process of dues billing and has begun bringing the member directory up to date. At the end of 2008, bills were sent out to 161 individuals. Seventy-six members sent in their checks early to help pay sewer repairs. Reminders are being sent out to the 65 members of the Club who have not yet replied. In 2008, urban activist Judith Eden and classicist Professor John Hunt died, as well as former member Whitfield Bell.

Dr. Gordon stressed the importance of increasing membership enrollment. Lou Bluver has introduced a plan to stimulate applications by offering members the opportunity to bring prospects to a Monday Quarterback, a Thursday Roundtable or a Film Night at Club expense. Members can use the visitor's coupon on the last page of their Newsletter.



Treasurer's Report: Dr. Gordon introduced Treasurer Dr. George Fisher, who, despite the ordeal of a collapsing sewer and neighbors who had poked holes in the Clubhouse roof, succeeded, as Jan put it, in imposing fiscal responsibility on Club finances. He was happy to report that the "Club is solvent." As of mid-January Club income was \$58,000, expenses \$59,000.

(Cont. p.2)

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

President

A. DEBORAH GOLDSTEIN, MD

Vice President

AVI EDEN

Treasurer

MICKEY HERR

Recording Secretary

NORMA VAN DYKE

Immediate Past President

JANICE GORDON, PhD

Board of Directors

CYNTHIA ADAMS
CHARLES HANCOCK
K. PALMER HARTLE
GREGORY M. HARVEY, Esq.
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Finance Committee Chair

WILLIAM J.D. JORDAN

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Program Committee Chair

LENORA BERSON

Building Committee Chair

CHARLES HANCOCK

Food Committee Co-Chairs

CYNTHIA ADAMS
HELEN PRATT

Wine Steward

NATHAN SIVIN

Newsletter Editor

MARTHA GOPPELT

Executive Chef

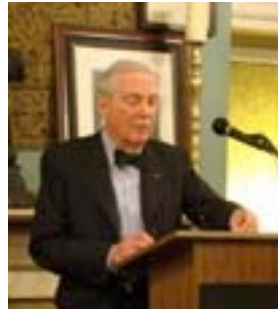
DAVID HEYDT

Steward

SHEFQET OSMANOLLAJ

ANNUAL MEETING and Wm. White Dinner (cont.)

Treasurer's Report (cont.): Questions from the floor led to the reminder that the Club owes approximately \$21,600 to two members and to a brief discussion of what the Club has recouped from the embezzlement. Gregory Harvey was asked to discuss the Club's negotiations with the Preservation Alliance for help in acquiring a 501c3 status which would allow members to make tax exempt gifts to preserve the Club's historic premises and collections. He and Dr. Fisher then discussed the Club's negotiations with the IRS in respect to back taxes.



Report of the Nominating Committee: Nathan Sivin, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 2009, which was accepted by the membership:

President: A. Deborah Goldstein, MD, PhD

Vice-President: Avi Eden

Treasurer: Mickey Herr

Secretary: Norma Van Dyke

Board of Directors: K. Palmer Hartl and Wesley Parrott (3 yrs.), Douglas Schaller (2 yrs.), Charles Hancock (1 yr.)

Incumbent Directors: Cynthia Adams (1 yr.), Gregory M. Harvey (2 yrs.)

Past President Margot Barringer spoke of the honor it had been to know and work with Janice Gordon, and presented her with a gift from the Nominating Committee.

The **J. William White Dinner** followed with the traditional toasts.

Once again, **George Fisher** invited Innmates to toast **J. William White**, whose legacy to the Inn is the inspiration for the Club's Annual Winter Dinner. Reminiscing about Dr. White's "wild and glamorous life," George described how White would have died in a duel with fellow First City Trooper Adams had Adams been a better shot. (Too much the gentleman, White had fired to the sky, but Adams had taken deliberate, if inaccurate, aim.) George reminded his audience that White is the surgeon who is actually operating in Thomas Eakins' famous painting of the Agnew Clinic.

Innmate **Charlotte Phelps** raised her glass in honor of the Inn's patron saint **Benjamin Franklin** and his relationship with Mme. Brillon, wife a French treasury official, who flirted with Franklin and vetted his French letters, while assuring him that he should not worry about his grammar. "Leave grammar to the academicians!" In more informal moments, Mme. Brillon soaked in her covered bath while Franklin kept her company and played chess.

The Club also remembered its founder and first president, **Silas Weir Mitchell**. **Theodore Friend** offered a thoughtful appreciation of his work as a physician treating hysteria and neurasthenia at a time when mental illness was the short road to the madhouse. Whatever critics may think of his rest cure, one should remember that he was among the first to see mental illness as "common and treatable." Mitchell knew his own worth and did not allow himself to be diminished. Sargent might assure Mitchell that "at least" the portrait he had painted of Mitchell was "a Sargent," but Mitchell could reply that "Yes, and it is of S. Weir Mitchell!"

Club Schedule (cont.)

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 12, 12:30-1:30 pm. *Sexy Sonnets Part IV.* In time for Valentine's Day, Charles McMahon, Artistic Director of Lantern Theatre Co. will return for the program. Mr. McMahon, Shakespearean actor and director, will provide a brief background to the sonnets, followed by a recitation and explication of favorite and obscure sonnets. There will perhaps be a surprise actor guest. Audience participation is encouraged.

Club Dinner, Fri. Feb. 13, 5:30 pm Cocktails; 6:30 pm an illustrated presentation by architectural historian Roger Moss and photographer Tom Crane on *Historic Landmarks of Philadelphia*, the third in their series of books on Philadelphia's architectural treasures. A former Innmate, Mr. Moss is Emeritus Executive Director of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. Fox Bookstore will be present with copies of this book and the two earlier volumes in the series. \$34.95 plus tax for Vol. 3. \$39.95 plus tax for Vols. 1 and 2. Two blue tickets.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 16, 12:30-1:30 pm. City Hall afficianada Lenora Berson will be quarterback.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 19, 12:30-1:30 pm. Philadelphia author, Cordelia Frances Biddle, will introduce the second of her Martha Beale mystery novels, *Deception's Daughter*. The Martha Beale mysteries are set in 19th-century Philadelphia.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 23, 12:30-1:30 pm. Attorney Dan Larkin will play devil's advocate.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 16, 12:30-1:30 pm. Why are they doing MRIs of the Mutter's skull collection at Penn? Robert Hicks, PhD, Director of the Mutter Museum, will discuss "how the Mutter Museum collections are used in modern medical research." Dr. Hicks holds the Measey Chair in the History of Medicine and is also the director of the Historical Medical Library at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

CHARGE TO THE 2009 BOARD

At its first meeting on January 27th the 2009 Board recognized its responsibility for the fiscal and physical well-being of the Club, as well as the general well-being and satisfaction of the membership. To this end it plans to work closely with the Finance Committee and the Treasurer regarding long-range financial support. It is also turning its attention to the work facing the House Committee regarding repairs and alterations.

Incoming Treasurer's Report

Incoming Treasurer Mickey Herr has spent the last two weeks of January familiarizing herself with the Club's financial operations. Building on the changes instituted by George Fisher, she has started working with the new accountant and is installing an on-line Quick Books connection which will allow her more efficiently to separate the accounting for different funds. She has closely examined the financial records for food service and has determined that we are losing money, not on the food, but on service. At the moment we have a healthy bank balance, but she needs to determine what exactly we will need to carry us through 2009.

Report from the Membership Committee

The Haney Stipend of \$150 has been offered to and accepted by Thom Nickels who has been elected to Membership at the Franklin Inn Club. He is an author, journalist, poet, and film critic who has published six books. One of his works, *Philadelphia Architecture*, won the AIA Journalism Award in 2005.

Thom Nickels: 2643 Mercer Street, Phila. PA 19125; Tel.: 215-291-9202; e-mail: thomnickels1@aol.com.

Reminder: Bring a friend, at CLUB EXPENSE, who might be interested in joining the Franklin Inn. Be sure to alert Lou Bluver or Deborah Goldstein if this is someone the Club should follow up. See last page for a coupon!

March Preview

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. March 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Retired computer facility manager and Delaware County political activist David Freeman is the quarterback.

Board Meeting, Tues. March 3, 6:00 pm. No dinner but snacks will be provided.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. March 5, 12:30-1:30 pm. To be announced.

Quarterback Luncheon, Tues. March 9, 12:30-1:30 pm. Art dealer and art historian Douglas Schaller will lead the discussion.

Gresham Riley Recommends

If your interest has been stimulated by Dennis Faucher's spirited Quarterback discussion or by recent events in the Moslem world, I recommend two articles rich in information and suggestions for moving forward in the Feb. 12 issue of *The New York Review of Books*.

1) William Dalrymple's review "Pakistan in Peril" of Ahmed Rashid's new book *Descent into Chaos, the United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia*, pp. 39ff.

2) An essay, "How to Deal with Iran," by Bill Luers, Tom Pickering and Jim Walsh, pp. 45 ff.



*Ben Franklin escorts another fille belle,
FIC President, Deborah Goldstein.*

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. This offer applies until February 15, 2009, so extend your invitation soon.