



At the Inn

News from the Franklin Inn Club

February 2010

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.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 1, 12:30-1:30 pm. Clergyman and management consultant Palmer Hartl will provide *ante diem* Groundhog forecasts.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 4, 12:30-1:30 pm. "Share your thoughts." Come discuss possible topics for participatory discussion groups and Roundtable Luncheons. New member and Program Committee Chair Brearley Karsch will solicit suggestions. Brearley: "We have a wealth of skills and knowledge among our members. Let's use them."

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 8, 12:30-1:30 pm. Lenora Berson presides.

Board Meeting, Wed. Feb. 10, 6:00 pm, followed by Buffet Supper at 7:00 pm. All Innmates are invited/encouraged to attend the meeting and dinner. 1 blue ticket.

Sexy Sonnets Part V, Thurs. Feb. 11, 12:30-1:30 pm. Charles McMahon, Artistic Director of the Lantern Theater Co. will return to the Inn to present a brief background to Shakespeare's sonnets and to recite some familiar (and unfamiliar) sonnets. There will be a guest actor.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 15, 12:30-1:30 pm. Art dealer and FIC Board Member Doug Schaller will guide us.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 18, 12:30-1:30 pm. "John Quincy Adams and the Founding of the Smithsonian"--a discussion led by our heralded Civil War historian David Wiecks.

Club Dinner, Fri. Feb. 19, Presentation at 6:00 pm, to be followed by Dinner at 7:00 pm. Speaker is longtime Innmate/physician/investor/writer George Fisher. Two blue tickets.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Feb. 22, 12:30-1:30 pm. Litigator and world traveler Dennis Faucher will survey the news.

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ANNUAL MEETING & WILLIAM WHITE DINNER at the Franklin Inn on January 15, 2010

At 5:59 exactly, **Dr. Deborah Goldstein** welcomed Innmates and presented her report. She noted that the primary tasks facing the Board in 2009 had been to establish an accurate membership list and to put the Club on a sound financial footing, while making the most of a proactive board and reinvigorating a Club tradition of active participation on the part of all members.

She cited the contributions made by Lou Bluver's successful Film Nights, Marc Lapayowker's orientation letter for new members, David Freeman's e-blasts, the food committee guidance provided by Helen Pratt, Marilyn Yakowitz and Cynthia Adams, Scott Stewart's revival of the Franklin Inn Players, Wesley Parrott's care of the clocks and the garden, Charlie Hancock's boiler repair, Nathan Sivin's oversight of the Wine Fund, Will Jordan's leadership of the Finance

Committee, Palmer Hartl's chairmanship of the By-Laws Committee, Gregory Harvey's championing of Club interests with the IRS, and Avi Eden's calming, practical and wise advice. Along the way, members enjoyed a Madeira Party, a summer picnic aboard the good ship Gasela, Dan Hoffman's poetry reading, and Doug Schaller's panel on the Future of Print Journalism.

The Board is particularly appreciative of the exceptional job done by retiring Treasurer Mickey Herr in bringing order to the Club finances. In the past year she saved the Club \$12,000 by taking on the work of bookkeeper (previously handled by an accountant), and developing a bookkeeping system which allowed Club officers to see more clearly where the money came from and where it went. This system was closely integrated with membership records, and when 85 names of non-paying members were removed from the rolls, the difficulties in meeting the Club's monthly expenses of \$10,000 became more apparent. Dr. Goldstein wryly charged the membership to "go forth and multiply."

Dr. Goldstein concluded by noting that she is presently interviewing a prospective member to help the Club put up a modern, attractive Web site.

Mickey Herr's Treasurer's Report presented the membership with a clear, readable balance sheet and a comprehensive accounting of profit and loss in 2009. She described some of the difficulties the Club faced in putting financial records on a sound footing. She had to rebuild records from old bank statements for 2007 and 2008, and dealt with the problem of commingled funds by separating Club funds into three bank accounts, one of which was set aside for money to be saved for endowment, taxes, etc. She installed Quick Books to make record keeping more efficient and more accessible.

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Gresham Riley at Dinner

The Franklin Inn Club
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President

A. DEBORAH GOLDSTEIN, MD

Vice President

WESLEY PARROTT

Treasurer

AVI EDEN

Recording Secretary

NORMA VAN DYKE

Immediate Past President

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Nominating Committee Chair

NATHAN SIVIN

House Committee Chair

CHARLES HANCOCK

Collections Committee Chair

CHARLES AUSTERMUHL

Food Committee Chair

NATHAN SIVIN

Wine Steward

NATHAN SIVIN

Newsletter Editor

MARTHA GOPPELT

Communications

DAVID FREEMAN

Executive Chef

GRENVILLE BLACKETT

Steward

SHEFQET OSMANOLLAJ

Calendar Continued

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Feb. 25, 12:30-1:30 pm. Club President Deborah Goldstein will discuss plans for redesigning the Club's website. Suggestions from the membership--topics, format, candidate photos etc.--should be forwarded soon to Debby and Brearley Karsch.

March Preview

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. March 1, 12:30-1:30 pm. Deborah Goldstein will bring us up to date on the world.

Board Meeting, Tues. March 2, 6:00 pm followed by Buffet Supper at 7:00 pm. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. March 4, 12:30-1:30 pm. "Why is Contemporary Classical Music Unpopular?" Discussion leaders: David DeVoe and Mary Stewart.

CRACKING THE FRANKLIN INN'S SAFE

On Saturday, Jan. 23, as promised, the FIC safecrackers met at the Inn to openly begin their operations in broad daylight.

Debby ("Fingers") Goldstein opened the safe so quickly, it was as if she knew the combination. The rest of the crew quickly emptied its contents onto every available surface.

Master Safecracker Cynthia ("It-goes-here") Adams sorted items into "words" and "not words," then into further subdivisions.

Jerry (First-to-arrive) Kaplan sorted through the many varieties of "words," and found an assortment of archival quality, such as the first Visitor's Book and a confirmation slip for a book on permanent loan to the Library Co.

"Not Words" included dozens of formal photographs which Dan (the Poet) Hoffman cross-referenced with the Centennial Catalogue.

Wesley (Strongman) Parrott moved 11 cartons of Centennial Catalogues into a more compact arrangement and then supported metal shelves while Goldstein and Kaplan swept and cleaned out the safe.

Adams ceased work only to bring in sandwiches and make a pitcher of Bloody Marys to be enjoyed by the overwhelmed workers. Madeline (her daughter) Adams was pressed into service.

Kaplan then initiated the return to the safe of organized groups of materials, while insisting on efficient use of shelf space.

Teddy Ashmead arrived with yet more "words," copies of minutes she had taken as Secretary.

Charles (the Chairman) Hancock took Jim (presidential husband) Goldstein down to the cellar, where they found two large painted wooden signs which obviously had hung outdoors, each announcing "Franklin Inn Club" on both sides. The Chairman plans to hang them from a rafter in the Great Room upstairs, after appropriate cleaning but no retouching.

A Tip of the Iceberg Report of the finds:

1) A sterling silver two-handled claret jug or loving cup, given to the Franklin Inn Club by S. Weir Mitchell in 1902 with an elegant rendering in script of the Club name, along with lines undoubtedly composed by SWM.

2) The initial membership list from 1902, neatly bound, containing a copy of the charter, the By-Laws, names of Officers and Directors. Also, other lists from other years up through 1994. The surprising finding in the 1902 and 1912 lists were the names of many prominent physicians: S. Solis-Cohen, John Kearsley Mitchell (SWM's father) and others with whom SWM had worked during the Civil War. These early members may contradict the notion that SWM wanted the Franklin Inn to be non-medical.

3) A gold "President's Key," in an F.J. Cooper box, the gold head inscribed "President" on one side and "Franklin Inn Club" on the other, and a bail for wearing on a waistcoat chain. The key may have opened the front door, which is now triple locked from the inside and cannot be opened from the outside at all.

4) A photograph of Oliver Wendell Holmes, the matting deteriorating but fortunately not in the lower right-hand corner where it is inscribed: "Weir Mitchell, from his friend O.W.H.

Obviously, the work done is just the tip of the iceberg. Wesley (the Photographer) Parrott has begun taking digital photos to be displayed on the website--about-to-be and in an album. Archival work will be correlated by the Collections Committee, chaired by Charles Austermuhl.

Sadly, all Senior Safecracker positions are filled, but Apprentices can apply to the President at adg.jbg@verizon.net or 610-525-2256.

Annual Meeting and William White Dinner (Cont.)

When Mickey reviewed the financial records, she found that the Club was losing money on staffing and liquor expenses for Club dinners. This was corrected by changing the method of payment to the Chef. She also found that to meet monthly expenses the Club needs 150 resident members; at present there are 94. Anticipated expenses include payments on the Sales Tax for 2007, 2008 and 2009. We are also threated with an increase in Real Estate Taxes to \$9000 from \$3600. We have paid back the money owed Dr. Janice Gordon, but still owe Avi Eden \$11,000.

Charles Hancock presented the report for the **Building Committee**. The plumber has been prodded into completing the work pending on sewage repairs by our offer to forgive the unfinished work if he forgoes the \$1000 the Club has held back from payment for the job. Small repairs to the Ladies' Room and to the kitchen have been effected. The Club has cut trash pick-up to once a week and is considering switching to city trash collection. The ceiling in the Ladies' Room has been repaired thanks to a \$2500 anonymous donation. Charlie repaired the boiler when heat failed in the tenant apartment.

The Committee has a list of problems needing attention as soon as money is available. The Air Conditioning/Ventilation/Heating system is a disaster waiting to happen. Repairs may cost \$30,000 but will cut heating bills by two-thirds. The Club needs carpeting on the stairs, repairs to the garden gate, and work on a leak from the tenant's bathroom into the Club's kitchen.

A revision of the **By-Laws** was presented for approval by **Palmer Hartl**. His committee included Gregory Harvey, Gresham Riley and Nathan Sivin. Their objective was to bring the By-Laws into conformity with the reality of Club life. The term of office for the President and Vice-President was cut to two years. Committees are to be empowered by the President and the Board to do their jobs. A quorum of 20% is acceptable for votes at the Annual Meeting. The Board has the flexibility to set dues and their schedule of payment. The By-Laws guard against the commingling of restricted and non-restricted funds. The revisions were approved by the membership.



Palmer Hartl

Gregory Harvey provided a succinct and clear summary of legal concerns being dealt with by the Board. The Club is in compliance with the Sales Tax for 2009, but expects to be audited for the taxes owed in 2007 and 2008. The Club continues to work on acquiring historic certification for 501C3 status through the Preservation Alliance, which will allow the Club to offer tax deductions towards repairs to the building. The Club is appealing the Real Estate Tax increase, but should prepare to pay a higher tax.

The Business Meeting concluded with the election of the Club Officers for 2010. **Nathan Sivin** and his **Nominating Committee** of Gregory Harvey, Mickey Herr, Charles Mather and Kathleen Mulhern presented the following slate of officers, which was accepted by the members.



Nathan Sivin

President: Dr. A. Deborah Goldstein

Vice-President: Wesley Parrott

Treasurer: Avi Eden

Secretary: Norma Van Dyke

Board of Directors for Three Years:

David Freeman; Charles Hancock;

Robin Herndon

Board of Directors for Two Years: Palmer Hartl;

Douglas Schaller

Board of Directors for One Year: Gregory Harvey

Dr. Goldstein welcomed Innmates to the **William White Dinner** following the Meeting, and offered a toast to **Dr. White**, which was followed by two toasts to **Benjamin Franklin**, one by **George Scott Stewart** and the other by **Daniel Hoffman**. **Gresham Riley** did the honors on behalf of **Silas Weir Mitchell**. **Theodore Friend** initiated a new custom, a toast in honor of a distinguished Twentieth-Century member, **E. Digby Baltzell**, with whom he felt a particular rapport because of similarities in their backgrounds. Though Baltzell's family suffered during the Depression, he was able to attend St. Paul's, after which he went on to the University of Pennsylvania (rather than Princeton) where he spent most of his life as a scholar. The Franklin Inn was the only Philadelphia club to which he chose to belong, and he had to give it up in 1956 because of repercussions from an article in *Time Magazine*. This last fact was elucidated by Nathan Sivin, who added that Baltzell resumed his membership in 1998.

REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Proposed for Membership:

1) **Jim Marsh** is a Director in Lockheed Martin's Advanced Technology Laboratories. He has a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Connecticut, an MS in electrical Engineering from Stanford University, and has completed special executive training at MIT's School of Management. Proposed by Dennis Faucher; seconded by Palmer Hartl.

2) **Reuben P. Wade** is a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He holds a BA in Civil Engineering, but his avocation lies with literary concerns. He is a talented writer, focusing on playwrighting and has recently been elected Board President of Theatre Exile. Proposed by Mickey Herr; seconded by Cynthia Adams.

3) **Norman Valz** is a solo practicing attorney in Philadelphia, with a concentration in Corporate Law. He earned a BA in Political Science from Kenyon College and a Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina. He is actively involved in several community organizations, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and is a rower with the Bachelors' Barge Club on the Schuylkill. Proposed by Cynthia Adams; seconded by Mickey Herr.

Elected to Membership:

1) Miss Riyee Hong: 3723 Chestnut St., Phila. 19104
Tel.: 832-814-9737; email: riyeehong@gmail.com

2) Mrs. Brearley Karsch: 425 S. 13 St., Phila. 19147
Tel.: 215-545-4641; email: bkupenn@comcast.net

3) Dr. Ellin Effinger Kassow: 220 Locust St., Apt. 19-B, Phila. 19106
Tel.: 215-627-0212; email: eeffingerkassow@aol.com

4) Mr. Brett T. Mapp: 905 Kimball St., Phila. 19144
Tel.: 215-668-3874; email: BrettMapp@gmail.com

5) Mr. Wayne M. Thomas: 706 Pine St., Phila. 19106
Tel.: 215-925-9537; email: wymart@verizon.net

Comments and requests for information about the membership process can be addressed to Chairman Louis Bluver at 215-751-0044 or LSBTRAVEL@aol.com

Notice! A Membership List of Innmates with mailing addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses was distributed at the Annual Meeting and is available from David Freeman at d.freeman16@verizon.net or 610-353-2567.