



The Franklin Inn Club

Newsletter

June 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.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. June 1, 12:30-1:30 pm. Philosopher and educator, Gresham Riley, quarterback of the quarterbacks, will lead the discussion.

Board Meeting, Tues. June 2, 6:00 pm. The meeting will begin promptly and will be followed by a Buffet Supper with wine. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. June 4, 12:30-1:30 pm. Innmate June Ottenberg, Musicologist and Professor Emerita at the Boyer School of Music, Temple University, with particular knowledge of 19th-century opera in the United States, will discuss Caroline Richings, a once celebrated, but now little known, opera manager and singer in Philadelphia.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. June 8, 12:30-1:30 pm. Art Historian and Dealer Douglas Schaller will facilitate the review of the weekend's op-ed pages.

Exceptional Film Screenings, Wed. June 10, 6:00 pm Buffet Supper followed by film at 7:00 pm. A Claymation animated film, *Chicken Run* parodies *The Great Escape*. "Two Thumbs Up!"-- Roger Ebert. More particulars on p. 6. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. June 11, 12:30-1:30 pm. Amy Sarnier Williams, Executive Director of the Clay Studio, will discuss the studio's work as a national center for craft pottery. (Cont. p. 5)

THE BARRINGER CRATER AND BEYOND

May 29 Dinner: Adventures in Science

Margot Barringer, past president, began the meeting by introducing American Insight's video clip on her grandfather, **Daniel Moreau Barringer** and the giant crater he discovered in Arizona. She commented on "the great hole in her family" that the crater became--a hole which swallowed up the



family fortune and sucked her grandfather away from his wife and eight children to mine for iron in the crater in order to prove that the crater was the site of an ancient meteor impact. In the process he laid the groundwork for the science of meteoritics.

Inmate **George Fisher** then introduced his old medical school classmate **Baruch Blumberg**, Nobel Laureate and Founding Director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute, whose topic was, in the words of Bronowski, knowledge as "an unending adventure at the edge of uncertainty."

He began by describing his own unexpected discovery of the Hepatitis B Virus during a study on the role played by inherited variation in the incidence of disease--a discovery which led to the development of a vaccine which helps protect against the liver cancer produced by Hepatitis B. He then widened his scope to survey briefly and enthusiastically the adventures, discoveries, and up-coming projects in the exploration of space.

NASA is currently discussing how to develop space biology so as to answer questions about the origin, evolution, distribution and future of life on earth and in the universe. Did life start on earth or was it brought here on a meteor? He marveled at the deep field vision into the universe that the Hubble telescope has made possible. It has provided us with a "tunnel into time," allowing us to see light sent out into space billions of years ago.



Right now, NASA is working on stationing another bigger telescope out in space at a point where the pull of gravity between sun and earth will be equal--the James Webb telescope. Scientists are also working on the Deep Submersible Alvin which will help us explore the deep sea, even (Cont.p.5)

CLUB OUTING ~ aboard the Tall Ship *Gazela*

The Inn's traditional summer outing will be held July 11 aboard the Barkentine *Gazela*, an 1883 copper-bottomed, wooden ship. Arrangements are being made for a late afternoon gathering with drinks and refreshments.

The *Gazela* started life as a Portuguese cod-fishing vessel, which worked the Grand Banks off Newfoundland. It is maintained by the Maritime Guild for the City and Port of Philadelphia and is staffed by a crew of enthusiastic volunteers.

Two blue tickets. Make reservations by signing up at the Inn or by calling Shefqet before July 7. Bring a friend.



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.
WESLEY PARROTT
DOUGLAS SCHALLER

Membership Chair

LOUIS BLUVER

Finance Committee Chair

WILLIAM J.D. JORDAN

Librarian

MARY STEWART

Nominating Committee Chair

NATHAN SIVIN

Program Chair

LENORA BERSON

House Committee Chair

CHARLES HANCOCK

Food Committee Co-Chairs

HELEN PRATT

Wine Steward

NATHAN SIVIN

Newsletter Editor

MARTHA GOPPELT

Executive Chef

DAVID HEYDT

Steward

SHEFQET OSMANOLLAJ

SILAS WEIR MITCHELL STARS IN PMA EXHIBIT

Until July 19, the Philadelphia Museum of Art honors the multiple achievements of S. Weir Mitchell by displaying all together in its new American Art Wing Vonnoh's portrait of Mitchell from the College of Physicians, St. Gaudens' "Angel of Purity," commissioned by the Mitchells in memory of their daughter, and Thomas Eakins' well-known painting "The Gross Clinic."

The "Angel of Purity" was installed in St. Stephens' Church opposite the Cadwalader family pew until the church was forced, by financial exigencies, to sell it. Inmate Gregory Harvey was instrumental in arousing public opinion both inside and outside the Inn, and ultimately Anne d'Harnoncourt found money in the Annenbun Fund to save it for Philadelphia. The newly-restored "Angel" glows in semi-translucent glory.

Jefferson University, like St. Stephens, faced financial pressures, and so put Thomas Eakins' "The Gross Clinic" up for sale. Mitchell, as a friend of Eakins, had advised the painter on medicine and surgery. FIC member Dan Larkin organized a panel discussion at the Inn on December 26, 2006, at which four prominent leaders in the arts and culture community, Linda Bantel, Moe Brooker, Kathleen Foster, and Philip Goldsmith, spoke. The Inn, packed to overflowing, reflected the outcry which was persuading the Pennsylvania Academy of fine Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art to buy Eakins' great painting together. These two institutions now share "The Gross Clinic" jointly, and at the conclusion of this PMA exhibition, it returns to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

These two works of particular interest to Innmates, can be seen in Gallery 119 on the first floor of the museum, along with the portrait of Mitchell. The gallery is approached on the way to PMA's cafeteria and restaurant. Innmates might also like to know that the Penn Writers' Project has chosen "The Gross Clinic" as its text for the next academic year to be studied by all University students.

**Update on Tax Exempt Gifts to Franklin Inn**

The Inn has run into a temporary roadblock on the way to acquiring 501(c)3 tax status. Though surrounded by properties which have been historically certified, the Inn building and its contents lack the specific certification it needs from the Historic Commission of Philadelphia for an association with the Preservation Alliance which would allow Club members to make tax-exempt gifts to preserve the Club's historic premises and collections. Attorney Gregory Harvey is working to resolve this problem.

MESSAGE FROM THE WINE STEWARD

The Club is pleased and grateful for the way members have refilled our coffers. Now, please keep in mind that we need to cover expenses for guests as well. So if a guest has one glass of hard liquor before dinner (\$6.00) and one glass of wine at dinner (\$4.00), the fund needs \$10.00. ~ *Nathan Sivin*

Status Update from the Club President

May 23, 2009

(What follows is a recapitulation of the e-mail sent out to all members by David Freeman in late May. It reflects significant input from other Innmates.)

Many Club members have been startled by our membership losses during the past three years.

Combined with last year's extraordinary expenses--as well as other events over these three years--the membership decline has threatened your Club's survival. However, it has not diminished your leaders' resolve to overcome these threats, and to grow the Club back to its normal size and stable finances.

The Board of Directors, committee chairs, and committee members are essentially unanimously in favor of brisk steps--outlined below--to rebuild the membership and maintain financial stability.

- 1) Treasurer **Mickey Herr** has identified several unnecessary expenses. She has eliminated most of them, saving the Club a significant sum each month. The Board now receives monthly financial reports. The Finance Committee's cash-flow analysis provides a true understanding of our cash needs through the fiscal year 2009 with an eye to planning for future capital projects.
- 2) Our arrangement with **Chef David Heydt** has been renegotiated, so that your Club loses no money on meals.
- 3) **Will Jordan** and his Finance Committee meet regularly, prior to the monthly Board Meeting, facilitating prompt advisories to the Board.
- 4) New projects are being scrutinized to avoid past errors and move the Club forward.
- 5) Board member **Palmer Hartl** is leading a much-needed revision of the Club's bylaws.
- 6) Board member **Charles Hancock** will tackle building repairs as soon as our budget permits.
- 7) Board member **Douglas Schaller** has offered many new ideas for marketing the Club.
- 8) **Cynthia Adams** is our culinary consultant.
- 9) Food Chair **Helen Pratt** has enlarged her committee and outlined its new agenda.
- 10) **Wesley Parrott** continues to provide updates on member status and financial information, while also caring for the garden. He has recently given his proprietary compact disc to the Club.
- 11) The status of members regarding dues and activities has been significantly investigated; ten members still have unresolved status questions.
- 12) **Lou Bluver** has added two new Club members to his Membership Committee. His **Exceptional Film Nights** are delightful and draw well.
- 13) **Gresham Riley** continues to mobilize our popular **Monday Quarterback Luncheon** discussions.
- 14) Program Chair **Lenora Berson** continues to poll Club members successfully for program suggestions. Club members should offer Lenora their ideas for speakers and programs.
- 15) **Dan Larkin** is developing a series of Significant Issues panel discussions for this fall.
- 16) Our **Thursday Roundtable Luncheons** continue to provide a satisfying variety of topics and speakers.
- 17) New this year are **Buffet Suppers**, providing members with opportunities for congenial conversations.

(over)

18) Recording Secretary **Norma Van Dyke** distills our discussions into accurate minutes of Board meetings, and maintains our correspondence with other clubs. For holiday luncheons and activities Norma has agreed to open the Club and buy luncheon supplies.

19) Editor **Martha Goppelt** presents Club news and forthcoming events in monthly newsletters.

20) Vice-President **Avi Eden** provides the entire Club (as well as its President) with common sense and pragmatic advice.

21) Wine Steward **Nathan Sivin's** successful appeal for contributions to the Wine Fund has eliminated the negative balance. Additional contributions will allow us to continue serving wine with meals, and cocktails before Club dinners. **(Please remember to cover the cost of your guests' wine in your contributions.)**

MEMBERSHIP ~ AN URGENT ISSUE!

The loss of fifty members during the past three years deprives us of valuable colleagues and their intellectual contributions to Club events. It also painfully reduces our fundamental income: annual dues needed for the maintenance and operation of our building and our programs.

Therefore, dear Innmate, the MEMBERSHIP DRIVE begins the moment you read this letter. You are an important part of the drive, which is not something "nice to do" but rather absolutely essential to your Club's survival and growth.

We are opening the drive with a **Madeira Party on Friday, June 19**. This will be an expansion of our regular Club Dinner, asking all attendees to be "speakers." We will read Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's "A Madeira Party," passing the book around the table. We will dine on an elegant meal designed by our Food Committee--in consultation with Chef David Heydt and Wine Steward Nathan Sivin--while quaffing world-class Madeira wines donated by Club members.

This will be a delightful opportunity to introduce prospective members to your Club and the remarkable diversity of our members. **Please attend and bring a friend who might like to join.**

Please give me and the Board your thoughts, ideas, and comments on these issues.

Cordially yours,

A. Deborah Goldstein
President, Franklin Inn Club

MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Application for membership in the Franklin Inn Club on behalf of the following candidate has been favorably reviewed by the Membership Committee. All comments on the candidate must reach the Chair at LSBTRAVEL@aol.com within two weeks of receipt of this publication, after which the Board will vote on the nominations.

Proposed: Marc Lapayowker is a retired physician, who has had a distinguished national and international career in radiology. For fourteen years he was a Professor of Radiology at Temple University. Proposed by Janice Gordon; seconded by Louis Bluver.

~ Louis Bluver, Chair

Club Calendar

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. June 15, 12:30-1:30 pm. Dennis Faucher will referee the discussion.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. June 18, 12:30-1:30 pm. David Wieck, Civil War historian, will examine the role of John Quincy Adams in formulating the ideas which inspired the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863. This will be David Wieck's third appearance at the Inn to discuss a Civil War topic.

Club Dinner--Madeira Party--Fri. June 19, 5:30 pm Cocktails; 6:30 pm Dinner. Camraderie and/or carousing. Innmates will take turns reading aloud S. Weir Mitchell's "A Madeira Party." Bring prospective members! Two blue tickets per person.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. June 22, 12:30-1:30 pm. President Deborah Goldstein will conduct the discussion.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. June 25, 12:30-1:30 pm. Come meet Laurence Saltzmann, anthropologist, documentary photographer and proprietor of Gallery West, who will talk about his work.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. June 29, 12:30-1:30 pm. Donald Harrison will bring the spring quarterback sessions to a close.

Inn's Traditional Summer Outing, Sat. July 11, 5:00-7:00 pm, aboard the *Gazela* at Penn's Landing. Reservation should be made with Shefqet before July 7.

CLUB CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER.

-
- **Bring a Prospective Member to the Madeira Party on June 19!** •
- **Remember the Club's traditional Summer Outing on the Tall Ship *Gazela*--July 11!** •
- **Details above in the Calendar.** •
-

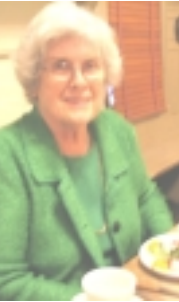
THE BARRINGER CRATER AND BEYOND (Cont.)

under places where the tectonic plates overlap. Dr. Blumberg reminded us that the International Space Station is a model for a successful international endeavor and is the most complicated instrument of exploration humans have ever made.



Dr. Blumberg noted the achievements of several specific scientists which led him to the question of robots vs. humans. Which is preferable? To explore space with robots, like the Mars Exploration Rover, which exceeded all expectations both in its longevity and the quality of the information it sent back, or to send humans to the moon, Mars and beyond? Harrison Schmidt, the last man to set foot on the moon, made observations which only a human could have done. NASA is currently considering a Moon Mars program to explore the possibility of the colonization of Mars.

PETER COLLINSON AND GLOBALIZATION OF HORTICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE



The FIC Dinner on May 8 celebrated the publication of Elizabeth McLean's biographical study, *Peter Collinson and the Eighteenth-Century Natural History Exchange*, the product of two decades of research pursued while she carried out her responsibilities as a prominent horticulturalist and mother.

The biography was inspired by her association with Jean O'Neill, and it took her to libraries and collections throughout the United States and Great Britain. Collinson was an English Quaker and businessman whose many connections with Enlightenment figures played an important role in the exchange of plants and information between the New World and the Old. He had many friends among the Quakers of Philadelphia and was able to provide valuable introductions to John Bartram, one of which made possible Bartram's celebrated expedition through the southern United States.

Collinson provided Franklin with German research findings which led to Franklin's experiments with electricity, and Collinson's report on those experiments led to Franklin's election to the Royal Academy. Collinson saw the importance of species extinction before others of his time even recognized that it existed, and he struggled to correct Linnaeus' mistaken ideas about the migration of swallows. He wryly commented about his own life that if he had spent "less time with women and more with books" he would have been "a better man."

Elizabeth McLean and her husband, fellow Innmate William McLean, set up and manage the Natural Areas Land Management Endowment. She is currently working on another book, *Museum School Masters in History from Pennsylvania*.

Loss of Former FIC Member

Former Innmate Judy Michaelis died early this May. A service in her memory was held at the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge Park on May 16. Her husband Art can be reached at 598 Gregory Lane, Devon, PA 19333.

**LOU BLUVER'S EXCEPTIONAL FILM SCREENINGS PRESENT:
CHICKEN RUN !**

A Claymation animated film, the characters are not drawn as in conventional animated films, but are, instead, modeled 3-D in clay. It is almost impossible to fathom the countless hours of meticulous work and the level of concentration required to make a film like this. There are 24 frames per second of film time, so depending on the action in a sequence, it is possible to have 24 separate poses to shoot per character for EVERY SECOND in a scene. On most days a full day of work for the 40 animators yielded a total of only TEN SECONDS OF FINISHED FILM !!!!!

The story is a comic parody of the award-winning film *The Great Escape*, featuring unforgettable characters and an all-star voice talent.

A selection of unique newsreels and features from Lou's personal film collection will also be on the Program, and, of course, there is a delicious Buffet Supper, all for only one blue ticket! Show off your Club. Bring a prospective member with you!

COMPLIMENTARY MEAL COUPON

YOUR GUEST IS OUR GUEST

The Board invites you to bring a guest to your choice of Monday or Thursday Luncheon at no charge to you. Simply make your reservation in advance, specify you are bringing a "Free Guest" and provide your name and his/her name below.

Host:

Guest:.