



The Franklin Inn Club

Newsletter

March 2009

Club Calendar

Call Steward Shefget 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 Shefget 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. March 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Physician, Publisher, and student of Philadelphia history, George Fisher will lead the discussion.

Board Meeting, Tues. March 3, 6:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. March 5, 12:30-1:30 pm. Edgar Allen Poe Celebration, presented by Edward Pettit, writer, book reviewer, literary provocateur and Poe aficionado with Michael Alltop, Producing Artistic Director of Brat Promotions. Together they will bring Poe back to life.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. March 9, 12:30-1:30 pm. David Freeman will quarterback the discussion.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. March 12, 12:30-1:30 pm. A bleak portrait of the American Dream where enterprise is equivalent to scam. No, not a review of today's headlines, but Theatre Exile's brand of gritty reality. Matt Pfeiffer, associate artistic director, multiple Barrymore nominee, will discuss why now is the time to revisit David Mamet's *American Buffalo* (in production April 9-May 3).

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. March 16 12:30-1:30 pm. Gresham Riley, first-string Quarterback, will lead the discussion.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. March 19, 12:30-1:30 pm. Wyneshia Foxworth, co-executive director of City Year Greater Philadelphia, will describe the work of City Year's volunteers as mentors and tutors in 27 Philadelphia schools. (Over)

NEW THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM: BUFFET SUPPER AND ???

What sort of program do Innmates want?

The program and food committees of the Franklin Inn want to add a weekly dinner buffet on Thursday nights and would like to hear from the membership about the merits of this idea. Mickey Herr, Club Treasurer, has suggested that an evening buffet might be more convenient for working Innmates than a luncheon gathering. It would also provide a chance for center-city members to drop in for good conversation and a casual supper.

The Thursday evening buffet would be served at 6:30 pm, for one blue ticket, with wine included. The Food and Program Chairs need to know what sort of program members would like to see provided with the buffet supper.

Some possibilities are:

- 1) No program, just the buffet dinner.
- 2) A Thursday-night discussion modeled on Gresham Riley's very successful Monday Quarterback Luncheons, in which the discussion on selected topics is led during the meal by leaders who rotate weekly.
- 3) A monthly series of talks on aspects of the "topic of the month," following the buffet dinner. For example: if the topic were the Great Depression, one lecture might be on a literary aspect such as *Grapes of Wrath*, a second talk might be on the Depression in music as seen in the work of Woody Guthrie, a third on the economic causes and effects of the Depression, and a fourth on its political repercussions.
- 4) A literary discussion following or during dinner; leadership could rotate like that of the Quarterbacks.
- 5) a combination of the above; *i.e.* two Thursday evening discussions, two themed talks; or one monthly discussion and three themed talks. With enough advance planning, an occasional Friday Club Dinner could be related to an over-arching theme linking discussions and talks.

President Deborah Goldstein would like to begin Thursday Night Buffets soon. Please e-mail her or Lenora Berson, Chair of the Program Committee, to offer your opinions and discuss your preferences.

Deborah Goldstein, President: 610-525-2256 (NOT after 8:30 pm); adg.jbg@verizon
Lenora Berson, Program Chair: 215-732-4070; Lenora113026@aol.com

From the Newsletter Editor

The editor hopes to make the Newsletter more fully represent the activities and interests of the Club members. To that end she welcomes the input of Innmates who can help keep her abreast of the activities and achievements of fellow members, or who would be interested in helping her cover Club events. She can be reached at 610-649-2047 or at mgoppelt@yahoo.com.

~ Martha Goppelt

Second Judith Eden Forum

A second forum in memory of Innmate **Judith Eden** was held on Feb. 26 at the Philadelphia Senior Center, preceded by a reception at the former Mother Divine Mission. The panel discussion, moderated by **Avi Eden**, explored the question of whether in these uncertain economic times, the criteria for opposing development projects should be re-assessed. Panelists included Terry Gillen, senior advisor to Mayor Nutter, and Mary Tracy, executive director of SCRUB.

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Club Calendar (cont.)

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. March 23, 12:30-1:30 pm. The discussion will be led by City Hall afficianada Lenora Berson.

Exceptional Film Screenings, Wed. March 25, 6:00 pm Buffet Supper, followed by film at 7:00 pm. *A MIGHTY WIND*, another “mockumentary” by Christopher Guest, whose hilarious film, *Waiting for Guffman*, we screened at FIC a few months ago. He reunites the same team of actors to tell the story of 60s-era folk musicians who get back on the stage for one final concert at New York City’s Town Hall. An unscripted production and a touching comedy, followed by archival short films from Lou’s personal collection. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. March 26, 12:30-1:30 pm. Shelly Yanoff, executive director of Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth, will discuss the state of Philadelphia’s children. PCCY is an extraordinary child advocacy agency.

Club Dinner, Fri. March 27, 5:30 pm Cocktails; 6:30 pm program followed by dinner. Innmate Nathan Sivin will present his recently published *Granting the Seasons*, a translation of an astronomical treatise written in China in 1280. The treatise led to the publication of almanacs which enabled the Mongol emperor to extend his rule. A comparison will be made to Ben Franklin’s almanac writing. Professor Sivin will also tell us of his current research into ancient Chinese medicine.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. March 30, 12:30-1:30 pm. Episcopal clergyman and management consultant Palmer Hartle will examine the news and opinion from an ethical point of view.

April Preview

Roundtable Luncheon, Tues. April 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Innmate Howard Lewis will speak on the changing nature of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

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. Light refreshments will be served.

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• **Celebrate Shakespeare’s birthday and**
• **the FIC’s birthday at April’s Friday Din-**
• **ner and at the Lantern Theatre’s pro-**
• **duction of Hamlet.**
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• **Hamlet Dinner, Fri. April 17; 5:30 pm**
• **Cocktails, 6:15 pm Presentation followed**
• **by Dinner.** Charles McMahon, Director
• of the Lantern Theatre’s production of
• *Hamlet* will preside. Innmates will remem-
• ber Charles McMahon from February’s
• “Sexy Sonnets.” Two blue tickets.

• **Buffet Dinner and Performance of Ham-**
• **let, Sat. April 18, 6:30 pm Dinner; 8:00**
• **pm Curtain at St. Stephen’s Theatre (10th**
• **and Ludlow).** If we have a group of 12,
• the Inn will arrange for group tickets.
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