



At the Inn

News from the Franklin Inn Club

October/November 2009

Club Calendar

FRANKLIN INN CLUB

OPENS AFTER SUMMER

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.

At the moment the Inn has no Program Committee Chair which means that the following Calendar is incomplete. David Freeman will email the membership as further additions and changes are made.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Oct. 26, 12:30-1:30 pm. President Deborah Goldstein will be Quarterback.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Oct. 29, 12:30-1:30 pm. Philadelphia-based playwright Justin Coffin will help FIC celebrate the 200th anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe's birth by discussing some of his Poe favorites. Justin developed and co-authored the play *Extinction* about Poe, performed in 2006-2007 by the Lantern Theater Company.

Hallowe'en Party, Fri. Oct. 30, 5:00 pm Cocktails, 6:00 pm Dinner Followed by a Performance by the Franklin Inn Players. *The Night of the Beggarwoman*, produced by Scott Stewart, tells the story of a shabbily-dressed beggarwoman with beautiful eyes who steals a wallet from a tough Australian businessman. Curious about how she will spend the money, he follows her. The climax is shocking, the ending. **Come in costume.**

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Nov. 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Don Harrison will lead the discussion. (Cont. p.3)

PRINT VS. PIXELS

"The Future of Print Journalism"

Board Member Douglas Schaller organized a timely and star-studded panel on "The Future of Print Journalism," at the Franklin Inn on Sept.23.

Doug introduced Tom Rosenstiel, Director of the PEW Foundation's Excellence in Journalism arm, based in Washington D.C. Mr. Rosenstiel cautioned that within the next five or six years, print news may become extinct because advertising, which is moving to the WEB, no longer supports the cost of print. Even if only half the advertising moved to the Internet, no foundation has the ability to support newspapers on a yearly basis. This may happen despite the fact that "most" TV and Internet news is "generated" from small and not-so-small local and national daily newspapers.

Innmate Dan Rottenberg, editor of the totally-on-line "Broad Street Review," spoke of the advantages of totally-on-line editing: the pleasure of writing as much as one likes, receiving instant feedback, and responding or adding to what was written--in effect, instant communication with readers. The Broad Street Review's Music Editor, Tom Purdom, reinforced Dan's ideas and noted the added benefit of determining specific interests among readers.

Mark Faziollah, the *Inquirer* reporter who wrote the latest expose of the Board of Revision of Taxes, described in brilliant detail some of the many inherent problems with this bureau: some tax bills, for example, are sent for a parking lot when the property is merely a walkway between buildings, or a bill may be sent to the owner before the last, who ignores it, and there is no follow-up. Mark pointed out that the *Inquirer* spent tens of thousands of dollars to investigate the BRT story; change is coming to the BRT and the credit is due to the *Inquirer*.

The audience found it discouraging that this kind of reporting is in danger. Members raised questions concerning the loss of the reliability we expect from the print medium, which depends on the work of the editor, reporters and fact checkers. Can readers expect the same from blogs? How does one know which of several thousand blogs on any particular topic is the one to read? How does an Internet reader determine the agenda of a blogger? How does one read several thousand blogs anyway? ~ Deborah Goldstein

NEEDED! MORE MEMBERS!

At the October Board Meeting, Treasurer Mickey Herr's report revealed that Club revenues are down significantly, not only because of a drop in the membership, but also from a decreased sale of meal tickets.

The Club cannot make ends meet on the income generated by its current membership. To survive, it needs new members. One NEW member per current member would solve our problems. **Members are urged to bring guests who would make good candidates to Club events.**

The Inn is kicking off a **Membership Drive** with a Cocktail Party on Friday, November 13. See Calendar for particulars.

The Board has clarified the criteria for Membership and the steps to be followed for nominating new members on page 2.

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

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News and Notes

Lenora Berson has had to step down from chairing the Program Committee, while she recuperates from a stay in Presbyterian Hospital.

David Freeman has agreed to keep the Membership List up to date, as well as to handle emailing members.

Nathan Sivin will be sending Innmates a letter about the Wine Fund shortly. Remember it costs the Club \$4.00 for every glass of wine served, and \$6.00 for a drink of hard liquor.

New Innmate **Marc Lapayowker** has volunteered to prepare a handout to accompany the Secretary's letter of Welcome, providing new members with details for negotiating life at the Inn and asking each new member how he or she might be able to help.

HOW TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Candidates must be over twenty-one years of age and be contributors to the intellectual life of the community.

Classes of Membership are:

- 1) Resident: annual dues of \$800
- 2) Non-Resident: annual dues of \$250 for anyone living at least 25 miles from City Hall
- 3) Junior: annual dues of \$500 for first three years while under age of 35
- 4) Introductory: first year dues of \$500

Nominations begin with a proposal sent to the Chairman of the Membership Committee. **That proposal must be submitted by the proposer** and should include contact information (address, telephone number, email address) and a summary of education and profession. The proposal should be accompanied by recommendations from the proposer and a seconder. The Membership Committee can provide the proposer with a form covering many of those points, a copy of which is given on page three. The Committee also needs a brief biography or a curriculum vitae.

This material, following a review by the Membership Committee, is forwarded to the Board, who, after consideration, will post the nomination on the Club Bulletin Board and in the newsletter. The membership has ten days to comment, after which the Board may accept or reject the nomination. If the candidate is accepted, the secretary sends the nominee a letter of acceptance and the Treasurer will bill for dues. Nominee becomes a member in good standing upon payment of dues.

Lou Bluver, Chairman of the Membership Committee, can be reached at LSBTRAVEL@aol.com.

Report from the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of **David R. DeVoe** for membership in the Inn, sponsored by Nathan Sivin and seconded by Charlotte Phelps.

David DeVoe graduated with honors from Yale in philosophy, and studied law at Columbia University and New York University. After practicing law in New York for close to 20 years, he joined the Law Department of CIGNA in Philadelphia. Since his retirement three years ago he has devoted himself to Shakespeare and Classical Music. He is President of Orchestra 2001, a member of the Philadelphia Club and a shareholder in the Atheneum.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Mickey Herr reluctantly announces an **increase in FIC meal prices**, starting immediately. As a consequence of the 1% city tax increase, the Club must now charge an **8% sales tax**. This means that a book of ten blue tickets will now cost **\$194.40** and a book of yellow tickets will cost **\$129.60**.

Club Calendar (Cont.)

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Nov. 2, 12:30-1:30 pm. Don Harrison will lead the discussion.

Board Meeting, Wed. NOV. 4, 6 pm, followed by Dinner. Two blue tickets.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. Nov. 5, 12:30-1:30 pm. "Is that a Slapstick in Your Pants, or Are You Just Happy to See Me?" Aaron Cromie and Robert Smythe join Charles McMahon to introduce FIC members to Commedia Dell'Arte and to discuss its influence on their work.

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

Cocktail Party to Introduce Prospective Candidates for Membership to the Inn, Fri. Nov. 13, 5:00-7:00 pm. Members pay one blue ticket. Member with candidate, also one blue ticket.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Nov. 16, 12:30-1:30 pm. Quarterback-in-Chief Gresham Riley will lead the discussion.

Lou Bluver's Exceptional Film Screening, Tues. Nov. 17 starting at 6 pm. At last, *SUNRISE*, the Academy-Award-Winning Silent Film by F.W. Murnau, starring Janet Gaynor and George O'Brien. Evening includes selected rarities from Lou's collection. Buffet Dinner precedes film. One blue ticket.

Club Dinner, Fri. Nov. 20, 5:00 pm Cocktails; 6:00 pm Presentation followed by Dinner. Innmate Dan Hoffman will read from his new book *The Whole Nine Yards* and from *Over the Summer Water*; collected poems by Elizabeth McFarland.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Nov. 23, 12:30-1:30 pm. Physician and publisher George Fisher will bring his financial acumen to bear on the news.

Inn closed Nov 24 for Thanksgiving.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. Nov. 30, 12:30-1:30 pm. Board Member Palmer Hartl will track some of the unresolved conflicts in the news.

**Franklin Inn Club
205 South Camac Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-732-0334**

Nomination for Membership

The undersigned sponsors nominate the person listed below for membership in the Franklin Inn Club. We have determined that he or she is qualified according to the By-Laws, would be desirable as a member, and wishes to participate in the activities of the Club.

Name -

Residential Address -

Telephone and email -

Membership Category (check one)

Resident

Non-Resident (lives more than 25 miles from City Hall

Junior (35 years of age and under - please include birth date)

Introductory

Education -

Position/Occupation/Profession -

Proposed by (signed) -

Seconded by (signed) -

Date -

Please enclose with this completed form the following:

A brief biographical statement or curriculum vitae

A letter of recommendation from the proposer

A letter of recommendation from the seconder

Nomination to be sent to the Membership Committee c/o FIC

TREASURE AT THE INN

1755 Edition of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary

During a summer clean-up at the Franklin Inn Club, President Deborah Goldstein discovered a two-volume set from the third printing of Samuel Johnson's dictionaries published in 1755.

Carole Sivin suggested consulting former Innmate David Bloom, who is currently in charge of rare books at Freeman's. He pointed out the deteriorated binding and noted that the books are not really considered "rare." Arthur Solmssen remembers using the dictionaries in the dining room, and referred the president to Clarence Wolf, a former member who deals in rare books.

Clarence Wolf is the son of Ben Wolf, a former Inn president and the creator of the one-line drawing of Benjamin Franklin that is the Inn's hallmark. Clarence Wolf has a bookplace at 12 Water Street in Bryn Mawr. He recommended having the volumes rebound incorporating the current binding and offered to pay half the cost. The Board accepted this generous offer; Deborah Goldstein will pay the other half. The books will be rebound and returned to the Inn in time for the Christmas luncheon.

Former president Nathan Sivin examined the three signatures on the fly leaf and identified one of them as that of Julian P. Boyd, an historian and former member of the Club. Mr. Wolf identified another signature as "early 1800s and a prominent Quaker name."



Showing Tues. Nov. 17 at Lou Bluver's Film Night

TO BE SEEN ON THE BIG SCREEN

"Sunrise" is a 1927 American Film directed by German film director F. W. Murnau. Convinced by his mistress The Woman, a farmer The Man takes his wife on a boat trip intending to drown her, but discovers he cannot do it, only to lose her in a storm. He turns on his mistress in a murderous rage, but . . .