



THE INN-TELLIGENCER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRANKLIN INN CLUB | FALL 2023

Change of Seasons, and Changes Seen at the Inn

With the start of our fall season, we're seeing results of this summer's projects to maintain and upgrade the Clubhouse – funded from the generous bequests to the Inn by the estates of Drs. Nathan Sivin and Fred Rogers, as described in the President's Letter on page 3. The bulk of the bequests has been invested, but the Board has set aside a reasonable amount to fund several much-needed improvements, in three phases.

Most obvious from the first phase is the freshly painted interior, upstairs and down, with wall cracks repaired. Less obvious is a new acoustic ceiling in the dining room, which looks like the old ceiling (no tacky acoustic tiles) to control ambient noise and improve our ability to hear each other during Monday Quarterbacks and Thursday Roundtables, whether we're attending in person or online. A new audio system is being installed, too, aiming to improve sound significantly, especially for online participants.

Other results easily seen in this first phase include two new rugs in the dining room; new stairway carpeting to replace the worn and dirty stair runner, for reasons of safety and appearance; new projector screens on both floors; and a new, sleek podium. Soon to come is a new large TV to be used by members for watch parties to see movies, sports, and other events.

More results on the less-noticeable list are new emergency exit lighting; additional electrical outlets on the first and second floors; GFCI electrical outlets in the kitchen, a safety issue; a cleaned and

cleared basement; and the biggest of these – a heat pump installed in the Archive Room (behind the Sivin Room, and unseen by most members) to heat and cool that space, making it usable year-round.

And a major feature you won't see, for now, is the Inn's artwork. Under the care of Charles Austermuhl, it has been removed for cleaning, preservation, and reframing as needed. Charles will also manage the work of rehangng the collection.

That's a lot for Phase 1. Coming up in Phase 2 is a redesign to create usable space out of another unseen room (let's call it the porch), which hides in plain sight behind a door and window in the southeast corner of the second floor.

The door to the porch is to be permanently removed, with the window replaced by blackout plywood. An exhaust/circulation fan will circulate air into the porch (and back). The porch windows will be double-pane, with both the walls and ceiling insulated. The porch will be tricked out with 36 lockers for use by Innmates. Additionally there will be cabinets, a fridge and a high-end coffee server.

In Phase 3, all exterior windows in the main building will be replaced, with shutters installed, and the entryway to the Clubhouse will be cleaned up with new furniture installed.

Is that a lot? Yes, it is, and all credit to President Jim Marsh for spearheading the effort.

But the hard part's done. Now come enjoy! See you at the Clubhouse!

MEMBER PROFILE

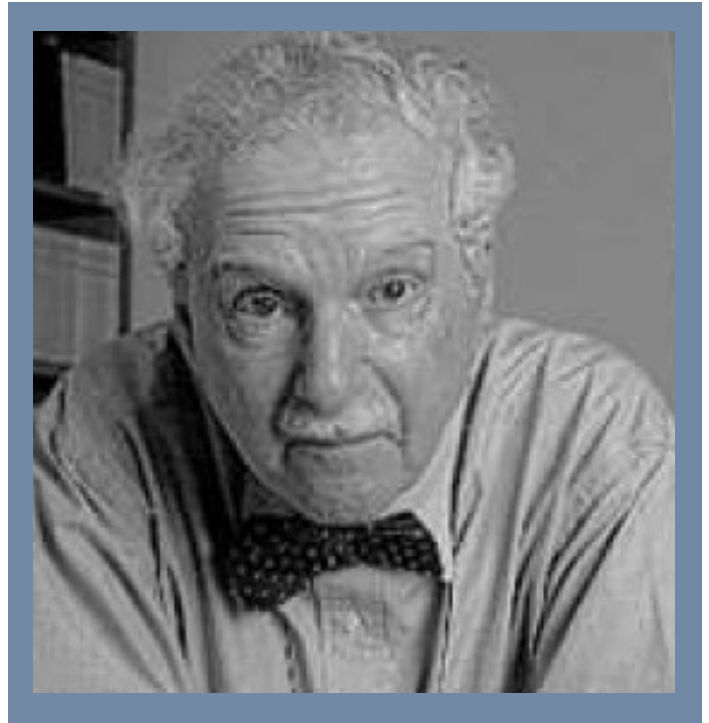
Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of Dr. Nathan Sivin, and of the generous bequest he made to the Club. But who was Nathan Sivin? Well, among other things he was President of the Franklin Inn Club from 1996 through 1998. But there's more – much more. Read on!

Dr. Nathan Sivin was an internationally honored sinologist, historian, essayist, educator, editor, and author who had great impact through his scholarship and his collaborative work with colleagues and students. In this country, he taught first at MIT, then at Penn until his retirement in 2006. He also traveled, studied, lectured, and taught widely in North America, Asia, Europe, and Australia throughout his career

His major areas of study were the history of science and technology in China, medicine in traditional China, Chinese philosophy, and Chinese religious beliefs. He was a key figure in the development of their scholarly study in the West.

From 1954 until 1956, Dr. Sivin was enrolled in an 18-month language program for Chinese at the U.S. Army Language School. He then went on to earn his B.S. at MIT in 1958, followed by his A.M. (1960) and Ph.D. (1966) at Harvard in the history of science. At MIT, he served as assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of humanities from 1966 until 1977, when he moved to Penn as a professor of Chinese culture and history of science.

Dr. Sivin studied abroad on many occasions. He studied Chinese language and philosophy in Taiwan, and the history of Chinese alchemy in Singapore. From the 1960s until the 1980s he was an avid visitor to Kyoto, Japan, where he served as a visiting professor and studied at the Research Institute of Humanistic Studies, focusing on Chinese astronomy, alchemy, and medicine. From 1974 to 2000 he spent most summers in England, studying and lecturing at Cambridge University. During these years, he also lectured in seminars in France and Germany. Notably, Dr. Sivin spoke several foreign languages, including Mandarin, Japanese, German, and French.



Throughout his career Dr. Sivin contributed powerfully to the literature in his field. He founded and then edited, from 1973 to 1991, the journal *Chinese Science*, which became the official journal of the International Society of the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine. As the author of many journal articles and the author or editor of 18 books, he was considered to be a pathbreaker in his field.

His honors included elective membership in numerous learned societies, such as the American Society for the Study of Religion, the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences, and the T'ang Studies Society. He also served as a board member of several societies.

In 1977 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Sivin passed away at the age of 91 in June of 2022. His wife was the artist Carole Delmore Sivin, who died in 2020. For many years they lived in a home they cherished in Chestnut Hill, with the beauty and calm of Pastorius Park at their doorsteps.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What a wonderful time of change it is for the Franklin Inn Club. As you all know by now, we have received two significant bequests from Innmates Drs. Fred Rogers and Nathan Sivin, totaling over \$3.3M with more to come when the estates are settled. This permits us to make significant upgrades to the Club and to expand our offerings. Did you notice the quieter dining room (thanks to Alina Macneal's advice and planning), the fresh paint and the enhanced video and sound system? Most funds from the bequests, however, are invested through PNC Institutional Asset Management with the goal of sustaining the Club into the future.

Viable clubs are not static organizations. In today's rapidly changing world, we must change as well. We plan to expand our program offerings to include more performances such as the wonderful concert in March by jazz pianist Luke Carlos O'Reilly. A priority is to make the Club more attractive to a wider set of Innmates for daily use. To accomplish this, we will be open on more days next year, offering things like high-quality self-service coffee and soft drinks at any time. Rental lockers for storing items of your choice also will be available. We have excellent Internet service, and additional electrical outlets have been installed to facilitate computer use. Also, a large screen TV will be installed upstairs to provide streaming services and regular TV programming. This will be a great place to watch movies or the Eagles, the Phillies, or any other team of interest. All of these changes are focused on making the Club more accessible and attractive to Innmates and on expanding our membership. Along these lines, please tell your friends about The Franklin Inn Club and invite them to join. The best way to do this is to welcome prospects to any of our events so they can see what we are about. With your help, enthusiasm, and support we can make the Club even more enjoyable. It can expand while becoming a more collegial and wonderful place to see and enjoy each other.

Thank you,

Jim Marsh

Jim Marsh

President

HISTORICAL FUN FACTS

To create the current Clubhouse in 1907, several small early 19th-century neocolonial rowhouses were combined by architect Francis Caldwell.

In 1920 Inmate Arthur Frost brought his brother Robert to the Club, where he read several of his poems.

Samantha Bee's "Full Frontal" team rented the Clubhouse in 2018 to film a program segment on DA Larry Krasner.

Our youngest member is 23; our oldest? Merely 100.



Say Hello to the Franklin Inn Foundation

This past Summer saw the establishment of "The Franklin Inn Foundation", a tax-exempt 501(c)3 entity. Created through the efforts of an exploratory committee chaired by Stuart Shapiro, the entity exists for the preservation of the building at 205 South Camac Street (that is, the location of the Franklin Inn Club), designated a historic structure by the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

The Foundation is able to accept tax-exempt funds for the purpose of maintaining the historic structure and for "other charitable purposes." Contributions to the foundation from individuals or estates will therefore be tax-exempt.

The contributed funds may be used for capital expenses in maintaining 205 South Camac St.,

including replacement of the Clubhouse windows, which are nearing end-of-life. This not-for-profit corporate structure has been employed by many other Philadelphia clubs.

Members of the board of directors of the Foundation are William J. Untereker, President; Franklyn Rodgers, Treasurer; Jeanne Wroblewski, Secretary; K. Palmer Hartl, Director; and James Marsh, Director.

Much credit goes to the hard work of Stuart Shapiro and the other members of the exploratory committee: Tom Tropp, Alan Penziner, Matt Dupee, Jim Marsh and Bill Untereker. The Foundation will greatly ease the burden of maintaining a historic building.



THE FRANKLIN INN CLUB

Established 1902

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 10/16** Monday Quarterback. QB: Franklyn Rodgers
- 10/20** Friday Club Dinner. Cocktails @5:30.
Speaker TBD
- 10/23** Monday Quarterback. QB: Russell Cooke
- 10/26** Roundtable. Speaker: Norman E. Donoghue.
Prisoners of Congress, an Untold Story of the
American Revolution
- 10/30** Monday Quarterback. QB: Richard Pasquier

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PAST EVENTS

MARCH 2023

Jazz pianist Luke Carlos O'Reilly delighted a roomful of Innmates with his Oscar Peterson-flavored jazz stylings. His version of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was especially notable.

DECEMBER 2021

Opera Night at the Clubhouse, as The Academy of Vocal Arts presented "Carte de Visite", as soprano Renee Richardson and tenor Zachary Rioux – accompanied by Elise Auerbach – showed off a wide selection of operatic selections.

Mission Statement

The Franklin Inn Club has played a role in the cultural life of Philadelphia for more than a century. The Club promotes conversation among its members and guests about local, national and international events and cultural matters. Through its programming—members, guests and outside speakers with expertise in the arts, sciences, history and contemporary affairs—present current events, cultural topics and other matters for its members to discuss. There are always occasions to converse informally among Innmates.