



Tavern Club

March 2013

CALENDAR

Monday March 4
Monday Night Dinner

Thursday March 7
MeistUrsingers
Special Event:
Tod Randolph plays
Dorothy Thompson:
First Lady of American
Journalism

Monday March 11
Monday Night Dinner

Monday March 18
Monday Night Dinner

Wednesday March 20
History Lunch

Thursday March 21
MeistUrsingers

Monday March 25
Elections Committee
Monday Night Dinner

Tuesday March 26
Poetry Table

Wednesday March 27
Book Club

Thursday March 28
History Lunch &
Arts Roundtable

April 3,4
Narrenabend
Once a Knight

Monday Night Dinner March 4
Cocktails 6:15, Dinner 7:00

MeistUrsingers
The MeistUrsingers will gather at 12:20 on March 7 and 21, with Mystery Maestros conducting. Please let Tony Fay know if you are staying for lunch.

Special Event - Thursday, March 7
Tod Randolph on the Tavern Stage
Daughter of Tavern thespian Peter and Helen Randolph, **Tod will perform** *Cassandra Speaks*, a play written by Norman Plotkin, as Dorothy Thompson on the day of her third marriage, bringing to life her extraordinary career as "First Lady of American Journalism". Ms. Thompson, married to Sinclair Lewis, was the first American journalist expelled from Nazi Germany, and was hailed by TIME magazine in 1939 as the second most influential woman in America next to Eleanor Roosevelt.



Excerpts from reviews:

From Berkshire on Stage:
"Actor Tod Randolph and writer Norman Plotkin have plucked Dorothy Thompson from the dustbin of history

and brought her amazingly, even brilliantly, to life again.

In the 1930's and '40's, Thompson was known as the "First Lady of American Journalism". Time Magazine named her the most influential woman in the country, second only to Eleanor Roosevelt.

"Randolph does more than just act out her part, she glides into it, virtually donning Dorothy Parker's skin in one of the most complex performances I have seen in years. It is an astonishing tour de force".

From the Berkshire Eagle:
"Plotkin delivers a fascinating, complex, fully formed and dimensioned human being who is all too aware of her own shortcomings and wrestles with them even as she wages more fierce battles against the background of world war."
"Thompson has an articulate representative in Randolph. An absolute master of her craft, Randolph has a way of working herself beneath the skin of her characters. She burrows deep within Thompson here. The result is at once revealing and compelling".

Guests welcome – Cocktails 6.00,
Performance 6.30, Dinner to follow.

Monday Night Dinner March 11
Cocktails 6:15, Dinner 7:00.

Monday Night Dinner March 18
Cocktails 6:15, Dinner 7:00
Guest Will Englund, foreign correspondent for the Washington Post based in Moscow, recipient of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize, old friend of David Amory. Members only.

History Lunch
Wednesday, March 20 at 12:15. The Tavern is pleased to welcome back distinguished historian **Eve LaPlante** in a special Women's History Month program. Eve is the author of *Marmee & Louisa, The Untold Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Mother*, and *My Heart Is Boundless, Writings of Abigail May Alcott*. Eve will help us explore the lives of Abigail May Alcott and daughter Louisa May, two Boston women who coped daily with stultifying social strictures in the age of transcendentalism and who led hard lives until the success of Louisa's *Little Women* in 1868. *Guests welcome.*

Committee on Elections

Sandy Righter, Chair
Jonathan Winthrop
David Chanler
David Eckel
John Finley IV
Abbie Trafford
Watson Reid
Jane Shaw
Joe Wheelwright
Ed Tarlov

Elections Committee

The Elections Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 25, at 5:30 in the Perry Room. *February 25: The name of a candidate for membership is in the book in the library for members' review.*

Monday Night Dinner March 25

Cocktails 6:15, Dinner 7:00

Poetry Table

Tuesday, March 26. We will take up the topic of recent U.S. Poet Laureates. Who are these people? How are they chosen? What is their role? Most important, what are they writing? Is it any good? And why are so many of them named Robert? Your poetry chair.

Book Club

Wednesday, March 27 at 12:00. **Bisi Starkey** will lead a discussion of the classic travel books by Patrick Leigh Fermor: *Between the Woods and the Water* and *A Time of Gifts*, relating his 1933 walk from the Hook of Holland to Istanbul.



History Lunch & Arts Roundtable

Thursday, March 28 at 12:15. *Leila Ahmed*, the Victor S. Thomas Professor at Harvard Divinity School, will be our special guest. We will informally discuss her latest book, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence from the Middle East to America*, a study of the rise of political Islam and the ever-changing meaning of the veil, or *hijab*, for Muslim women. Having grown up in Cairo in the 1940's, Leila brings personal insight to help Westerners

rooted in the colonial past and the excesses of the Nasser, Sadat and Mubarak regimes. A timely sequel to Chris Lydon's report from Egypt in January, and for all who want to better understand today's Middle East. Guests welcome.



UPCOMING

Narrenabend

Anne Carter and **Jim Crissman** combine comedic talents to take Tavern theater to transcendent new levels for Narrenabend. In *Once a Knight* an all-star cast explores the many dramatic opportunities that Chaucer passed up in his much-neglected *Knight's Tale*.

Medieval England meets capricious Greco-Roman gods in a one-sided contest in which the gods hold all the cards. Don't miss this outstanding production, which is limited to a one night run on April 4!

Wednesday (dress) and Thursday, April 3 and 4

Jim Terry Musical Retrospective

Thursday, April 25

Annual Meeting

Monday, May 13

Summer Shorts (Plays)

Thursday, June 13

Fete Champetre

Thursday, July 11?

HOUSEKEEPING

Tavern Website

www.tavernclub.org

Select "Register". On the registration page enter your:

- Desired username
- Email address
- First Name
- Last Name
- Desired password

Click on Register. Email anneaitken4@gmail.com for help.

Guests

Guests are warmly welcomed at lunches and special events; and Monday Night dinners with Secretary's permission.

Spouses

Spouses of Taverners (and their guests) are welcome for lunch at the Club on any day with or without member spouse.

Reservations

Call 617.338. 9682 or email tavern.club@verizon.net
Tony Fay AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE to reserve for all lunches, dinners, special events.

Contact Tony Fay for ties, vests, membership directories, and history books on the Tavern Club.

Second printing of the 10th Edition (2012) of the Photo Directory is available - ask Tony Fay.

THE EMERSON PROJECT

Dear Taverners,

The Emerson option agreement has now been signed by Emerson College and the Tavern Club. The Agreement incorporates the issues submitted during the meeting of February 11, and our counsel has informed us that the Agreement conforms to the Tavern Club's rules of governance.

The next step is for Emerson to submit the concept plans to the Tavern Club, on or before March 15, after which the Tavern Club has thirty days to approve the same. The Emerson Working Committee will keep the membership informed and involved as information flows in.

The Emerson Working Committee now consists of **Brian DeLorey** (Chair), **Rudy Kass**, **Harry Lodge**, **David Scudder**, **Jim Terry**, **John Tittmann** and **Brigid Williams**. Rudy and John joined the Working Committee last week. As the activities go into high gear for some time, a number of ad hoc subcommittees will be formed, dealing with architecture, legal issues, finance, and the planning of temporary closing of the club. We think that this is the best way to involve our many talented members, without creating a stultifying overhead with an avalanche of emails. Anne Carter will organize the emails and help us be efficient. So if you have insights on a particular subject, or anything in general, let us know.

I would like to thank all members for their contributions, and especially Brian and his Committee. The vote took place in a spirited way, which kept most of us awake during the long evening. I had brought a baseball bat along in case things got out of hand, but never had a moment's thought of using it.

Let's keep these developments to ourselves. Emerson will probably have some information for the press at some time, but we should leave the handling of any publicity to them.

All the best,
Ernst von Metzsch
President

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!!

On February 7 Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough spoke on *Some Lessons from History* and shared reminiscences of his career as a historian with characteristic modesty, humor and wisdom.

On Valentine's Day **Eli Newberger's** band of world class musicians gave a stunning concert of classic jazz, with guest singers UTE GEFRENER (wife of Taverner **Christoph Wald**) & **Watson Reid**, **JoAnne Dickinson** & **Ben Cox**, and **Sandy Righter** & **Peter Randolph**.

On February 28, **Justin Martin**, author of best-selling biographies of **Alan Greenspan** and **Ralph Nader**, discussed his latest book *Genius of Place: the Life of Frederick Law Olmsted*. The book provides a rich history of early America, as well as the compelling life story of 19th century landscape architect, **Frederick Law Olmsted**. The talk and slide show were followed by lively discussion after dinner., the author conceding that **Olmsted** may well have dined at the **Tavern table!**

New members:

Philip A. (Flip) Mason
Bee man, Lawyer of finance
Antique car collector, Bibliophile
Avid conversationalist

Randal Rucker
"Prince of a public citizen"
Student of history, Musician, Gardener
Accomplished public speaker

Christopher (Rusty) Tunnard
Teacher, Fletcher School
Linguist, Singer (former Krokodilo)
Freelance tour guide
Appreciator of the absurd

David Amory
Secretary