



Tavern Club

September 2020



A Note from the President:

The incidence of coronavirus infections in Massachusetts remains low but not low enough. Despite the limited opening of restaurants and bars and several large public gatherings, there has been no major spike in infections. In the eyes of the State, the Tavern Club is a restaurant and, under current restrictions, we are limited to 20 members in the building at a time. The occupancy limitation will allow us to do a few things like Monday Night Dinners, Friday lunches, and small theme lunches but not the large events that we so enjoy. We will continue to have lectures on Zoom and we will hold the business part of the Annual Meeting by Zoom on September 21 to hear the officer's reports and vote on the report of the Nominating Committee. The awarding of medals and reading of memorial minutes will be deferred until it can be done in person, possibly this winter.

Mr. Fay and I will meet with the staff on September 1 to review the protocols for safely opening the Club starting with Monday Night Dinner on September 14. We will follow the protocols established by the State for restaurants including one-way traffic in and out of the building, masks when not seated at a table, masks for the staff, readily available hand sanitizer, drinks ordered from the table, maximum six people per table, windows open, individual condiments, wrapped butter (sorry Nancy), and wine poured by staff. It will all require from the members a conscientious flexibility and a sense of humor.

This fall, the hours worked by the staff will be less than normal but we intend to continue paying full salaries as we have during the time the Club was closed. Needless to say, the interruption in restaurant revenue is having an effect on Club finances, which Treasurer Deb Bornheimer will discuss at the Annual Meeting.

Stay safe and stay in touch, *Bob Osteen*

Thursday September 3, Fête Champêtre (*sans La Marseillaise*) 1.30pm
(possibly sold out now, but still worth going on the waitlist)



To celebrate the end of summer and a new (peculiar) year at the Tavern, you are invited to an open-air, socially distanced Fête at Carolyn and Bob Osteen's home, 15 South Lane, South Dartmouth, MA on **Thursday, September 3**. The picnic location is about 80 minutes south of downtown Boston. To minimize traffic delays and avoid travel after dark, the Fête will be a picnic lunch served at **1:30 pm**. Every effort will be made to make the event safe and compliant with Massachusetts regulations and recommendations. Attendance will be limited to the 48 people who can be seated at eight six-person tables under the tent. Guests will be asked to wear masks when not seated at their table. Drinks will be served at the tables. Lunches will be individually boxed with utensils. Because attendance is limited by the social distancing requirements, members are limited to one guest each. Please notify Tony Fay and if a space opens up you will be sent detailed directions, etc. manager@tavernclub.org
Put on your lawn-party attire and join us as we embrace the new normal at a distance from our old friends.

Monday, September 14, 6.00pm Monday Night Dinner at the Tavern. Reserve with Mr. Fay

Tuesday, September 15, Noon Poetry Lunch by Zoom Sign up with Mr. Fay to get the Zoom link.

Feeling Satanic? Come to Part II of our Milton Poetry luncheons, in which we explore this fabulous character, Satan, who engineers the Loss of Paradise and fights God. Whose side are you on? Whew!



Wednesday, September 16, 5.30pm History Cocktails on Zoom. Sign up with Mr. Fay to receive the Zoom link.

Carol Bundy writes:

Jamie Holmes has written a wonderfully reviewed book, *12 Seconds of Silence*, on the various ways the Allies defeated the Nazis in intellectual warfare and the people who made that happen from then-presidents of Harvard to obscure engineers from the midwest. It's a fascinating, beautifully written book. Please sign up to join us via zoom and guests are welcome. Also, here's a URL to learn more: <https://www.jamieholmesbooks.com/12-seconds-of-silence>



Thursday, September 17, 5.30pm Journaling Project by Zoom. Sign up with Mr. Fay to get the Zoomlink.

Alice Cornwell writes:

Three Cheers for Summer -

While thrown into the partisan politics and the racial reckoning (and also hope) of this historic summer, while threatened and constrained by the pandemic that keeps raging, Taverners have also found time to paint, sculpt, read, write plays and poetry, maneuver gin poles and the tops of Prosecco bottles. Join us September 17 for a Zoom party in which we will share the art we've created this summer and do the unthinkable: open the pages of our journals. Everyone welcome. The structure of the evening will be laid out clearly on the day but we hope to rekindle the good humor and art of conversation art that thrives around the much-missed and hallowed table at Boylston Place. People who have submitted journal pages, come prepared to read or speak briefly (for a minute or two) about your work or works. **Submissions accepted until Labor Day, September 7th.**

Please send submissions to our slide master **Warren Ross** at wardog@earthlink.net. If already sent to Alice Cornwell, don't worry, I have forwarded them to Wardog.

Friday, September 18, Friday Lunch at the Tavern, Noon Reserve with Mr. Fay.

Monday, September 21, 5.30pm Annual Meeting on Zoom Reserve with Mr. Fay to receive Zoom link.

This is the required business portion of the Meeting, postponed from the usual date in May. We'll hear the officer's reports and vote on the report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee's Report and Agenda will be sent to you shortly.

Wednesday, September 23 at noon on Zoom, Book Club Sign up with Mr. Fay to receive Zoom link.

J. Kauffman, *The Last Kings of Shanghai*

Jonathan Kaufman, Pulitzer Prize winning Northeastern Professor of Journalism will discuss his new book, *The Last Kings of Shanghai*. Starting in the mid-19th century in Shanghai, two Jewish families, the Sassoons and the Kadoories, both originally from Baghdad, stood astride Chinese business and politics, profiting from the Opium Wars, surviving Japanese occupation, courting Chiang Kai-shek and losing nearly everything as the communists swept into power. Kaufman tells the story of how these families participated in the economic boom that opened China to the world. The story stretches from Baghdad to Hong Kong to Shanghai to London. It is a tale of opium, struggling family rivalry, political intrigue and survival.



Thursday, September 24 5:30 Tom Kelly on Don Giovanni by Zoom. Please reserve in advance with Mr. Fay to receive the Zoom link.

Tom Kelly will tell us about the premiere of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, in Prague. There, in 1787, an audience first heard this dark tale, told in songs of humor, love, despair, horror, and evil. A year earlier, the Prague audience had loved the sly *Marriage of Figaro*: what would they think of DG?



Friday, September 25 Friday Lunch at the Tavern. Please reserve in advance with Mr. Fay.

Monday, September 28 Monday Dinner and Elections Committee at the Tavern Please reserve in advance with Mr. Fay.

Tuesday, September 29 Playreading Lunch on Zoom. Sign up with Mr. Fay.

George Heaton writes:

The Play-Reading Luncheon Series Resumes! Are you yearning for a play full of lies, submerged sex, animals in the attic and crazy family members -- none of which can be overcome by truth? Well then, you'll love "The Wild Duck," Ibsen's symbolist masterpiece. Besides all getting roles, we'll all get to take a turn in figuring out what that wounded wild duck stands for during discussion time!

So that we have a common edition, please use Dover Thrift Editions, available in paperback and kindle from Amazon.

We'll do it on Tuesday September 29 at noon. Please reply to Tony and George Heaton and/or Anson Wright -- and let us know if you have any difficulty finding the text.

(Do not expect to be cast as the wild duck except if you only want to listen; it's a non-speaking role.)

And **Bridge** continues online. Contact **Deb Bornheimer** if you are interested in joining. No experience required. duxdeb@gmail.com

Coming soon:

Thursday, October 1 Special Event/Arts Roundtable (evening), Alex Beam on Farnsworth House

The Arts Round Table will hold a special evening event with guest speaker Alex Beam on Thursday, October 1. Alex will speak about his new book, *Broken Glass: Mies van der Rohe, Edith Farnsworth, and the Fight over a Modernist Masterpiece*, published in March. The New York Times called it "a thorough and thoughtful account that is both a knowing biography of an object - the house - and of its two principles, the well-documented Mies and the widely overlooked Farnsworth." Well-known to Miesians but not to most of us, this is also the story of a romance between an architect and his client that wound up as a contentious court case.



Last call for Halloween Plays, due by Tuesday, September 8

From the Plays Committee Chair, **John Tittmann**:

Taverners: Submit it to the Halloween One Act Plays Competition by September 8. This year, imagine that we'll be presenting the Halloween Plays virtually. Think of the creative possibilities! Instead of staging the plays in our theater, we might 'stage' the plays on Zoom. Any play we've performed in the past on the stage would work in this new format.

1. **Exactly Four actors.** *Clever writers might introduce more roles, but there are only four actors in each play.*
2. *Length of total document, including stage directions, etc., should be no more than 1250 words long. (There's a 10% overage wiggle room)*
3. **Only one pseudonym per author.** *By all means, write more than one play, but use the same name on each submission. The idea of the competition is not just to have three plays, but to also have three different authors.*

How to submit your play:

1. *Create an Word or PDF file named by the play name plus your Nom de Plume.*
2. *Using your own email, send the file of your play to: tchalloweenplays@gmail.com This email is managed by a discreet plenipotentiary who will forward your file only to the Plays Committee, keeping the email source anonymous.*
3. *Submit the file no later than Labor Day.*
4. *Watch for confirmation from the TCHalloweenPlays email to confirm that you have successfully submitted the file.*

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Mitchell Lash Adams

Boston, July 18, 2020

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Nancy Maull, Secretary