

Franklin Gazette

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, SPRING, 1991

Friends of Franklin, c/o Dr. Larry Tise, Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, 20th and The Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

"Diligence is the Mother of good luck."

B. Franklin

From the Desk of Larry Tise

It is to me somewhat astonishing from my vantage at the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial to note the number of activities around the country and the world commemorating the life, career, and times of Benjamin Franklin. In response to my column listing some of these in the winter issue of the *Gazette* we had a virtual outpouring of additional events worthy of note. Here are some of them:

1. The Franklin Life Insurance Company of Springfield, Illinois, in a letter to the *Gazette* informs us that it is very much aware of its namesake and is doing a great deal to carry on some important Franklin traditions. Among the company's activities are these:

--"Franklin American Achievers Contest": Fifth grade students from Springfield are challenged to research the life of an "Illinois achiever" and write an essay relating that person to the ideals and philosophies of Benjamin Franklin. More than one hundred students submit essays and prizes are given to the top performers.

--The JUNTO: The company maintains a JUNTO reminiscent of Benjamin Franklin's own organization for the 230 or so management personnel in its home office. The JUNTO meets monthly to exchange management ideas and other information to facilitate the achievement of the company's goals and objectives.

Benjamin Franklin's presence with the company is further assured through its logo which is suggestive of the rising sun described by Franklin at the U.S. Constitutional Convention in 1787. In a courtyard at company headquarters, moreover, there is a large statue of a seated Franklin produced by James Earle Fraser and dedicated in September, 1949 (Fraser also executed the gigantic statue of Franklin in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial).

Finally, longtime president of Franklin Life, Henry Merriam, during the 1920's collected twenty original editions of Franklin's various Poor Richard's Almanack. These are presently exhibited in the dining area of the company's quarters. On January 17th this year the company published a special edition of its newsletter Quill on the life and work of Franklin.

Congratulations to Franklin Life for its faithfulness to the Franklin tradition. For more information contact Mark Butler, Director-Public Relations and Advertising, #1 Franklin Square, Springfield, Ill., 62713.

2. Doug Whitley, also of Springfield, who has closely examined the historical materials of the Franklin Life Insurance Company and a Friend of Franklin recently established an in-

FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN SUPPORT THE FRANKLIN PAPERS

One of the fundamental purposes of the Friends of Franklin is to support the editing and publication of the award-winning Yale University edition of The Franklin Papers. Through recently launched initiatives, the Friends have either addressed or begun to address each of three major goals in this long term commitment.

1. To raise funds for the reprinting of all out of stock volumes in the currently published series (Volumes 1-28).

The Friends have recently secured grants of \$20,000 from the Culpeper Foundation and of \$12,500 from the Kemper Fund as reported elsewhere in this issue of the *Gazette*. These have been matched with additional funds from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission. These funds combined assure the reprinting of all out of stock volumes.

To assist in raising funds to support the completion of the editorial project (Volumes 29-47).

The Friends have established a distinguished Development Committee that has already prepared a comprehensive plan to secure commitments toward the \$300,000 +/- required annually to support the editorial effort. Chaired by Frank B. Jones of Bloomington, Indiana, other committee members in-

clude Deane Sherman, Washington, D.C.; Malcolm N. Smith, Chicago; George Waters, Rochester, Minn.; Doug Whitley, Springfield, Illinois; Stuart Karu, Kennebunkport, Me.; Barbara Oberg, New Haven, Conn.; and Larry E. Tise, Philadelphia. The committee will be seeking general contributions to the project as well as volume sponsors and individual sponsors.

2. To assist as possible in promoting the distribution and sales of published volumes.

The Friends through the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial are launching an innovative promotion and sales program whereby individuals and institutions may buy individual volumes of the Papers by subscription at a substantially reduced price. The subscription initiative is available in the subliment enclosed with this issue of the *Gazette*.

Through these activities, the Friends and the National Memorial hope to insure both the completion of the project and the availability of all volumes for generations to come. All Friends are invited to become a part of this effort as solicitors, contributors, and especially as subscribers to the series. For more information contact the National Memorial at 215-448-1329. [LET]

FRANKLIN AT YALE

In 1752, the Pennsylvania Gazette announced a meeting of subscribers to the Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire. Franklin, of course, was a founder and subscriber. In c. 1892, a young man from Van Wert, Ohio, James S. Kemper, came to Chicago and founded one of the giants of the modern mutual insurance industry. In November 1990, the Kemper Educational and Charitable Fund made a pledge of \$2,500 annually to the Friends of Franklin for the support of the Franklin Papers at Yale. In reporting the grant, Fund Vice Chairman Peter Van Cleave noted Mrs. Kemper's pleasure in the award, owing to her husband's "life-long interest in Benjamin Franklin." The grant from the Kemper Fund is a splendid example of how Franklin's contributions to American society have brought tangible help to the Franklin Papers.

James S. Kemper's interest in Franklin grew out of their common belief in the importance and workability of the principle of mutual insurance. He collected Franklin memorabilia (signed documents and stamps, for example) and displayed them in the private dining room of the Kemper Building at 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago.

Later in life Kemper achieved an additional bond with Franklin when he was appointed a diplomat for the United States; from 1953-55 Kemper served as ambassador of Brazil. His strong and broadening interest in Franklin's career and philosophy led him to deliver in 1954 an address on Franklin at the University of Brazil. Recipient of the Thomas F. Cunningham Award for outstanding service in inter-American relations and of the International Chicagoan of the Year

Larry Tise

expensive, but effective means of drawing attention to Franklin.

In honor of Franklin's birth on January 17, Doug shelled out \$120 to be the day sponsor for local public radio station WSSR. But instead of calling attention to himself, Doug asked the station to remind listeners that it was Franklin's birthday. Recently featured in an article in the Springfield State Journal-Register as a "Franklin-phile" in the land of Lincoln, Doug is president of the Illinois Tax-payers Federation.

3. Joseph H. and June Hennage of Williamsburg and Friends of Franklin were featured in the December 1990 issue of Antiques along with their outstanding collection of Franklin related and era furnishings. Coterminous with the construction of a new house in Williamsburg to house their outstanding collection Colonial Williamsburg, published a catalogue on it by Elizabeth Stillinger titled American Antiques: The Hennage Collection (1990). President of Hennage Creative Printers in Alexandria, Virginia, Joe Hennage and his wife have made frequent donations of period furniture for reception areas of the U.S. Department of State, National Archives, and U.S. Supreme Court. They have also been active in attempting to generate contributions to restore Franklin's London house at 36 Craven Street. Among the prized Franklin items in their collection is a mahogany high chest of drawers made in Philadelphia 1769-1790 and descended from Franklin himself or his daughter Sally.

4. The number of individuals performing the role of Franklin--complete with wig and costume--seems to be multiplying quite rapidly. We have all come to know and respect the work of such professionals as Philadelphia's Ralph Archbold ("Benjamin Franklin") and Boston's William Meikle ("Franklin Alive").

But there evidently are many others scattered about the nation. As I strolled across the Mall in Washington, D.C. recently I came face to face with "The Living Ben Franklin," Mickey A. Scroggins. Operating out of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Scroggins touts himself as a 6th generation direct descendent of Franklin himself. From conversations with him, it seems that his specialty is guiding bus tours through the nation's capital.

Meanwhile from California we recently got some promotional literature from "Bud as Ben," Professor Knox Long. For twenty-five years Bud Long has studied Franklin and come to play the role of a living Franklin in plays, demonstrations and other performances. He also is a professor of history and counselor at Moorpark College in Somis,

California.

We would be happy to get information about other Franklin role players.

5. A contingent of eighty English students descended on Philadelphia on March 1 from Chambersburg Senior School. The one thing they had in common was that all of them had just read Benjamin Franklin's famous Autobiography. The purpose of their visit was to get a feel for the places, objects, and materials of Franklin's era. In addition to touring around, they stopped at the American Philosophical Society where Friend of Franklin Roy Goodman showed the students books, newspapers, and manuscripts from Franklin's own hand. According to teacher Suzanne T. Ahlberg, who led the charges, the students were very excited to see and feel real materials from Franklin's time.

We are always eager to know about activities and events that might be of interest to our readers.

FRANKLIN BIBLIOPHILE DIES EDWIN WOLF 2ND (1911-1991)

One of the most amazing characters in the history of Franklin scholarship, Edwin Wolf 2nd, died in Philadelphia on February 20, 1991. Book dealer extraordinaire in the Philadelphia branch of the great Rosenbach book firm, bibliographer of medieval manuscripts as well as early American imprints, librarian of the oldest subscription library in America, Wolf brought all of his extraordinary talents and experiences together for the prodigious task of reassembling Benjamin Franklin's great personal library.

During the 1950's, he conceived and directed a physical move and reorientation of the Library Company of Philadelphia--

founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin and a few friends--from a modern library into Philadelphia's preeminent historical library. But he also became a preeminent Franklin scholar writing two books on Franklin and then unlocking the secret of the penciled shelf numbering system used by Franklin in his library. This discovery made it possible for Wolf to comb the public and private libraries of Philadelphia and the books of Franklin descendents and book dealers in search of the the very books once possessed by Benjamin Franklin. By the time of his death more than a thousand of the 4,276 volumes owned by Franklin had

See "Edwin Wolf", Back Page, Bottom.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ART VIDEO

A multi-media video installation by Philadelphia artist Peter Rose opened on March 8th at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City. A homage to celebrated Benjamin Franklin, the work invents a set of contemporary images that "reconstruct" Franklin's ideas about electricity, women, mischief, invention, research, politics, and language. BEN FRANKLIN DREAMS THE WORLD was commissioned by the city of Philadelphia in 1990 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Franklin's death.

The installation consists of an informal sitting area complete with coffee table and small monitor, flanked by three large monitors on pedestals. For the piece, Rose has constructed a typology of Franklin's profoundly varied interests and activities, drawn from Carl Van Doren's seminal biography. A color-coded reference index corresponds to each of the seven main ideas expressed in the images on the two flanking monitors. The installation is located in the Museum's third-floor video gallery through May 12.

[BT]

PHILADELPHIA KITE FESTIVAL

The Fifth Annual Philadelphia Kite Festival, to benefit the Hospice Program of Pennsylvania Hospital and the Fairmount Park Commission will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 on Belmont Plateau in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

This two day event will feature stunt kites that travel at speeds of 100 mph and Japanese battle kites that require teams of four flyers. Other activities include contests, exhibits, workshops, a food bazaar and corporate battle kite competitions.

The organizers are looking for corporate and private donations. Proceeds from the event will be used by Pennsylvania Hospital's Hospice Program which provides palliative and supportive care to patients with terminal illness, their families and loved ones. Pennsylvania Hospital, the nation's first hospital, was founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond. The festival will also benefit The Fairmount Park Commission which features 8,900 acres of beautiful recreational complexes and some of Philadelphia's greatest historical and cultural treasures. If you would like more information about The Fifth Annual Kite Festival or would like to make a donation please call 215-829-5335. [BT]

LETTER FROM A FRIEND

Dear Larry,

I was pleased to receive the latest issue of the Franklin Gazette and to renew my annual membership contribution to serve the Friends of Franklin.

I especially like seeing a page devoted to new book releases. It should be kept as a regular feature.

I also liked the notice of various events related to or honoring B.F. It's fun to learn how others are celebrating and keeping B.F.'s memory with us.

Sincerely,
Doug Whitley

YALE CONTINUED

Award, Ambassador Kemper embodied the spirit of entrepreneurship and the mission of international diplomacy. We at the

Franklin Papers are deeply appreciative of the Kemper Fund's decision to honor Am-

bassador Kemper's achievements by supporting the editing of Franklin's writings. [Barbara Oberg]

B. FRANKLIN BOOK REVIEW BONANZA

The outpouring of new books and editions of Franklin's own writings has also brought forth some book review bonanzas, some very useful and instructive. Among the most interesting is a quite lengthy review article by Edmund S. Morgan in the January 31, 1991, New York Review of Books titled "Secrets of Benjamin Franklin" (pp. 41-46). This is a most worthy and insightful look into the current state of Franklin scholarship and interpretation.

Morgan includes the following items in his preview: Bernard Cohen's Benjamin Franklin's Science, Claude-Anne Lopez's Le Sceptre et la Foudre and Mon Cher Papa, Ormond Seavey's Becoming Benjamin Franklin, Leo LeMay's edition of Franklin's Writings published by the Library of America, Esmond Wright's edition of Benjamin Franklin: His Life as He Wrote It, and, last but far from least, the 28 cumulative volumes in The Papers of

Benjamin Franklin from Yale University Press.

Morgan notes that when Franklin died two centuries ago in 1790, he was lauded as a great hero in France and England. But across town in Philadelphia where the fledgling American Congress sat in session, not enough votes could be found in the Senate to pass a resolution of mourning for Franklin that had earlier narrowly passed in the House of Representatives.

In the early days of the increasingly bloody French Revolution, it seems, Franklin was associated with the excesses of the French. From that launching pad, Morgan asks if there was a secret Franklin, a personality either deliberately obscured by Franklin himself or by the exigencies of history. Viewing Franklin from the vantage of his science, his life in France, his life in England, and his diplomatic career, Mor-

gan concludes that there is no great secret: "With Franklin, as with John Adams, what you see is what you get." While the Autobiography seems to describe a quite different person, Morgan notes that it only covers the first fifty years of Franklin's life.

But from these new sources Morgan concludes that Franklin was the first true American, who thought in continental terms and who planned out a mighty independent nation that would help to shape world order and that Franklin set about making that nation. This put him in the same league as Edmund Burke and made him something of a radical conservative. That was a bit much for Americans still confined to the eastern seaboard of America in 1790 to swallow.

It is nice to see noted historians like Morgan asking some significant and fresh questions about Franklin. Away with the witty stereotypes! [LET]

EXCERPT FROM THE FABULOUS FRANKLIN STORY, THE HISTORY OF THE FRANKLIN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 1884 - 1970

By Francis J. O'Brien (1972)

"The event that overshadowed all others . . . during 1949, was the unveiling of the statue of Benjamin Franklin, the Apostle of Thrift, and the Company's 'Patron Saint.' . . . I [O'Brien] visited perhaps a dozen art museums and galleries in Philadelphia and New York. I met a lot of sculptors, but finally narrowed it down to three . . . Had I not had an opportunity to talk with . . . James Earle Fraser, and seen a magnificent example of his work--an heroic marble Benjamin Franklin in its own separate temple at the Franklin Institute in

Philadelphia, I would [have gone with another sculptor].

"To say that I was impressed with Mr. Fraser and his ability as a sculptor is an understatement. I believe he is by all odds the greatest alive today. He was a pupil and protege of the great St. Gaudens. He studied for a time under the immortal Frenchman, Rodin, possibly the greatest sculptor since Michaelangelo. At age 17, he created one peice of sculpture which is probably the most widely known in

America . . . 'The End of the Trail,' and depicts an Indian with bowed head on horseback standing at the edge of a precipice. . . He designed the Buffalo nickel, and the superb mounted figure of Theodore Roosevelt flanked by an American Indian, and an African Native, which stands before the portals of the Museum of Natural History in New York." [LET]

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION/USE

Despite the many books, articles, pamphlets, and plays published about Benjamin Franklin, there are evidently a great many other productions in manuscript awaiting proper adoption, adaptation, publication or use. Among those that have come to our attention in recent months and which are available for the right person or organization are these:

1. Mrs. Henrietta Scott Gay (Mrs. Thomas S., Jr) of Gwynedd, Pa. recently wrote the Gazette with information about a book manuscript titled Franklin, the Politician written by her father Samuel Bryan Scott in his later years. She describes her father as "a Franklin descendant, a lawyer and a reform politician in Philadelphia" who served in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and who wrote a useful book titled State Government in Pennsylvania. The draft book on Franklin she says was never published because it "was not written in the completely scholarly style, complete with footnotes and cita-

tions, nor was it sufficiently informal to become a popular book." The book, she believes, is nevertheless quite interesting due to its "particular point of view." Mrs. Gay is prepared "to freely donate the manuscript to whomever would find it useful, with the sole condition that my father be given full credit for his part in the work."

2. Prof. Edward W. Chester of the Univesity of Texas at Arlington has also written to us about a draft historical novel titled The Lightning and the Sceptre, written by the late Professor Leland D. Baldwin of the University of Pittsburgh. The manuscript covers the second half of Franklin's life in a rather lively and dramatic manner and seeks to deal with some of the historical conundrums left by Franklin, such as, the true mothers of William and of Temple Franklin and some of their entanglements while Franklin traveled about France. Professor Chester would like to find an appropriate publisher for this delightful manuscript.

3. Aaron Goldman of Washington, D.C. has written a clever play titled "Ben Franklin--Our Man in London." Already presented as a workshop production at Georgetown University, the play is now ready for adaptation or production in other settings. The play, according to Goldman, focuses upon that part of Franklin's career least known to most people--his years in London as a lobbyist for Pennsylvania when he faced perhaps the most difficult challenges and choices in his life.

All of these available writings suggest something else. Given the penchant of Hollywood to pick juicy subjects for television docudramas (George Washington, the Sixties) and for full length movies (Amadeus, Vincent and Theo, Reversal of Fortune), why, pray tell, has the life of Franklin been overlooked? Anyone wishing more information on any of the foregoing available items should contact the office of the Gazette. [LET]

In Quest of The Historical Franklin: Researching and Collecting the Most Famous American

April 17, 1991

The Franklin Institute

Philadelphia, PA

On the occasion of the 201st anniversary of the death of Benjamin Franklin and following upon the bicentennial year filled with books, articles, and events commemorating his life and career, we will pause to assess two major facets of ongoing interest in Franklin - researching Franklin's life and times and collecting objects, papers, and artifacts relating to or commemorating Franklin's life and fame.

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.

Registration and Coffee
Franklin Hall

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Session
Stearns Auditorium

Presiding: Dr. Larry E. Tise, Executive Director,
Benjamin Franklin National Memorial,
The Franklin Institute
Introduction: "The Quest for the Historical Franklin"

9:30 a.m.

Researching Franklin: What Remains to be Done?
Stearns Auditorium

A panel of notable historians and Franklin scholars will look at the avalanche of recent studies and publications about Franklin as well as available historical resources and will help us explore several tantalizing topics.

Panelists

J.A. Leo Lemay, Professor of English, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
Barbara Oberg, Editor, The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
James N. Green, Curator of Printed Books, The Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.
Roy E. Goodman, Reference Librarian, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA.
Susan Branson Heller, Department of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill., and Fellow,
Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies.

Noon

Lunch
Omni Cafe

The Friends of Franklin Members Meeting
The Board Room

2:00 p.m.

Collecting Frankliniana: What's Where and What's Left?
Stearns Auditorium

A distinguished panel of private collectors, dealers, and curators of Frankliniana will look at the world of collecting Franklin related objects, furnishings, books, medals, manuscripts, memorabilia, and other items and will help us focus upon a number of topics.

Panelists

E. McSherry Fowble, Curator and in Charge of Graphics and Paintings, Winterthur Museum and Gardens, Winterthur, DE.
Phil Greenslet, Frankliniana Collector, Reisterstown, MD.
Clarence Wolf, Owner, George S. MacManus, Co., Philadelphia, PA.
Marian S. Carson, Author and Collector, Philadelphia, PA.

4:30 p.m.

Reception for Conference Participants
The Board Room

5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NATIONAL MEMORIAL AND THE
FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN OFFER A UNIQUE PLAN TO
PURCHASE THE PAPERS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial of The Franklin Institute in collaboration with its Friends of Franklin are pleased to present a unique plan whereby individuals may acquire on a subscription basis any previously published volumes in the award-winning Yale University Press edition of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin at the lowest price available anywhere. Under this plan, participating individuals or subscribers will receive on a quarterly basis the volume or volumes of their choice (depending upon whether the volume is in stock at the moment) for the low price of only \$49 per volume plus shipping. That is 25% below the current per volume list price of \$65.

Subscribers will receive an initial notice and a renewal notice annually with a worksheet on which to indicate in priority order the volumes they wish to receive that year. Worksheets each year must be returned with prepayment for the ensuing quarter. Subscribers will be notified by card when the next quarterly prepayment is due. All orders will be filled only when prepayment has been received and submitted prior to mandatory quarterly deadline dates. Subscribers failing to return prepayments will be automatically discontinued.

A total of 28 volumes out of a projected total of 45-50 volumes have been completed in The Papers of Benjamin Franklin. While at the moment some of the current volumes are out of stock, the Friends of Franklin, a not-for-profit group devoted to the study and promotion of Benjamin Franklin, has devoted itself to raising funds to keep the entire set available as well as to support the entire project. A recent gift of \$20,000 from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation and a matching grant from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission will assure the reprinting of all out-of-stock volumes by early 1992.

Through this unique subscription plan, it is the hope of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial and its Friends of Franklin that we will be able to demonstrate the importance of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, not only to scholars, but also to the many hundreds and thousands of people who find the life, career, and contributions of Benjamin Franklin of abiding interest. Subscribers will be acknowledged in future issues of the FRANKLIN GAZETTE--the official newsletter of the National Memorial and the Friends of Franklin.

As an added feature of this program, subscribers have the option of placing a standing order for newly published volumes.

These subscribers will be notified of the publication of new volumes which will be available at the retail price of \$65. With the appearance of new volumes the next most recent will become immediately available at our reduced price.

Persons wishing to receive information about the program and forms to enter a subscription may return a completed copy of the following:

Name:		Phone:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
<u>SUBSCRIPTION TO THE PAPERS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN</u>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send me information on how I may become a subscriber to THE PAPERS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send me information on how I may become a member of the Friends of Franklin			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send me information on other activities, tours, conferences, and programs on Benjamin Franklin			
<p>Please return this form to Dr. Larry E. Tise, Executive Director, Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, The Franklin Institute, The Parkway at 20th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 Phone 215-448-1329 Fax 215-448-1364</p>			

*A publication of The Friends of Franklin
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Franklin Gazette

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

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EDWIN WOLF

been identified by Wolf's persistent search. His record as one of Philadelphia and the nation's great librarians will be long remembered. He was, as

well, a devoted Friend of Franklin, encouraging the formation of our organization. [LET]

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S ENGLAND OCTOBER 7-14, 1991

The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial of the Franklin Institute has scheduled a tour of Benjamin Franklin's England commencing Monday, October 7 and concluding on the 14th. During seven action packed days, our group will visit eighteen sites, societies, or museums

where Benjamin Franklin lived, worked, and socialized. Also two trips to the countryside, evenings at the theatre, and several gala repasts. Final touches and price are being set. Contact the National Memorial (215-448-1329; Kathleen Fau) for more information and a tour package. [KF]

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All individuals, institutions, scholars, students, collectors and others are invited to become members of the Friends of Franklin at the annual membership rates indicated below:

Institutional Member	\$1,000
Contributing Member	500
Franklin Friend	100
Annual Member	50
Subscription to Gazette	10

Send check made payable to:

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