

# Franklin Gazette

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Visit: [www.friendsoffranklin.org](http://www.friendsoffranklin.org)

*"None know the unfortunate, and the fortunate do not know themselves."*

*Poor Richard, February 1747*

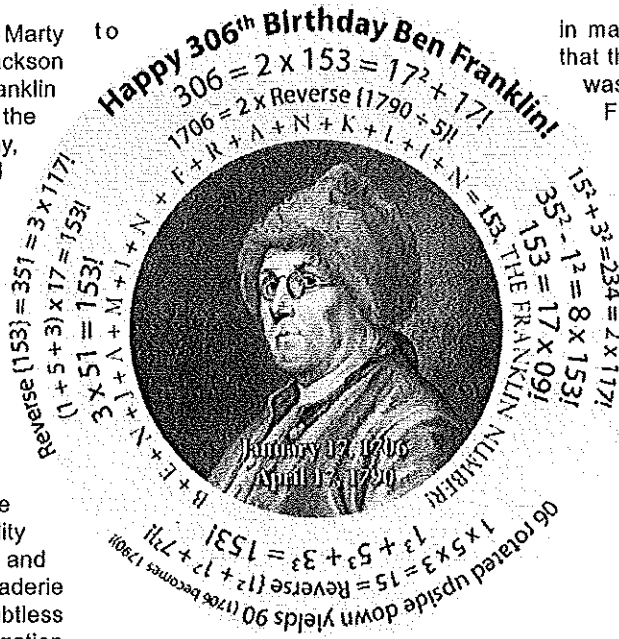
## President's Message

By Lee E. Knepp

We extend sincere appreciation to Marty and Jane Mangold, and also to Jackson and Ann Boswell, for offering a Franklin Weekend in Washington, D.C., to the membership and guests on Friday, April 20, Saturday, April 21, and Sunday, April 22.

The Friends of Franklin have gathered in Washington on several previous occasions, most recently in 2005 (at Cherry Blossom time) with Walter Isaacson and The Aspen Institute as our host. Previously, in 1994, we stayed at the Cosmos Club and eagerly anticipated our first international venture, to Paris, where we journeyed in 1995. The hospitality and special efforts of the Mangolds and the Boswells, as well as the camaraderie of the Friends of Franklin, will doubtless go down in the history of the organization along with these earlier visits.

The Friends of Franklin and we, individually, as friends mourn the passing of board member Frank H. Batchelor of Beaver, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, March 29, 2012 (the day of his 90th birthday). Many of us first met Frank and his wife Carin at the above mentioned 2005 gathering in Washington, and have travelled with them on many of our domestic and international fall gatherings since that time. Frank served our organization with real dedication as a board member and became the first to step forward with a generous loan which allowed us to defer the liquidation of an investment. Without exaggeration, many of us came



*"Franklin number 153" created by Aziz Inan to celebrate Franklin's 306th birthday.*

adore this special couple, and at this time we extend our sincere sympathy to Carin as well as to their two sons Batch and Stuart and their wives Margit and Nancy (who also have accompanied us on several trips). Carin has assured me that, had it not been for Frank's illness, they would have been the first to register for the 2012 Washington gathering.

The January, 2012, Philadelphia Celebration! Of Franklin, Founder, was the first Franklin birthday party I have missed

in many years, but I have been assured that this year's birthday, Franklin's 306th, was another superbly fitting tribute to Franklin. We commend Celebration!, and all constituent organizations, for carrying forth this noble tradition (for more on this tradition in the 20th century and beyond, see the article in this issue). I call your attention to the illustration by Aziz Inan, reproduced for you right here on the front page of this issue, and to the accompanying article elsewhere in this issue.

## Happy 306th Birthday, Ben Franklin!

Aziz S. Inan, Ph.D. Electrical Engineering, University of Portland

Benjamin Franklin (January 17, 1706-April 17, 1790) was an extraordinary person with multiple facets and interests and his contributions to the wellbeing of human society are myriad. In the words of his biographer Carl Van Doren, Franklin was a "harmonious human multitude."

In addition to his crucial role in the American Revolution, Franklin was also very active, influential and proficient

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## Calendar of Events

**June 14, 2012-** Evening seminar, The Worlds of Benjamin Franklin, Washington, D.C. For more information see:

[http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/reserve.aspx?performanceNumber=224586&utm\\_source=RAad&utm\\_medium=OAtsa&utm\\_content=mwX&utm\\_campaign=MayWe](http://residentassociates.org/ticketing/tickets/reserve.aspx?performanceNumber=224586&utm_source=RAad&utm_medium=OAtsa&utm_content=mwX&utm_campaign=MayWe)

**July 30, 2012-** Lady Joan Reid, "Franklin and Joseph Priestley" 12 noon at Benjamin Franklin House, Craven St., London. Admission.

**August 6, 2012-** "A Musical Evening: Franklin's Glass Armonica" 6:30 PM at Benjamin Franklin House, Craven St., London. Admission.

**September 10, 2012-** Tom Fitzgerald reads from his new novel, *Poor Richard's Lament*. 1-2 PM at Benjamin Franklin House, Craven St., London. Reservations required. Admission.

**October 22, 2012-** Lady Joan Reid, "Franklin and the Bankers" 6 PM at Benjamin Franklin House, Craven St., London. Admission.

**January 18, 2013-** Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin Founder, seminar, procession to his grave and luncheon. Philadelphia.

*Happy continued*

during the Enlightenment period both in America and Europe. His investigations and achievements spanned many fields of study including literature, printing, business, entrepreneurship, science, engineering, technology, politics, philosophy, environment, arts, and public service. His inventions include swim fins, the rocking chair, bifocal lenses, the Franklin stove, and the glass armonica. His legacy still lives today in every tall building around us protected day and night by his most famous invention, the lightning rod.

Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 marked Franklin's 306th birthday, numerically a very special birthday number for Franklin indeed! Why? I will explain.

First, if one assigns  $A = 1$ ,  $B = 2, \dots$ , and  $Z = 26$  to the letters of the English alphabet, the letters of "Benjamin Franklin" add up to 153, which I recently coined as the Franklin number, and twice the Franklin number equals 306 [1]! Isn't this something?

Second,  $306 = 17 \times 17 + 17$ , where 17 is a number that pops up repeatedly in Franklin's biography. For example, he was born on the 17th of January, died on 17th of April, his birth day was Sunday which is day 1 of each week and death day was Saturday (day 7) and Sunday-Saturday numbers put side-by-side yield 17. Since he lived during the eighteenth century, all the years in his lifetime started with the number 17. He was the 15th of his parents' 17 children and reverse of 15 which is 51 equals three times 17. He moved from Boston to Philadelphia at age 17. The digits of his death year add up to 17 and many more [2]. Also, note that if Franklin's death year 1790 is split as 17 and 90, amazingly 17 times reverse of 90 yields 153, the Franklin number!

If Franklin's birthday number 306 is split as 30 and 6, the difference of the squares of these two numbers yields 864, half of which is 432, where reverse of 432 is 234 which is twice 117, Franklin's birth date (January 17th)!

In addition, all the divisors of the Franklin number 153 (which are 1, 3, 9, 17, 51 and 153) add up to 234, that is, twice 117! Fascinating!

Also note that the reverse of the Franklin number is 351, which equals three times 117! Wow! In addition, if 153 is split as 15 and 3, sum of the squares of these two numbers yields  $234 = 2 \times 117$ ! It's like magic, isn't it?

If 351 (which is 153 reverse) is split as 3 and 51,  $3 \times 51 = 153$ ! In addition, if 351 is split as 35 and 1, the difference of the squares of these two numbers results in eight times 153 which is four times 306! Amazing!

Also, the reverse of the sum of the squares of the digits of 117 yields 15 which is  $1 \times 5 \times 3$ , that is, the product of the digits of the Franklin number! Unbelievable!

I hope these fun numerical coincidences related to Franklin's birthday help serve as a vehicle to attract more attention to his life and achievements. Happy 306th Birthday, Ben Franklin, and thanks for continuing to serve as a role model for generations to come!

### References:

[1] A. S. Inan, "The Franklin Number and Other Numerical Oddities in Ben Franklin's Life," Franklin Gazette, Volume 21, Number 3, Fall 2011, p. 9.

[2] A. S. Inan, "More 17's in Ben Franklin's Life," Franklin Gazette, Volume 21, Number 2, Summer 2011, pp. 7-8.

## Math Puzzlers

By Aziz S. Inan, Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Portland

*Editor's Note: Here are some new math puzzlers to try; answers will appear in the next issue.*

**Problem # 28. Ben finds an organization.** Benjamin Franklin founded an organization in year  $x$ . If the difference between  $x$  and its reverse yields a year in Franklin's life, which organization was founded by Franklin in year  $x$ ?

**Problem # 29. Ben's age.** Benjamin Franklin is  $x$  years old in the year  $y$  where  $x$  equals the two-digit number in the middle of  $y$ . What are  $x$  and  $y$ ?

**Problem # 30. Benjamin Franklin's birthday in 2057.** Why will Benjamin Franklin's birthday number in 2057 be special? (Hint: The Franklin number.)