



April 2023
Volume 17, Issue 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s message: Welcome to the cheerful month of April.....	2
Member’s Moment: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen.....	2
Sandy Cornett joins as a new Torch member.....	3
Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach.....	4
Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2022-23.....	4
Board of Directors of the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2022-23.....	4

Presentation by Joe Blundo on April 6: “The Sort-of-Great Columbus Trivia Quiz”

Long-time Columbus journalist Joe Blundo promises an amusing and fact-filled presentation on Ohio’s capital when he delivers his Torch paper, titled “The Sort-of-Great Columbus Trivia Quiz,” to the Columbus Torch Club on Thursday, April 6.

“The quiz will test your knowledge of everything from Columbus’ earliest residents to our town’s most notorious criminals,” Joe says. “What movies have been filmed in Columbus? Who are our most famous artists? What are our most distinctive buildings? It’s a general knowledge quiz — history, pop culture, art, a little sports — focused solely on this place we call home.”

A member of Torch for the past 13 years, Joe has spent his entire career in journalism. His column, “So to Speak,” has been appearing in *The Columbus Dispatch* since 1997. It’s a mix of humor, human interest and information. Among his interests are Columbus history and its quirks.

Born in New Castle, Penn., in 1954, Joe graduated from Kent State University with a degree in journalism in 1975 and began his newspaper career at the *Parkersburg Sentinel* in West Virginia in 1976. He joined the *Dispatch* in 1978 as a reporter. He also worked there as a copy editor, section editor and real-estate writer before becoming a columnist — his dream job — in 1997. His column has won awards from the Associated Press, Society of Professional Journalists and the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Joe left the staff of the *Dispatch* in 2019 and now writes the column, which is published on Sundays, as a free-lancer. He and his wife, Deborah, live in Worthington and have two children and two grandchildren.



Joe Blundo

Nancy Wardwell will continue as IATC Region 5 director

The International Association of Torch Clubs in March announced that Nancy Wardwell has been selected for a full term as director of Region 5. Her term will begin following the IATC convention in June. She has served as interim director since last year. She was president of the Columbus Torch Club in 2021-22. Region 5 includes the clubs in Akron, Columbus, Lima, Toledo and Youngstown.

President's message: Welcome to the cheerful month of April

As March fades away, it is time to welcome April once again. I usually find April to be a cheerful and hopeful month. That's most likely because across most parts of the world, April is the beginning of spring – a time for renewal.

The Romans called the month of April, *Aprillus*, which is believed to come from the verb *aperire*, which means to bloom or open. April is also derived from the Latin word *aperit* which means "to open," like the trees and flowers beginning to bloom. For us today, April means baseball, cherry blossoms, Earth Day, Easter (most years) and April Fools Day!

Our Torch Club will celebrate April with Joe Blundo's presentation, "The Sort-Of-Great Columbus Trivia Quiz." No fooling, see you then!



Susan Tilgner

Member's Moment: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Presented by Jeff Caswell on March 2

Antoinette grew up in the Netherlands in the city of Rotterdam where her great-grandfather had founded the Holland America Line 150 years ago. The line was family-managed for many years. As a young man, her grandfather was a director of the company as it was considering a purchase of ships from England. Because of this interest, he was a guest of the White Star Line on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*, and he did not survive.

Antoinette's father was a young child at the time. He went on to study in England, moving into the family business later as an adult with assignments in many countries. For those of you who know the Holland American Line only in its current form as a cruise line, it is worth noting that it was originally a passenger and cargo line, and carried hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Europe to the U.S.

Antoinette completed the classical Gymnasium B in Rotterdam, a rigorous program that combined study of classical liberal arts and languages with emphasis on the natural sciences, as preparation for medical study. She enrolled in medical school at Utrecht University where she obtained her Candidate in Medicine degree, which is approximately the equivalent of an American undergraduate degree plus the preclinical sciences in medicine.

After her marriage to Gijsbertus Koolemans-Beynen, she moved to Emporia, Kan. Because there was no medical school nearby, she enrolled in the Kansas State Teacher's College (now Emporia State University) and graduated in 1966 with a Master of Science degree in Foreign Languages, with a thesis on home life in the work of Marcel Proust. As Antoinette recounted, she was originally sitting in the language classes as an ungraded auditor. When the instructor realized what language skills Antoinette already had, she recommended that Antoinette enroll in the master's program, which worked out well for her. The unusual combination of a Master of Science in Foreign Languages and her medical



Jeff Caswell presented Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen for the Member's Moment in March.

background landed her a job a couple of years later at the University of Rochester in medical research in the Department of Pharmacology, learning the basic techniques of cell and tissue culture.

Eventually, Antoinette settled here in Columbus, Ohio. She considered whether to continue working in research or to return to medical school. With four children, she decided medical school was not a realistic option. She started her work at The Ohio State University as a research associate, first in the Department of Surgery, and later in Veterinary Pathobiology, the Comprehensive Cancer Center, Physiological Chemistry and finally in Pharmacology and Urology. As many of you know, in this sort of work, one moves around following sources of grant funding. Her work resulted in many publications, mostly related to transplantation and cancer research.

She retired early from Ohio State in 1996, partly to care for her ailing father, which required travel back and forth to the Netherlands. She later worked in outreach with First Community Village, and then started her own business, a meal delivery service for shut-ins in partnership with MCL cafeterias, that lasted until the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

Antoinette has four children and 12 grandchildren, four of whom live here in central Ohio (and one of whom is now at the South Pole). She is a past president (and still a very active member) of the University Women's Club and a deacon in First Congregational Church, where she is a team leader of the non-profit social justice B.R.E.A.D. Organization. Her interest in social justice grew in part out of family memories of the Nazi occupation in Holland and the need always to be active and vigilant in issues of justice.

Antoinette has lived a remarkably interesting and varied life, and you should get to know her better!

Sandy Cornett joins as a new Torch member

Sandra Cornett, who is retired from a distinguished career in nursing and health education and literacy, joined the Columbus Torch Club at its meeting March 2. She earned three degrees from The Ohio State University: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, master's degree in nursing education and a Ph.D. in adult education and instructional design.

Sandy served as a staff nurse, head nurse and staff development coordinator in cardiac care nursing at Ohio State, University of California at San Diego, and Duke University Hospital. Then for 21 years she was director of patient and family education at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center. Beginning in 2001, she provided leadership and consultation throughout Ohio on implementing health literacy programs. She developed and directed Ohio State's Area Health Education Center Clear Health Communication Program until she retired in 2014.

Ohio State's Medical Heritage Center recognized Sandy as a member of the Class of 2020 of Local Nursing Legends. She received the Ohio State Nursing Alumni Society's Distinguished Alumna Award in 2021. The Health Care Education Association in 2003 presented her with the Jean Raines Distinguished Service Award.



Sandy Cornett (left) with Membership Committee Chair Dorothy Driskell.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on April 6. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 499-3090.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest is \$30. A potential member may attend one dinner meeting without charge.

If you need a ride to a Torch meeting or are willing to provide transportation, please contact the club's Fellowship Committee through its chair, Diane Selby, at (614) 571-4226 and Dianeselby@gmail.com.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2022-23

October 6, 2022: **"Walking the Way: El Camino de Santiago de Compostela"** by the Rev. Dr. Susan Warren Smith

November 3, 2022: **"Climate Change in Ohio"** by Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health

December 1, 2022: **"An Irregular Christmas,"** a holiday gala with Nate Terry, composer and publisher, Major 7 Publishing

January 5, 2023: **"OSU's Most Famous Murderer: Professor James Howard Snook"** by Raimund Goerler

February 2, 2023: **"Recent Advances in Medicine"** by Dr. Gary Hinzman

March 2, 2023: **"The Columbus Economy"** by Bill LaFayette

April 6, 2023: **"The Sort-of-Great Columbus Trivia Quiz"** by Joe Blundo

May 4, 2023: **"The Challenge of Consensus on a Humane, Pragmatic Policy on Drug Abuse"** presented by Steve Sterrett

Torch Club's monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker
7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2022-23

President – Susan Tilgner

President-elect – Rai Goerler

Immediate Past President – Nancy Wardwell

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – David Lenz

Assistant Treasurer – vacant

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Nancy Wardwell

Region 5 Director – Nancy Wardwell

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Website Editor – Rai Goerler

Director-at-Large – Christina Atzberger (2024)

Director-at-Large – David Hansen (2024)

Director-at-Large – Paul Niswander (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)