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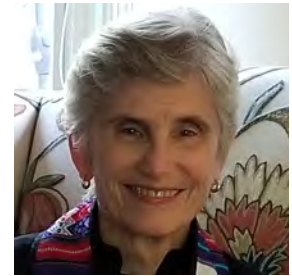
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### President’s message: Join us for a holiday gathering over Zoom on Dec. 3

By Susan Warrener Smith

At the end of October, I participated in an IATC Rally on Zoom. Participants represented a variety of clubs, and it was interesting and fun to hear what is going on as Torch meets coronavirus. We heard from a club that is very small and has been meeting in person. We heard from another that is working with a hybrid model, offering both Zoom and in-person options for its meetings. And I represented the Columbus club to talk about our experience, using just Zoom. I think so far it has worked remarkably well, and we have enjoyed two excellent presentations this fall.



**Susan Warrener Smith**

The thing that really stood out to me during this rally, however, was a report from a Michigan club that had been meeting but without presentations. Realizing that people were missing and hungry for the fellowship normally shared at Torch, the organizer arranged for a Zoom social gathering. It enabled the members to connect on a more personal level, to have some conversation, and to interact with friends . . . which brings me to my **INVITATION** to all of you.

At our October board meeting I recommended that we go ahead with a Torch gathering on the first Thursday in December, that is, December 3, at 7 p.m. This gathering will not have a presentation, but it will be organized in such a way that participants will have lots of opportunity to meet and speak with old friends and simply enjoy an hour of sociability with no real agenda. **We will distribute an email message with the Zoom link a few days prior to the social gathering.**

The way it will work is that after a brief time to log on and get situated, participants will be put in small groups for about 10 minutes at a time, rotating three times over the course of the hour. We finally will come back together as a whole to conclude.

We have some experts who know how to manage such a thing remotely, so all you would have to do is log on as you normally would and “leave the driving to us.” For those who might be intimidated or turned off by having to exist in a disembodied world, I completely understand, but I hope you will relent and give it a try. If you need assistance, we can provide that. Just let me know.

Meanwhile I send my best to each of you and hope you have a happy, healthy holiday in spite of the challenges we all face.

## **Please mail dues payment of \$50 for 2020-21**

The Columbus Torch Club Board of Directors has set dues for 2020-21 at \$50. Torch papers were presented October 1 and November 5 through Zoom. If in-person Torch meetings resume in the first half of 2021, members will receive credit for the two meetings canceled last April and May. If more than two in-person meetings are held, the club will charge \$30 for each additional meeting to cover the meal cost.

Please mail your dues payment of \$50 to Howard Gauthier, 2751 Alliston Court, Columbus, OH 43220. Your check should be written to "Torch Club of Columbus."

## **Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2020-21**

October 1, 2020: **"Lofty Aspirations, Humble Beginnings: The Early Years at OSU"** by Rai Goerler

November 5, 2020: **"I'm Available: The Life and Career of a Free Lance Illustrator"** by Roy Lewicki

December 3, 2020: **Social gathering** over Zoom

January 7, 2021: **"What Columbus Invented and What It Didn't"** by Joe Blundo

February 4, 2021: **"Islamic Spirituality: the Qu'ran, the Symbolism of Jesus, and the Poetry of Rumi"** by Fazeel Khan

March 4, 2021: **"The All-Volunteer Military: The Pros, the Cons, and the Alternatives"** by Greg Travalio

April 1, 2021: **"How Do Women and Men Differ in Their Work"** by Francille Firebaugh

May 6, 2021: **"The Man Behind Warren Buffett's Curtain"** by Tom Costantiello

## **Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2020-21**

President – Susan Warrener Smith

President-elect – Nancy S. Wardwell

Immediate Past President – Violet I. Meek

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Deborah K. Stevens

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Nancy Wardwell

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Violet I. Meek

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2021)

Director-at-Large Elizabeth Short (2021)

Director-at-Large David Lenz (2022)

Director-at-Large Diane Selby (2022)

Region 5 Director Elizabeth Short