



December 2021
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Ohio State University Men’s Glee Club will perform December 2

The Ohio State University Men’s Glee Club will provide the musical entertainment for the Torch Club’s annual holiday meeting and dinner on Thursday, December 2, at the Faculty Club. Professor Robert J. Ward, director of choral studies, has been the glee club’s conductor and musical director since 2004.

Officially founded in 1875, this choral ensemble is Ohio State’s second oldest student organization. (According to Wikipedia, the university’s oldest student organization is the Agricultural Education Society.) Over the years, the glee club has performed throughout the United States and Europe. In July 1990, the glee club traveled to Wales to compete in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod where it received the top honors and was declared “Choir of the World 1990.”

The glee club typically has about 75 members. Students from all the university’s academic colleges are eligible to audition for membership in the ensemble.



Robert Ward conducts the Men’s Glee Club.

Contact the Fellowship Committee if you need a ride to Torch meetings

If any Torch Club member needs a ride to a monthly Torch meeting, or if you are willing to provide transportation for a member, please contact the club’s Fellowship Committee. You may reach the Fellowship Committee through its chair, Diane Selby, at (614) 571-4226 and Dianselby@gmail.com. To help arrange transportation, you also may contact any member of the Fellowship Committee: Jeff Caswell, Cecelia B. Costantiello, Tom Davison, Scott Doellinger, Joan R. Leitzel and Constance Oulanoff.

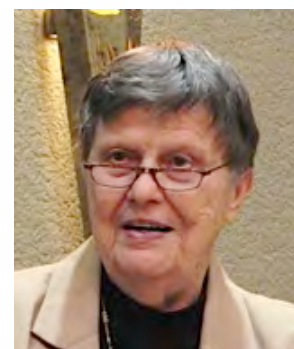
President's message: Our December meeting is the most festive

Of all our Torch Club meetings during the year, our December meeting is by far the most festive! In years past we have had formal gowns, tuxedos, and even full-dress Army Blues! We can count on a special meal and excellent entertainment.

This year we are excited to present the wonderful Ohio State University Men's Glee Club under the direction of Robert Ward. It was founded at Ohio State in 1875 and is among the earliest collegiate glee clubs in the country.

By the way, I found that "glee" does not refer to the mood of the music or the singers but to a specific form of English "part song" – secular songs written for several vocal parts.

Do join us December 2 for the food, the music and the fellowship.



Nancy Wardwell

Member's Moment – Robert Stevenson

Walter Buchsieb, associate professor emeritus of dentistry in Ohio State University's College of Dentistry, introduced his fellow dentist, Robert Stevenson, for the Member's Moment at the Torch Club meeting on November 4. Walter read an autobiographical statement written by Bob, who is a journalist as well as a dentist.

I was born in Topeka, Kansas, where my father was in the Air Force, and my roots are in Ohio. Great-grandparents were born in Circleville, Xenia, Lima, New Concord, Logan, and I was conceived in Cincinnati.

We moved to Columbus when I was 28 months old and my brother was 16 months. Our house was on the northwest corner of Neil Avenue and Woodruff. Catty-corner across the street was a gray, concrete monstrosity, ten stories tall and a quarter-mile wide, the house Chic Harley built. I knew we were not in Kansas anymore.

Next year my father finished his residency at Upham Hall, and we moved west, across the mighty Olentangy, where I was remanded to the Upper Arlington reformatory school for the next 13 years. The best part of high school was playing in a band named the Cheerful Earful. We often appeared on television and made a radio jingle for Lazarus department store. The band broke up after graduation. Barely 18 years old, we were already has-beens.

Then came four years at a Miami university, not the one in Ohio, the one with two summer semesters, in Florida. I majored in oceanography at first, until I got seasick, then switched to biology, chemistry and

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Robert Stevenson (left) and his presenter, Walter Buchsieb, at the Torch Club meeting on Nov. 4.

Member's Moment – Robert Stevenson

(Continued from page 2)

English. The most educational parts were summer breaks back in Columbus, working at Bekins moving and storage and Glick's furniture warehouse. That's where I learned the importance of finding an indoor job with no heavy lifting.

Next came Ohio State dental school, joining the first accelerated three-year class since the Second World War. We finished in two years, eleven months and 17 days. Now the dental program is 48 straight months.

Right before graduating, I signed-up for the Air Force and married Barbara. I'm now related by marriage to almost everyone in northern Ohio from Toledo to Youngstown. The difference between in-laws and outlaws, is that outlaws are wanted.

We spent the next 30 months in Athens, not the one in Ohio, the older one near Rome. In 1976, we spent a month of temporary duty in Italy at Aviano Air Force Base, which is 40 miles north of Venice and 20 miles east of Udine. On May 6 of that year, about 9 p.m., Udine was the epicenter of an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale that left 1,000 dead and 100,000 homeless. People felt it as far away as London, not the one in Ohio. The next day I took up smoking Camel cigarettes again.

The summer after that was another temporary assignment, at Ramstein Air Force Base, located in the northeastern part of southern West Germany. Nothing as exciting as the earthquake, except the night at Landstuhl hospital when our daughter Jody was born. By chance, Muenchweiler hospital, 20 miles west, near Zweibricken Air Force base, was where presenter Walt Buchsieb's son Chuck was born.

The following summer Barbara was pregnant again when I left the Air Force to study prosthodontics at Ohio State. Prosthodontics is the branch of dentistry that bridges all gaps. In December, son Robby was born at University Hospital on the same night as the 1978 Gator Bowl. His middle name is Woodrow. During the prosthodontic program, I took evening classes in journalism and finished with a double master's. Buy one, get one free.

After practicing part time in Coshocton and Marion, I opened a solo office on Olentangy River Road by Riverside Hospital in January 1981, and I'm happy to still be there.

While on the Ohio State University Medical Heritage Library advisory committee, I wrote a book about the history of the Columbus Medical Association, available at Amazon. Some of the photos led to a story in *Gridiron Greats* football magazine about the 1900 Ohio State-Michigan game, a 0-0 tie.

Wife Barbara began coaching tennis at Centennial High School in Columbus 25 years ago, leaving me a tennis widow. Our kids graduated from Ohio State and now teach high school. Jody teaches sign language in Los Angeles. Robby teaches art and English as a second language in Vietnam. After missing last Christmas due to lockdown, both are coming this back year. The best presents you can imagine.

Torch Club board minutes now posted on website

Minutes of the monthly meetings of the Torch Club Board of Directors now are being posted on the club's website. Here is a link to the website <http://www.columbustorch.org>. Go to the website's "About" page, then scroll down to the section on "Governance."

Former Torch Club President Roy Koenigsknecht died October 18

Roy Koenigsknecht passed away surrounded by family members on October 18 in Fort Collins, Colorado. His death came almost three years after suffering a major stroke. He was 79.

Roy joined the Columbus Torch Club in 1985 and was the club's president in 2005-06.

For more than 45 years, Roy was a distinguished university professor in the field of communication disorders. Born in Fowler, Michigan, he earned his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and his master's and Ph.D. degrees in speech and language pathology and communicative disorders from Northwestern University.



**Roy
Koenigsknecht**

Joining the faculty of Northwestern University, Roy served as chairperson of the Department of Communication Sciences/Disorders and later as dean of admissions and associate dean of the graduate school. In 1985, he came to Ohio State where he served as dean of the graduate school for 10 years. Among his many scholarly activities, he was president of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

Roy is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marilie, and by three grown children and six grandchildren. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring of 2022.

Renew your Torch membership for 2021-22

Dues for membership in the Torch Club of Columbus are \$240 for the 2021-22 program year. Dues for a two-person family are \$430. In recent years, the annual dues have been \$300, but the club's board decided to reduce the dues for 2021-22 because dinner meetings in April and May 2020 were canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Make your check payable to the Torch Club of Columbus, and mail your check to Howard Gauthier, Treasurer, 2751 Alliston Court, Columbus, OH 43220.

Club's in-person meetings will be subject to health guidelines

The in-person monthly meetings of the Torch Club are subject to the health guidelines set forth by Ohio State University and state and local health authorities.

In a letter to members in September, Club President Nancy Wardwell explained the current health protocols for the Torch meetings in the Faculty Club:

"As of August, all visitors to OSU campuses are required to wear masks indoors, regardless of their vaccination status. Masks continue to be required for all unvaccinated individuals when they cannot maintain social distancing. Vaccinated people are not required to mask outdoors. All spaces will be cleaned and disinfected nightly."

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 December 2. 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 to attend the December meeting and dinner is \$40 due to the upgraded menu. A potential member may attend one meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2021-22

October 7, 2021: **“It’s Not Your Grandmother’s Nursing”** by Elizabeth Lenz

November 4, 2021: **“The Harlan Brothers in Black and White: Justice John Marshall Harlan, U.S. Supreme Court and Rep. Robert James Harlan, Ohio House of Representatives”** by Violet Meek

December 2, 2021: **Holiday gala**

January 6, 2022: **“How Women and Men Differ in Their Work”** by Francille Firebaugh

February 3, 2022: Torch paper to be announced soon.

March 3, 2022: **“Considering Racism”** by Michael Wilkos

April 7, 2022: **“Talkin’ Trash: From Waste to Resources”** by Susan Tilgner

May 5, 2022: **“Celebrating Sparky – Charles Schultz and Peanuts”** by Lucy Caswell

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; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2021-22

President – Nancy S. Wardwell

President-elect – Susan Tilgner

Immediate Past President – Susan W. Smith

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – David Lenz

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Susan W. Smith

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Website Editor – Rai Goerler

Director-at-Large – Christina Atzberger (2022)

Director-at-Large – Rai Goerler (2022)

Director-at-Large – Paul Niswander (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)

IATC Region 5 Director – Elizabeth Short