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Club’s holiday dinner program will feature The Grandview Singers

The Grandview Singers, a select chamber chorale from Grandview Heights High School, will perform at the annual holiday dinner program of the Columbus Torch Club on Thursday, December 7, at The Ohio State University Faculty Club.

The holiday dinner includes an enhanced menu and wine with the meal. The cost for a guest will be \$45.

Andrew Grega, vocal music director of Grandview Heights Schools, directs the chorale which studies and performs several styles of music throughout the school year, including art music from all style periods, madrigal music, vocal jazz, and occasional popular music.

The chorale’s members are chosen through an audition process, which takes place at the end of the previous school year. Membership requires an above-average commitment to rehearsals and performances with time devoted both in-school and out of school. Emphasis is placed on a greater mastery of performance and vocal production skills within the repertoire of progressively challenging music. The Grandview Singers offers a number of in-school and public performances throughout the school year, including appearing before community groups during the holiday season.



Torch board postpones January 4 meeting to June 6

The Ohio State University Faculty Club will be closed from December 18 through January 7. As a result, the Torch Club Board of Directors voted by email in mid-November to postpone the monthly meeting scheduled for January 4 to Thursday, June 6, 2024. Kent Bermingham, who was scheduled to present his Torch paper in January, has agreed to deliver the paper in June. His paper's title is "Cemeteries, Genealogy...Gone but not Forgotten."

Two women join Torch at the November meeting

Maria Teresa Beck

Originally from Puerto Rico, Tere Beck came to the United States to attend Indiana University. While at the university, she met a fellow student, Paul Beck. They were married in Bloomington, Ind., in 1967. Paul joined the Torch Club last May.

Tere earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Michigan. She is a retired school librarian. She and Paul live in Worthington.



Tere Beck and Dorothy Driskell

Sally Dellinger

After a long career at The Ohio State University, Sally Dellinger currently is president of The Ohio State University Retirees Association. She earned her B.S. degree in health and physical education in 1968 and her master's degree in physical education teaching methods in 1972, both from Ohio State.

Sally then taught high school health and physical education and coached several sports in Springfield and Grandview Heights. She moved to Denison University where she taught and coached for nine years, then she coordinated and taught wellness programs with Columbus Public Health for three years. She joined Ohio State in 1988 as a lecturer and program manager in the School of Physical Activity and Educational Services. From 1988 until her retirement in 2007, she was associate director of the school, responsible for the administrative detail of the academic curricula.



Sally Dellinger and Dorothy Driskell, membership chair

IATC creates Centennial Club to support the future of Torch

To celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2024 of the founding of Torch, the International Association of Torch Clubs has created the Centennial Club as part of the Torch Foundation. You may join the Centennial Club with a donation of as little as \$100 to the Torch Foundation. All donations will be dedicated to increasing membership in existing clubs and to developing new clubs. IATC hopes to raise \$100,000 to help ensure the future of Torch. You can find more information on the IATC website at <https://www.torch.org/centennial-club.html>.

President's message: Torch must stay in tune with its membership

Fewer than 5 percent of all organizations are active for 100 years or more. Those that do have stayed in tune with the preferences and needs of members and potential members. Sometimes, it is necessary to explore new ideas and to make changes in programming to accommodate changing circumstances, but the first step is to connect with the membership.

Torch Columbus will be 100 in 2026 and is one of the largest and most successful of clubs in the International Association of Torch Clubs. Recently, your club surveyed you about two issues: having a meeting in the winter via Zoom and having a meeting in June in place of one in January. All of this was to guide those responsible for planning the program for 2024-2025.



Rai Goerler

Most of the membership participated in the survey. Thanks! Only about half of you were in favor of a meeting through Zoom. So the Board of Directors decided to table that initiative. A large majority did favor meeting in June rather than January. The board will explore this idea with the Ohio State Faculty Club and determine if that is possible in June of 2025.

One unexpected result of the survey was a very thoughtful email message from a member that brightened my day. He understood that Zoom would be a cost-saving initiative, as there would be no meal served, and he commented:

“From my limited membership experiences at the Columbus Torch Club, I would offer the following. The monthly cost is very reasonable. Just think about what one receives:

- Excellent fellowship.
- First-class meeting facility.
- Educational program.
- Exceptional dinner that includes, appetizer, salad, entrée and vegetable, rolls, dessert and coffee!

“My father always talked about the ‘incremental difference’ in making various choices in life. In other words, when one examines what a monthly cost includes, the incremental savings to be realized from various cutbacks are likely extremely minimal. That savings must be measured against what the Columbus Torch Club has represented for almost 100 years!”

Another topic at the board meeting on November 2 was celebrating the centennial of the International Association of Torch Clubs (IATC) in 2024. IATC encouraged all clubs to participate in some way. If you have any ideas, please let me know at goerler.1@osu.edu. (And if you have any thoughts about celebrating the centennial of Torch Columbus in 2026, feel free to share.)

In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy the gala event of December 7 when we will be entertained by The Grandview Singers at the Ohio State Faculty Club. See you then.

Best wishes for happy holidays and 2024.

Member's Moment: Elizabeth B. Short

Presented by Dorothy Driskell on November 2

To know Liz Short is to love Liz. She was born in Arizona and spent her early childhood in Idaho. Her family then moved to West Lafayette, Ind., where her father was the Distinguished Professor of Animal Nutrition at Purdue University.

Liz is no dummy. She graduated as valedictorian of her high school class. She enrolled at Purdue University and majored in applied research statistics with minors in mathematics and industrial engineering. She graduated summa cum laude. While at Purdue, she became an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Liz met her future husband, Heber Short, in a math class. Following her college graduation, she traveled to West Berlin where she married Army Lt. Short, who was serving as a train commander engaged with the trains carrying American occupation troops from West Berlin in East Germany to West Germany. Fourteen years after the conclusion of World War II, truckloads of rubble were still being carried out of Berlin each day. Berlin was not where one would choose for an ideal honeymoon.

Returning to the United States, Liz and Heber returned to Purdue where she entered graduate school in statistics and worked as a research assistant at the computer lab. Purdue had one of the first computers on a U.S. college campus. Liz guided graduate students in their research design, data preparation and analysis. She also learned computer language programming and wrote procedural manuals on statistical analysis for computerized research data.

Liz and Heber then lived in Idaho for three years before moving to Kettering, Ohio, where they raised their two daughters and continue to live. In the late 1970s, Liz became actively involved in the Habitat for Humanity chapter in Dayton.

Liz became a leader in the field of gifted education and research. She partnered with the late Bruce E. Kline, a clinical psychologist, to conduct research and publish articles on the emotional and social needs of gifted children. For more than 30 years, Liz was office manager and director of Kline & Associates, a clinical practice of psychologists and counselors.

Liz and Bruce both joined the Torch Club in 1999. They jointly presented a Torch paper, "The Gifted, Resiliency, and Brain Plasticity," to our club in 2016. They traveled together from the Dayton area for our club meetings until Bruce died in 2017.

Liz received the Silver Torch Award in 2017 for her service to our local Torch Club. She subsequently served the International Association of Torch Clubs for several years as director of Region 5. She received the Gold Torch Award in 2022 for her service to IATC.



Liz Short and Dorothy Driskell at the Torch meeting on November 2.

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 7. 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. For the holiday dinner, the cost for a guest is \$45.

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 2023-24

October 5, 2023: **"Morocco: Expectations and Surprises"** by Mary Beth Wise, associate professor emeritus, Department of Internal Medicine, Ohio State

November 2, 2023: **"Land Grant Contributions to Foreign Policy"** by David Hansen, professor emeritus, International Program in Agriculture, Ohio State

December 7, 2023: **Holiday Music** with The Grandview Singers

January 4, 2024: Meeting postponed to June 6.

February 1, 2024: **"Recent Advances in Medicine Part II - Focused on selected specific disease treatments"** by Gary Hinzman, M.D.

March 7, 2024: **"Buckeye Tailgate Party"** by Trevor Zahara, author of *Buckeye Tailgate* and *Confessions of an OSU Usher*

April 4, 2024: **"Walking Each Other Home: Ram Dass, Psychedelics and the Trip of a Lifetime"** by the Rev. Dr. Susan Warrenner Smith, PCUSA clergy (retired), and Ann Wallingford

May 2, 2024: **"How does Psychotherapy Work? Clearing the Way for Success"** by Anne Croskey, Ph.D. and LCDC-III

June 6, 2024: **"Cemeteries, Genealogy...Gone but not Forgotten"** by Kent Bermingham, CPA

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2023-24

President – Rai Goerler

President-elect – Donald Larson

Immediate Past President – Susan Tilgner

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – David Lenz

Assistant Treasurer – vacant

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Susan Tilgner

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 (2025)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2025)