The Torch Lighter



February 2017 Volume 11, Issue 6

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<u>Presentation by Thomas Atzberger on February 2</u> "Hey, Bernie! No, No!"

Bernard L. "Bernie" Madoff is serving the maximum sentence allowed of 150 years in prison for perpetrating the largest financial fraud in American history. He founded and operated a Wall Street investment firm that for decades ran a successful Ponzi scheme, despite numerous investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Tom Atzberger, an attorney and securities expert, will present his Torch paper, "Hey, Bernie! No, No!", to the Columbus Torch Club on Thursday, February 2. Tom will describe Madoff's life and discuss his achievements.

"The details of Madoff's crimes are most intriguing, and the many times the system failed to uncover them are amazing," Tom says. "His childhood was normal, and his marriage a storybook one. His moral insensitivity to what he was doing is in sharp contrast to his 'other' life."

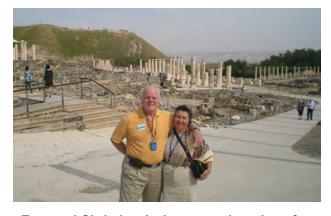
Madoff, now 78, was arrested in 2008 and sentenced in 2009. The Securities Investor Protection Corporation estimated that Madoff's fraud totaled \$16 billion in actual losses to investors, although the

amount missing from clients' accounts, including falsely reported gains, was more than \$60 billion.

Biography of Thomas W. Atzberger

Tom Atzberger has had a long and varied legal career. He earned his B.A. degree in English literature from John Carroll University in 1969 followed by his J.D. degree from Cleveland State University in 1975. Paralleling his legal career was his service in the Air Force Reserve from 1977 to 1997. He retired as a lieutenant colonel.

(Continued on page 2)



Tom and Christina Atzberger at the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Beit She'An in Israel.

Biography of Thomas W. Atzberger

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With extensive experience working for both public and private employers, Tom served as a hearing officer with the Ohio Department of Taxation, claims attorney and later attorney-investigator with Nationwide Insurance Company, and claims attorney and acting risk manager with COTA. From 1988 to 1995, he was associate consumers' counsel in the Office of Consumers' Counsel, representing residential utilities customers in matters before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

After two years of private legal practice, Tom returned to public service as assistant attorney-general, workers' compensation, in the Office of the Ohio Attorney-General. Since 2000, he has been a registered principal in securities with Mooney Financial Services in Worthington.

Tom and his wife, Christina, live in Clintonville. Tom has been a member of Torch since 2012. Christina has been a member since 2015.

President's message: Torch leaders needed

Recently *The Washington Post* interviewed Tom Frieden, the outgoing director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (search "Tom Frieden Washington Post" if you'd like to read it). The article reminded me of two things. First, there is critical work and responsibility that goes on constantly in our government agencies, regardless of who happens to be the nominal head of the government or any part of it. Second, public health in particular is distinguished by the fact that most of its successes consist of things that didn't happen – they were prevented.



Jeff Caswell

It struck me that there are similar things in Torch. There are folks (think about Thom Seelbach and Steve Sterrett, among others) whose work happens every month, mostly without fanfare, and makes our club possible. There are arrangements made, newsletters published, crises averted, problems solved, and we all have a good time without even knowing what happened. We're now at the time of year when we think about persons who might be interested in greater involvement in low-key Torch leadership in some way. If that appeals to you, or you have someone else to suggest, let me know. Meanwhile, enjoy Torch!

Long-time member Don Cherry died January 11

Don T. Cherry, who joined the Columbus Torch Club in 1985, died January 11 at Riverside Methodist Hospital. He was 87 and is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jackie, two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Don graduated from The Ohio State University in 1953. He took pride in being one of the few male members of the university's synchronized swimming team. He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a career military officer for 28 years. He was an intelligence officer in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and received the Bronze Star. Don was a member of First Community Church, where his memorial service was held January 14. He was a Mason and a member of the American Society for Industrial Security.



Don Cherry

Member's Moment - Scott Doellinger

Scott Doellinger, born in Davenport in the Quad Cities area of Iowa, is an only child whose parents managed a five-acre farm. Scott cannot remember any age at which he was not included in the family discussions guiding their florist and nursery wholesale and retail business. By age eight, he was participating in many farm activities. He remembers wiring carnations preparing them for wedding bouquets.

Scott's father, in addition to working the farm, was a junior high school science teacher. Realizing that the economy was taking a turn that would surely endanger their niche farming business, the family decided to make the sacrifices necessary to allow Scott's father to earn a Ph.D. to become a college professor. From age 14, Scott ran the family farm and business for the three years his father needed to earn his degree.

Making the most of his teen years, Scott ran the farm, completed high school, contributed to his dad's thesis, and managed to meet his future wife, Donna Benoit. Donna was impressed, but her father was not. Scott discussed his idea to build a large pond and provide canoe rides at a summer Boy Scout meeting, and Mr. Benoit became even more skeptical. You cannot blame him - the idea of a teenage boy planning and building a pond on dry land and providing canoe rides for Boy Scouts! When he first saw the pond complete with canoes, the normally soft-spoken Mr. Benoit is quoted, understandably, as saying, "I'll be damned." His view of Scott remained high ever after.

Scott's dad completed his Ph.D. as planned when Scott completed high school, then his father became a professor at Bowling Green in time to pay for Scott to start college at



Lee Vescelius (left) presented the Member's Moment for Scott Doellinger (right) on January 5.

Southern Illinois University. Scott completed two years of college successfully, but with no real goal or direction. He happened to be visiting his parents at Bowling Green when he learned of an aptitude test for architecture being given in Detroit. Scott does not seem to know why he decided to take the test since he had never considered architecture as a career, but he scored the highest recorded points on the test. SIU does not offer a degree in architecture, Ohio State School of architecture was very strong, and Scott's parents were in Ohio. Scott earned a bachelor's degree and then a Master of Architecture degree from The Ohio State University.

Donna and Scott had married in 1973. Donna was working night shifts as a nurse at OSU Medical Center. Scott observed the inefficient work flow the nurses were forced to run when he would come to pick her up as they had one automobile. His observations were not accepted by the current administration, but (Continued on page 4)

Member's Moment - Scott Doellinger

(Continued from page 3)

Scott extended his observations and concepts to become an expert in the design of medical facilities architecture, writing his own curriculum for graduate school specialized in healthcare design. After a two-year stint at Karlsberger Architects, Scott joined Design Group architects, and he helped nurture the firm through the hard times of the recession in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2008.

Retiring from Design Group but not close to being ready to retire, Scott does code enforcement half-time for the Village of Minerva Park and works full-time with Star Consultants, an architecture and engineering firm. He also has been an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 560 in Westerville for the last 19 years.

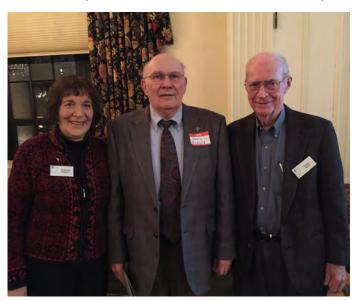
But if you really want to get Scott talking ask him about his exciting prospects for a new local health provider with land and funding and designs for cost effective and efficient concepts for health care – if you don't mind him killing you afterward. Or you can ask him about his purchase of a building this past summer for one dollar. Or how he does all of his own car repair. Or how the design for First Community Church's new North Campus Sanctuary is progressing. Or how he intends to design and construct a travel trailer, like no other, in which to travel the North American continent. Or, well, you get the idea.

Presented by Lee Vescelius on January 5, 2017

Club inducts new member at January meeting

Louis G. Arnold

After earning a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1963, Louis Arnold began a long academic career in physics. In 1965, he received his master's degree from the University of Kentucky and was a Rotary Foundation Fellow at the University of Cambridge where he was a research student at



Dorothy Driskell (left) inducted Louis Arnold (center) into the club in January. Tom Willke (right) sponsored his membership.

Cavendish Laboratory and Gonville and Caius College. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1972.

Louis held several positions at The Ohio State University from 1970 to 1983 and published numerous papers in theoretical nuclear physics.

In 1983, he joined the faculty of Otterbein College (now Otterbein University) as associate professor of physics and astronomy. He subsequently was promoted to full professor and served Otterbein as chair of his department, chair of the curriculum committee, and in other capacities. He retired in 2008 and was granted the title of professor emeritus.

He lives in Clintonville and among his interests are amateur radio and elder care.

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 February 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) 457-5103.

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 meeting and dinner is \$30.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2016-17

Thursday, October 6, 2016

"The Gifted, Resiliency, and Brain Plasticity" by Bruce Kline and Elizabeth Short

Thursday, November 3, 2016

"Stevenson's Dentist – Unsung Hero" by Robert Stevenson

Thursday, December 1, 2016

"Seasonal Music from the Old and New Worlds" performed by the Early Interval

Thursday, January 5, 2017

"Marketing Opportunities to Improve Sorghum Farmers' Incomes in East Africa" by Don Larson

Thursday, February 2, 2017

"Hey, Bernie! No, No!" By Thomas Atzberger

Thursday, March 2, 2017

"The Roots of Audiology" by Paul Niswander

Thursday, April 6, 2017

"Is There Honor in Honor Societies?" by Diane Selby

Thursday, May 4, 2017

"Mr. Lincoln's News Paper" by Violet Meek

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 presents Torch paper 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 of Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2016-17

President – Jeff Caswell

President-Elect - Rich Davis

Past President - Don Dell

Secretary – Thomas M. Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan Warrener Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer - Tom Costantiello

Membership Chair - Dorothy E. Driskell

Fellowship Chair – Violet Meek

Nominating Chair – Don Dell

Newsletter Editor - Stephen A. Sterrett

Director-at-Large – Violet Meek (2018)

Director-at-Large – Pat Smith (2018)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2017)

Director-at-Large - Stephen A. Sterrett (2017