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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message: Join us for Torch's version of "Antiques Road Show"	2
Member's Moment – George L. Smith, Jr.....	3
Club inducts educator as new member in January.....	4
Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach.....	5
Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2018-19.....	5
Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2018-19.....	5

Presentation by Jeffrey A. Baker and colleagues on February 7 **"Time Changes Everything"**

The Torch Club meeting on Thursday, February 7, will be a unique opportunity to learn the history and potential value of one or two of your possessions. We know we "can't take it with us," but we are curious about what we may leave behind.

Jeffrey A. Baker, a personal property appraiser and auctioneer, will lead a program patterned on the popular PBS television series, "Antiques Road Show." Jeff, who is president of J.A. Baker, LLC, will be joined by three appraisers from his company, to evaluate items brought to the meeting by Torch Club members.

During the Torch Club's cocktail and conversation period between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m., Jeff and the other appraisers will evaluate the items. Each club member is asked to bring no more than two items for evaluation. For larger items, a photograph will suffice. In place of a traditional Torch paper, Jeff then will offer a PowerPoint presentation, "Time Changes Everything," and will highlight some of the most interesting items brought to the meeting.



Jeff Baker

Biographies of Jeff Baker and colleagues

Jeff Baker is the founder, owner and president of J.A. Baker, LLC, a company that appraises personal property and handles all aspects of estate and tag sales, as well as comprehensive liquidation services. For example, the company was engaged to sell a rare book collection of some 6,500 volumes. The company often consults with families after the death of a family member leaves a house filled with possessions acquired over a lifetime.

Jeff has a quarter-century of experience in the furniture and antiques business. He earned his bachelor's degree in marketing in 1987 from the University of Missouri. He is an accredited member of the

International Society of Appraisers and meets the Qualified Appraiser requirements of the IRS. He is certified as an appraiser of fine art. He also has completed training as an auctioneer.

Jeff is a past president of Global Living and previously was divisional merchandise manager for American Signature. His experience in identifying and valuing property grew from his founding an antique import business in 1994.

Jeff was recognized as Big Brother of the Year in Columbus in 1995 and was the recipient of one of *Business First's* 40 Under 40 awards in 2004. He joined the Torch Club in 2018.

Working with Jeff at the Torch Club meeting will be three appraisers from his firm:

- Allyssa Hixenbaugh started collecting art and antiques at an early age. She earned a bachelor's degree in art history from The Ohio State University. She previously was general manager of the Grandview Mercantile and is knowledgeable about a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. She is a design consultant assisting with the interior revitalization of the landmark LeVeque Tower.
- Japheth Patrick grew up surrounded by antiques. His grandparents were antique dealers with a shop in northern Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree from Ohio State with a concentration in residential interior design. With his expertise in visual merchandising, the J.A. Baker company has added "home staging" to its services.
- Elizabeth J. Taylor earned her bachelor's degree in art history from Skidmore College and worked at Grand Central Art Galleries and Hirschl & Adler Galleries in New York City. She was marketing manager for 11 years at Priority Designs, an internationally recognized industrial design firm in Columbus. At the J.A. Baker company, she assists with fine art appraisals and estate sales.

President's Message: Join us for Torch's version of "Antique Road Show"

I hope you are all having a wonderful start to 2019! Like many people, I have a few items that I am a bit behind on and many new items.

I want to send my heartfelt thanks to the Shiloh Baptist Men's Choir for their amazing performance. Although I wasn't able to attend due to my jaw surgery, I was sent many videos, which lifted my spirit from a far. In addition, many Torch members were so moved by the songs that we are still talking about the choir members' talents today. Thank you again!

Many thanks to Eric Gamble for his January paper. As many of our papers are historical or cultural in nature, we aren't able to take practical advantage of the information in our everyday lives. Eric's insights about current legal conditions and how we can benefit were very helpful to many of us. It was great to have one of our newest members present to us. Thank you again, Eric.



Tom Costantiello

Now for some very important information regarding our next meeting: Another one of our new members, Jeff Baker, will be doing a Torch version of "Antique Road Show." Just like the television program, you may bring one or two of your treasures from home to find out what they are really worth. His presentation will include insights about valuable items, and he will highlight some of the interesting artifacts brought in by our members. This will be a very exciting night!

To participate in the Torch antique road show, please keep this in mind:

- Items will only be accepted for evaluation between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m.
- Appraisals will be first-come first-served, so it is important to be on time.
- Jeff and his team will do the very best they can to appraise each item. Depending on the volume, some items may not be appraised in order to keep the program on time for all of the members.

This is a great meeting to recruit new members. Think of your friends, family members or colleagues. If you bring potential members (not simply guests), Torch will pay for their dinner. If your potential member joins, I will personally donate \$100 to a veteran's organization of the sponsor's or newest member's choice in their honor. I'll see you and your amazing heirlooms on February 7th!

Member's Moment – George L. Smith, Jr.

Presented by Thomas L. Sweeney on January 3, 2019

In the mid 1930s, George L. Smith, Jr., was born in State College, Penn., to George and Frieda Smith, both of whom were first-generation descendants of German immigrants. George's parents designed and built a combination barbershop and women's hair salon in State College. That building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Young George Jr. and his only sibling, Joseph, soon displayed great talent, George in music and Joe in art. At family dinners, George and his father would often entertain the others with violin and piano duets.

George entered Pennsylvania State University planning to major in music, but he soon transferred to industrial engineering (IE). After earning his B.S. in IE, he decided to continue his studies at Lehigh University, earning M.S. degrees in experimental psychology and IE, after which he spent some time as an instructor at Lehigh.



Tom Sweeney (left) presented George Smith for the Member's Moment in January.

During this period, George met Patricia Gallagher who was pursuing a master's degree in education at Lehigh. They married 14 months after their first meeting and just a few days ago celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. George and Patricia have two daughters and sons-in-law and three grandsons who live in Upper Arlington.

George's professional career began in earnest after receiving his doctorate from Oklahoma State University and joining the Industrial and Systems Engineering faculty at Ohio State in the late 1960s. His area of concentration was human factors. He advanced to full professor and, in the early 1980s, became department chair, a post he held for 12 years. George retired from Ohio State in the mid 1990s,

thereafter continuing his work as a consultant and expert witness, among other activities.

George has been my friend and College of Engineering colleague for five decades. Here are but a few of his honors, achievements, and contributions to his profession. George served as president of the Society for Engineering and Management Systems, president of the World Academy of Productivity Science, president of the World Network of Productivity Organizations, and president of the Council of Industrial Engineering Academic Department Heads. He has been named a fellow of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and of the World Academy of Productivity Science. He has been an active member of the Labor Arbitration Panel for the U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service since 1980.

To honor George's commitment and dedication to the advancement of his profession and to recognize the contributions of other industrial engineers who continue in the tradition of advancing their profession globally, the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers has established the "George L. Smith International Award for Excellence in Promotion of Industrial Engineering."

At Ohio State, George has received numerous teaching and service awards. A very long statement by his faculty colleagues and students when giving him a departmental award starts out as "gifted and award-winning teacher, philanthropist, promoter of peace, global citizen, mentor, and colleague, Professor George Smith has been an ambassador for OSU and the ISE Department for many years." It continues on with glowing praise.

Here is a big one. The Everett D. Reese Medal was established in 1984 as Ohio State's highest honor in recognition of exceptional service in private philanthropy. George received that honor in 1992.

George contributed pro bono in many other ways. Two I can attest to: guiding the strategic planning for the OSU Retirees Association and negotiating contracts between the Faculty Club and the union. Finally, George served as president of this Torch Club in 2009.

These days, George derives great enjoyment from attending Torch meetings, weekly theology seminars, monthly CCICA meetings and OSU men's basketball games. He also enjoys attending Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Columbus Chamber Music concerts with Patricia.

Club inducts educator as new member in January

Lois Ann Sellers

Raised on a dairy farm in Ohio's Ashland County, Lois earned her B.A. degree from the Lake Erie College for Women (now the co-ed Lake Erie College) and her M.A. degree from The Ohio State University in staff and organizational development.

Lois is an adjunct faculty member in Columbus State Community College's Communication Department and a learning specialist in the Communications Center. She has served as a high school English teacher, a journalist with the *Mansfield News Journal*, and a public affairs manager with GTE (now Verizon). She is active in the Ohio State University Women's Club, McConnell Arts Center, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus Museum of Art and Friends of the Worthington Library.



Lois Ann Sellers

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach has sent you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on February 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) 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. A potential member may attend one meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2018-19

October 4, 2018: **“Kelton House Shares Sophia’s Secret”** by Diane Selby and Mary Oellermann

November 1, 2018: **“A Century of Chemical Warfare: Trenches, Treaties, Therapy”** by David Lenz

December 6, 2018: **Shiloh Baptist Men’s Chorus**

January 3, 2019: **“Advancements in Ohio Law and How They Affect the Estate Planning Process”** by Eric Gamble

February 7, 2019: **“Time Changes Everything”** by Jeff Baker

March 7, 2019: **“China – Off the Beaten Path”** by Gene Gilliom

April 4, 2019: **“A Journey through Time and Space”** by Sally Willson

May 2, 2019: **“Super Flow in the Universe”** by Will Saam



Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting

5:30-6:15 p.m. Appraisals, cocktails and conversation

6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters

6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker with appraisal highlights

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 2018-19

President – Tom Costantiello

President-elect – Violet Meek

Immediate Past President – Rich Davis

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan W. Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Jeff Caswell

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Rich Davis

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2019)

Director-at-Large Richard Meyer (2019)

Director-at-Large Jeff Caswell (2020)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2020)