



January 2021
Volume 15, Issue 5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Club members Homer Mincy and Ed Shaudys have died.....	2
President’s message: Gathering over Zoom works.....	2
Please mail dues payment of \$50 for 2020-21.....	3
Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2020-21.....	3
Board of Directors of the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2020-21.....	3

Joe Blundo will tell us what Columbus invented and what it didn't

Did Columbus invent the shopping center? Was it really the first city in America with a gas station? Is it responsible for the orange triangles that adorn farm machinery and Amish buggies? If not, from where did these claims arise?

Columbus newspaper columnist Joe Blundo will answer these questions and many others in his Torch paper, “What Columbus Invented and What It Didn’t,” on Thursday, January 7, at 7 p.m. Due to the pandemic, the Columbus Torch Club will not meet in person, but Joe will present his paper live over Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to club members by email a few days before the presentation.

Joe’s presentation will look at Columbus "firsts," including some that are indisputable and some that would raise eyebrows in towns making similar claims. “They are the kinds of boasts that routinely found their way into tourist brochures and travel-writing in the 20th century, but the age of Google has made them subject to challenge in the 21st,” Joe says. “We'll find out how many other cities claim to have pioneered the junior high school and the automatic bowling pinsetter. And why ice-cream historians think they've settled the question of whether Columbus really produced the world's first banana split.”

Biography of Joe Blundo

Joe Blundo’s column, “So To Speak,” began appearing in *The Columbus Dispatch* in 1997. It’s a mix of humor, human interest, personal reflection and commentary on current events.

Joe began his journalism career in 1976 at *The Sentinel* in Parkersburg, W. Va., before moving to *The Dispatch* in 1978. He left the staff in 2019 but continues the column as a free-lancer. He has won awards from the Associated Press, the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Association of Newspaper Columnists. He has published two books of collected columns: *Dancing Dads, Defective Peeps and Buckeye Misadventures* (2004) and *Does That Make Sense?* (2019).

Joe is a 1975 graduate of Kent State University and a native of New Castle, Pa. He and his wife, Deborah, have two children and two grandchildren.



Joe Blundo

Club members Homer Mincy and Ed Shaudys have died

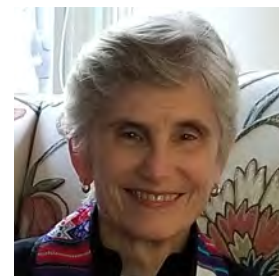
Homer Mincy, retired superintendent of Upper Arlington City Schools and a Torch member since 1997, died October 28 at Riverside Methodist Hospital after a short illness. He was 92. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ila Breazeale Mincy. Homer was a native of Tennessee, earning his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Wesleyan University and his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Homer served as a teacher, principal and education professor before being named superintendent of the Greenville, Tenn., School District followed by appointment as superintendent of the Oak Ridge, Tenn., School District. He became superintendent of Upper Arlington City Schools in 1972 and served in that position until his retirement in 1993. During his tenure with Upper Arlington, he was honored as Ohio Superintendent of the Year. Following retirement, he was a principal founder of the Alliance for High Quality Education in Ohio.

Edgar T. Shaudys, professor emeritus in Ohio State University's Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, died in mid-December. Ed was 92 and a Torch member since 2009. His wife Elizabeth passed away last January. He earned two degrees from Ohio State, his master's degree in 1952 and his Ph.D. in 1954. Further information on his career was not available by this newsletter's deadline.

President's message: Gathering over Zoom works

When programming planning for Torch was completed last year, I imagined sharing our traditional December holiday gathering at the Faculty Club with many decked out in their best, including some tuxedos, cheering each other with a drink or glass of wine, listening to the Magpie Consort, and then sitting down to a delicious meal in the club dining room. I suspect that most of us never dreamed that a pandemic would bring those celebratory moments crashing down. Not to be completely defeated by the pandemic, however, on the first Thursday of December about 25 members gathered in the virtual world of Zoom and rotated around three Zoom chat rooms to talk, catch up, tell jokes, and even get to know each other better. I found it quite remarkable and want to take a moment to especially thank Deb Stevens for her help in making this possible. While Zoom chat rooms may not be a real substitute for an in-person gathering, it was delightful to see familiar faces, hear how people are managing the holidays this year, and feel some of the community that we have missed without our pre-talk social gathering and post-talk dinners together.



**Susan Warrener
Smith**

Zoom also has proved to be an invaluable friend for our talks in October and November. Both talks were outstanding. If you were not able to log in and hear them, they can be made available by contacting Deb Stevens (debstevens1@sbcglobal.net). We look forward to hearing Joe Blundo in January. He is no stranger to Columbus residents, and I know you will want to hear what he has to say about what Columbus invented and what it did not. If you log in a little early, there is always an opportunity to say "hi" to old friends and enjoy each other's company for a short while.

On a final note, no doubt you have seen the requests for members to pay their dues of \$50 for the 2020-21 year. While we continue to use Zoom for our talks, we are still having to pay the Faculty Club on a

(Continued on page 3)

President's message: Gathering over Zoom works

(Continued from page 2)

monthly basis to reserve our space there and we also have to meet our annual obligation to Torch International. If you wish to continue your membership, and we hope you do, I would ask that you help support our club financially during this hard time by sending this minimal dues to Howard Gauthier at 2751 Alliston Court, Columbus, OH 43220.

All the best for a happy, healthy, and even joyous new year!

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

The Columbus Torch Club Board of Directors set dues for 2020-21 at \$50. If in-person Torch meetings resume at some point 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 the "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