



**March 2024**  
**Volume 18, Issue 6**

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### **Presentation by Trevor Zahara on March 7** **"Buckeye Tailgate Party"**

Trevor Zahara will reflect on his 27 years as an usher, Redcoat and official tour guide at Ohio Stadium when he delivers his presentation, "Buckeye Tailgate Party," at the Torch Club meeting on Thursday, March 7.

Trevor will offer an insider perspective on what happens in and around Ohio Stadium on football game days. The stadium's ushers and Redcoats are part of the university's rich athletic tradition. Trevor promises to reveal some of the most humorous, unusual and captivating experiences of these dedicated people and their interaction with Buckeye fans. He also will offer a Buckeye trivia contest.

Born and raised in Bucyrus, Trevor earned his B.S. degree from The Ohio State University in 1971. He served in the U.S. Army as a 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant from 1971-73 and was deployed in Korea for 13 months. He was in sales with the Xerox Corporation for 36 years. Since 2012, he has been a regional distributor of TeeTimeGolfPass.

Trevor is the author of two books, *Buckeye Tailgate* and *The Confessions of an OSU Usher*. The books began as a journal. He collected anecdotes and stories from ushers, Redcoats, Boy Scout ushers and band members. "It is more than a football story," he says. "It is a look into the lives and traditions of the many individuals who come together on game day to provide a safe and entertaining venue for thousands of rabid fans who invade the most storied stadium in the world."



**Trevor Zahara in Ohio Stadium.**

## President's message: Torch depends on members as volunteers

After our meeting in February, a visitor emailed me to say "Everything was great: the presentation, the food, the venue and the company. The group was very congenial and table talk was lively." This is the kind of email I like to get! It attests to the quality of the experience of Torch in Columbus.

None of this quality comes without the efforts of good people. Of course, the speakers deserve most of the credit, but we should not overlook the importance of others. Volunteers manage the registration tables; board members give of their time to track revenue and expenses, plan the programs, publish the newsletter, and do everything needed.

All of this is to ask you to consider volunteering your service for any of the above. Tending the registration desk only requires a presence at 5 p.m. to arrange nametags and collect money for guests. Please let me know if you would be willing to take a turn at this modest service.

The Nominating Committee, which will consist of Sue Tilgner (past president and chair), Don Larson (president-elect) and myself, will soon be working to compile a slate of candidates for the next Board of Directors. We are particularly anxious to find someone who would be an assistant treasurer and would be coached by our present treasurer, David Lenz. So if you have any experience in accounting or overseeing a budget, please consider serving as assistant treasurer.

Another way of helping is to recruit new members. Our club, like many, has declined in membership. Especially helpful would be for younger members and recent retirees to bring friends and colleagues who will consider joining.

Torch Club of Columbus has existed for 98 years. In its history, the well-being of Torch Club of Columbus has always depended on members who value the program — the presentation, food and conversation — enough to invest time and effort. So please step forward and offer to help in some way.



Rai Goerler

**The Columbus Torch Club hosted a distinguished visitor at our meeting on February 1. Anne Sterling, former president of the International Association of Torch Clubs and currently director-at-large for establishing new clubs, joined us. Pictured are (left to right) Anne Sterling, Dorothy Driskell, immediate past president of IATC, and Rich Davis, nominee for vice president of IATC.**



## Member's Moment: James J. Bishop

*Presented by Steve Sterrett on February 1, 2024*

I have the privilege of re-introducing James J. Bishop, a member of our Torch Club for 33 years. In one sentence, I can describe Jim as a scientist, an educator, a civic activist, an amateur athlete, and a proud husband. But let me tell you more.

Jim also is a fine example of aging gracefully. When I sat down with Jim to talk about this Member's Moment, he admitted that, now that he is in his mid-80s, he realized he had become an old man. An old man? I'm in my mid-70s, so I can relate to that revelation. Jim is not a Baby Boomer, but I am a Baby Boomer. And I can tell you: It's downright weird to be the same age as old folks.

Jim was raised in Memphis, Tenn. He joined other members of his family in attending LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, one of our nation's historically Black colleges and universities. He graduated in 1958 with a B.S. degree with Highest Honors and Distinction. He enrolled in graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study inorganic chemistry. At this point in his life, he thought he might become a professor at a historically Black college. Jim eventually earned his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from MIT in 1969, but his path to that degree took several detours due to his own interests and talents.

With his move to Boston for graduate school, he joined the Boston chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, one of our nation's major civil rights organizations. His activities led to him working for two years as secretary for intergroup relations in the Massachusetts Governor's Office. In this role, he assisted in the passage of the nation's first state law against racial imbalance in public schools.

In 1969, Jim became the first director of MIT's Project Interphase, an intensive academic summer program for some entering African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and other under-represented first-year students. That began his career in higher education administration. In 1970, he became assistant dean and then associate dean for student affairs. In 1978, he became dean of students at Amherst College. In 1983, he became vice provost for university life at the University of Pennsylvania.

Now I must introduce Rudine Sims Bishop, professor emerita of education at Ohio State. She is a national authority on children's literature. You have met her before at our Torch Club meetings. Shortly after Rudine was offered the faculty position at Ohio State, Rudine and Jim were married. So in 1987, Jim became a "trailing spouse." As it turned out, Jim was in the right place at the right time. He was appointed special assistant to the university's provost and founding director of the Young Scholars Program that began in 1988.



**Jim Bishop (right) was introduced for the Member's Moment by Steve Sterrett.**

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## **Member's Moment: James J. Bishop**

(Continued from page 3)

This program, which continues today, is an innovative statewide effort to increase the number of underrepresented low-income middle school students who are prepared to attend college, including Ohio State. The program assists these academically talented students from the state's nine largest urban public school districts. They receive academic enrichment activities, college preparation and financial aid. I first met Jim as he launched this ambitious program.

Jim subsequently served as associate professor of science education beginning in 1995 and then assistant dean for research and external affairs in the College of Education from 1998 until his retirement from Ohio State in 2002. Of course, Jim wasn't ready for full retirement in 2002. Throughout his life, Jim has been a very active alumnus of LeMoyne-Owen College. He was president of the college's alumni association and served as vice chairperson and then chairperson of the college's Board of Trustees. He even served as interim president of the college for two months in 2002.

As a civic leader, Jim for years has been active with Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal advocacy organization founded after World War II by prominent supporters of Roosevelt's New Deal policies. He is a former chair of the ADA's National Executive Committee.

Did I mention that Jim is an amateur athlete? Into his 80s, Jim set aside several times each year to ski in places such as Steamboat, Colorado, and to snorkel and SCUBA dive in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Jim admits that Rudine and he live a quieter life now. They do still enjoy their visits to St. Croix where they can find a shady spot on the beach to read, talk and take in the lovely scenes. He credits Rudine for much of the happiness of his life.

As you can see, Jim has spent his professional career helping young people successfully navigate the opportunities and challenges of college life. These young people represent our future. In his civic engagement, he has worked for a future of inclusion and prosperity for all. I asked this old – but not elderly – man, "What can we do now to create that positive future?" His response was characteristic: "Support those who will carry on."

## **Columbus Torch Club website has information and resources**

The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Columbus Torch Club and the club's monthly newsletters since January 2017 are among the materials and resources easily accessible on the website of the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio. Visit the website at [www.columbustorch.org](http://www.columbustorch.org).

Access the board minutes by clicking on "About" on the homepage. The newsletters and the club's monthly programs are under "News & events." Under "Members' resources" are guidelines for the Torch paper, audio-visual guidelines for presenting the Torch paper at the Faculty Club, and guidelines for presenting the Member's Moment. The homepage carries information about the upcoming Torch speaker and the topic that will be presented.

Associated with the website is an email address to contact the club for information about membership and other requests: [info@columbustorch.org](mailto:info@columbustorch.org).

Rai Goerler has served as the webmaster for the past two years and monitors the club's email box.



## 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 March 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. The cost for a guest is \$35. A potential member may attend one dinner meeting without charge.

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 Warrener 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

### **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.

## 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)