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### **Presentation by Diane Selby and Mary Oellermann on October 4** **"The Kelton House Shares Sophia's Secret"**

The stories of the historic Kelton House in downtown Columbus will come alive when Diane Selby and Mary Oellermann jointly offer their Torch presentation on October 4. Diane will speak to the history of the Kelton House. Mary will appear in costume to portray Sophia Stone Kelton, who with her husband, built the house in 1852. Mary will share Sophia's secret as she has done at the Kelton House for more than 70,000 children since 2001.



Sophia's husband, Fernando Cortez Kelton, was the first businessman in Columbus to supply wholesale dry goods and pharmaceuticals. Their family maintained the house for three generations, preserving both the building and a treasure trove of 19<sup>th</sup> century life. The last person to live in the house was Grace Bird Kelton, renown interior decorator. Her will left the house to The Columbus Foundation with the charge to find a charitable non-profit organization to open the house to the public and share its stories. The Junior League of Columbus accepted the challenge.

#### **The Kelton House, 586 E. Town Street**

Diane Selby was the Junior League's chairman of the Kelton House in 1979, the first year it was opened to the public. "The house is more than brick and mortar," Diane says. "It is a tangible remembrance of the history of our community and the importance of the individuals who dwelled therein. Strong women in the family carried a legacy of values. Sophia was an abolitionist. Her sons married women who were suffragettes and one of the first three women to graduate from The Ohio State University. Their children were founders of Children's Hospital, a kindergarten teacher in German Village in the first kindergarten in the United States, and a founder of the American Interior Design Society.

"The changing values of society are witnessed through the family that lost a son in the Civil War; the enduring voices of the women as they searched for ways to gain the right to own property and to vote; their perseverance as they sought acceptance of women working in the business world; and the value of preserving the past and projecting a future of equality and freedom."

## **Biographies of Diane Selby and Mary Oellermann**

Diane Selby retired as executive director of Mortar Board, Inc., a national honor society headquartered at Ohio State that recognizes college seniors for exemplary scholarship, leadership and service. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from Ohio State. She has served as a community volunteer in a variety of capacities and has been a docent at the Kelton House for about 35 years. She has been a Torch Club member since 2015.

Mary Oellermann is an adjunct lecturer on global finance in Ohio State's finance department. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Texas A & M University, a master's degree in economics from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in economics from Texas A & M University. She is a past president of the Junior League of Columbus. She has portrayed Sophia Kelton since 2006.



**Diane Selby**

## **Fellowship Committee seeks members not recognized by Member's Moment**

The Fellowship Committee plans the monthly Member's Moments. The committee believes that every member who joined before 2009 will have been recognized by the end of the 2018-19 program year in May. The committee's records, however, may not be entirely accurate. If you are a Torch Club member who joined before 2009 and will not have had a Member's Moment by May 2019, please contact Tom Davison, chair of the Fellowship Committee. You can see him at a Torch Club meeting or send him an email message at [tcbdavison@gmail.com](mailto:tcbdavison@gmail.com). Tom will schedule you for the 2019-20 program year.

## **President's Message: Hello, fellow Torch members!**

On behalf of Board of Directors, I would like to welcome everyone back to another exciting year of Torch. I hope your summers were fantastic and that you are as excited as we are to see each other on October 4th.

We have a full agenda starting promptly at 6:15 p.m. on that Thursday. In addition to inducting new Torch members, we have several awards and I can promise one big surprise!

Our first paper this year, "The Kelton House Shares Sophia's Secret," is sure to be captivating. I know that many like-minded peers and lovers of history will appreciate Diane Selby's work and insights. Thank you in advance, Diane!

If you would like to be more involved in Torch, please talk to me at the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.



**Thomas  
Costantiello**

## 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 Oct. 4. 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 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: **“Monarch or Madman? Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico”** by Dick Hill



### **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 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 – Tom Davison

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 Tom Davison (2020)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2020)