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Rai Goerler will describe Ohio State’s beginnings in Torch paper on Oct. 1

In this sesquicentennial year of the founding of The Ohio State University, Rai Goerler will present his Torch paper at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, over the Internet using Zoom. The Columbus Torch Club Board of Directors has postponed in-person meetings until at least January.

In his Torch paper, “Lofty Aspirations, Humble Beginnings: The Early Years at OSU,” Rai will discuss the controversies, the aspirations of its founders and faculty for the institution, and the struggles of the first decades. Abraham Lincoln had signed the Morrill Act that provided for land-grant colleges in 1862. However, Ohioans debated the topic for years before the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College opened in September of 1873.



Rai Goerler displays his illustrated history of Ohio State.

Rai, a member of the Torch Club since 2014, earned the Ph.D. in American History from Case Western Reserve University and an MLS from Kent State University. Hired as university archivist of Ohio State in 1978, Rai continued in that position and added the duties of assistant director of special collections for OSU Libraries before his retirement in 2011. He was one of the faculty members who developed a course for undergraduates, “OSU and Its World,” that continues to the present. His publications include *The Ohio State University: An Illustrated History* (OSU Press, 2011) and *To the Pole: The Diary and Notebook of Richard E. Byrd, 1925-1927* (OSU Press, 1998).

Directions for using Zoom to join Torch meeting on Oct. 1

The Columbus Torch Club’s meeting on Thursday, October 1, will be conducted over Zoom. Distributed with this newsletter are two sets of instructions for connecting through Zoom, one for Apple electronic devices and one for PC devices. The meeting will start at 7 p.m., although members may sign in for the meeting beginning at 6:45 p.m. Here is the link for each monthly meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89961138689?pwd=alBrcEtrYVFrSUNNTXp1VTFabnhKdz09> If needed, the passcode is Torch.

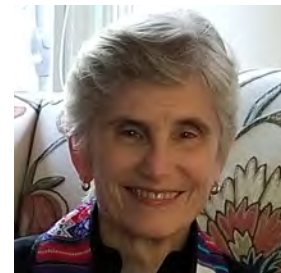
Please mail dues payment of \$50 for 2020-21

The Columbus Torch Club Board of Directors has set dues for 2020-21 at \$50. Torch papers will be presented October 1 and November 5 through Zoom. If in-person Torch meetings resume 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."

President's message: Acclimating to the virtual world

I don't know if you are on Facebook. I confess that I have been for a long time, and I do make a point of checking it each day. I sift through the junk to find memories of my grandchildren, prayers from my son-in-law, pictures of special vacations that friends take, cartoons my husband loves, inspirational articles, and plenty of personal opinions.



**Susan Warrener
Smith**

I don't post very often, but I do occasionally. Recently I thought I would check what I had posted since the first of March 2020, that infamous date in all our lives. On March 15, I posted the boy soprano Aksel Rykkvin singing Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, something to lift my spirits and others who might be interested. For me, a day without Mozart is like a day without sunshine, and to hear a boy soprano sing Mozart will move me profoundly every time. A bit later I posted a New York Times article by Scott Kelly about spending a year in space and offering tips on isolation. That was followed by an article entitled, "Why Zoom Is Terrible," highlighting feelings of isolation that we introverts may experience when using this necessary but disembodied tool. In between I posted an article from the Chicago Daily Herald about my closest friend's daughter, Katie Weber, who has been fighting brain cancer for almost a decade and published a book with frankness and humor about her journey entitled *When Life Hands You Lemons . . . and other trite bullshit we tell ourselves to get through cancer*. I recommend the book, and you can find it on Amazon.

One of my favorite pictures posted to my page is the enormous "Happy Mother's Day" sign held up by my daughter, her husband, and my granddaughters behind their truck. Another favorite is my son who teaches music in inner city Newark, N.J., directing on YouTube the virtual Avon Avenue Orchestra play "Shut Up and Dance." There are among other things pictures of my budding garden in spring, some from our trip to Door County in July, me playing the piano with three dogs for my audience, an article about the beautiful libraries of the world, and a record of a recent excursion to Shrum Mound. I suppose it is noteworthy that I began this little article with a piece of music and that my most recent posting was another beautiful and heart-rending piece of music, that is, *Benedictus* by Karl Jenkins.

I don't know that any of this has significance for you, but since it is necessary for Torch to live in a virtual world for the time being, I thought it would be fun to make some connections on Facebook, if you are so inclined. If you are on FB, I would love to get a friend request from you. If you are not, you might want to join FB and make connections there with me and other Torch friends. In the meantime, I will be thinking of you all on October 1, as we begin our program year together.

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: **“The Life and Career Evolution of a Professional Artist”** by Roy Lewicki

No meeting in December

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

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