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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Torch Club dues set for 2022-23 program year.....	2
IATC will sponsor Fireside Chat on Sunday, October 2.....	2
John Litchfield died September 17; celebrate his life October 1.....	2
Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2022-23.....	3
Board of Directors of the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2022-23.....	3

Presentation by Susan Warrener Smith on October 6 **“Walking the Way: El Camino de Santiago de Compostela”**

The new Torch program year will open on October 6 with a paper by Susan Warrener Smith on the significance of a religious pilgrimage that she made several years ago in Spain. Her paper, “Walking the Way: El Camino de Santiago de Compostela,” is the fourth that she has presented to the Columbus Torch Club.



Susan Warrener Smith

Wikipedia defines pilgrimage as “a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new and expanded meaning about one’s self, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to daily life.”

Susan explains “pilgrimage is an integral part of all the world’s great religions. Muslims go on pilgrimage to Mecca, Buddhists to Sarnath, Hindus to the Ganges, Jews to the Western Wall of the Temple. For Christians, the primary places of pilgrimage historically have been Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.”

“In 2016, I went on pilgrimage to Santiago with my daughter, Ann,” Susan says. “While there will be a necessary informational piece to my presentation, this talk is not meant to be a travelogue. I will explore how and why this journey took place and will include an experiential piece which, I hope, will give the audience a feel for what it is like to slow down, look inward as well as outward, and walk a spiritual path toward a holy site.

“In the most frequently heard words of greeting along this sacred path, ‘*Buen camino,*’ I hope to see you there.”

Biography of Susan Warrener Smith

Susan Warrener Smith is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), now honorably retired. She received her B.A. in art history from Boston University, her M.A. in art history from the

(Continued on page 2)

Biography of Susan Warrener Smith

(Continued from page 1)

University of Michigan, and her Ph.D. in theological and religious studies from Drew University. Her doctoral focus was in medieval theology and spirituality, 12th century monastic spirituality in particular, specializing in Cistercian studies.

Susan has been a member of the Columbus Torch Club since 2003 and was club president in 2020-21. She is married to Bruce Smith, also a member of Torch. She has three grown children and four grandchildren.

Torch Club dues set for 2022-2023 program year

After discussing the club's dues at its summer meeting in August, the Torch Club Board of Directors decided to hold the dues for 2022-23 at the pre-pandemic level of \$300 per year for an individual member and \$550 per year for a couple.

To pay your dues, make your check payable to *Torch Club of Columbus*. Mail your check to the club's treasurer, David Lenz, at 1926 Lake Shore Drive, Columbus, OH 43204. Or bring your check to the first Torch Club meeting on October 6 at The Ohio State University Faculty Club.

As we emerged from the pandemic, the board set dues at \$240 for the 2021-22 program year, providing a \$60 credit for the two missed meetings at the Faculty Club in the spring of 2020. Dues for the 2020-21 program year were \$50 because all meetings were virtual.

Inflation has driven up costs, and the Faculty Club is no exception. The Faculty Club has reasonably increased the cost of the meals for 2022-2023. The Torch Club's board concluded, however, that the club's finances are stable and the board will work to absorb the Faculty Club's increase in other areas. The goal is to hold dues constant, but maintain the same quality and service from the Faculty Club.

IATC will sponsor Fireside Chat on Sunday, October 2

The International Association of Torch Clubs (IATC) will host another of its periodic Fireside Chats on Sunday, October 2, at 3 p.m. Eastern time. The event will be conducted as a Zoom meeting. Among the topics for discussion is an update on the 2023 Torch convention and the new membership challenge.

All Torch Club members are invited to join the Fireside Chat over Zoom. You should have received an email message from the IATC on September 24 with information on the Fireside Chat and a Zoom link. The meeting ID is 857 0344 7859.



John Litchfield died September 17; celebrate his life on October 1

John H. Litchfield, 93, a member of the Torch Club since 2007, died September 17 at Riverside Hospital. He was an international authority on food science and technology and industrial microbiology. He was a leader, researcher, professor and gardener. For information on his remarkable life and career, see his obituary in the September 26 edition of *The Columbus Dispatch*. A celebration of his life will be held October 1 at 2:30 p.m. at the Kelton House, 586 E. Town St.

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 October 6. 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 \$30. A potential member may attend one dinner meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2022-23

October 6, 2022: **“Walking the Way: El Camino de Santiago de Compostela”** by the Rev. Dr. Susan Warren Smith

November 3, 2022: **“Climate Change in Ohio”** by Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health

December 1, 2022: **“An Irregular Christmas,”** a holiday gala with Nate Terry, director of music ministry, Gethsemane Lutheran Church

January 5, 2023: **“OSU’s Most Famous Murderer: Professor James Howard Snook”** by Raimund Goerler

February 2, 2023: **“Recent Advances in Medicine”** by Dr. Gary Hinzman

March 2, 2023: **“The Columbus Economy”** by Bill Lafayette

April 6, 2023: **Topic to be announced** presented by Joe Blundo

May 4, 2023: **Topic and speaker** to be announced

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

Torch information available on club’s website

Our Torch Club has a website that is updated regularly by Rai Goerler. The website includes information on the upcoming Torch presentation and much more. Visit the website at www.columbustorch.org.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2022-23

President – Susan Tilgner

President-elect – Rai Goerler

Immediate Past President – Nancy Wardwell

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – David Lenz

Assistant Treasurer – vacant

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – 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 (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)

IATC Region 5 Director – Violet Meek