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Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2018-19

Welcome to a new program year for the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio. The club will resume its monthly meetings on Thursday, October 4. The October edition of *The Torch Lighter* will be distributed in late September with more information on the first Torch paper.

- October 4, 2018: **“Kelton House Shares Sophia’s Secret”** by Diane Selby
- 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

Two club members attend Torch convention in San Antonio in June

Two members of the Columbus Torch Club, Rich Davis and Elizabeth Short, attended the 2018 annual convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs held in San Antonio from June 21-23.

Rich, who is the immediate past president of our club, was selected to fill a new position on the IATC Board as convention chair. In that role, he will offer guidance to local clubs that host the IATC’s annual convention.

The Torch Club in Chapel Hill, N.C., will host the next IATC convention from June 20-23, 2019.



Rich Davis and Liz Short pose in front of an exhibit in the Witte Natural History Museum in San Antonio.

Three Torch members have died since the club's meeting in May

Torch Club members Myrna N. Mumm, Richard H. Nuenke and Herbert N. Johnston have died over the past four months. In addition, Gerald M. Chappell, husband of Dorothy Driskell, passed away in July.

Myrna, 88, died May 17. Her funeral service was held May 25 in the Bexley United Methodist Church. Myrna graduated from the Columbus School for Girls and eventually earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in speech and hearing science. For many years, she worked as a speech and hearing therapist with Columbus City Schools. She joined the Torch Club in 2015. She was a former president of the Ohio State University Women's Club. She is survived by her son, David Mumm, of Ithica, N.Y.

Dick, 85, died July 10. His family sponsored a reception in his honor on July 26 at the Ohio State Faculty Club. He was a faculty member in Ohio State's College of Medicine, teaching biochemistry to medical and dental students for more than 50 years. He served as director of the college's Independent Studies Program. He joined the Torch Club in 2009. He also was a member of American MENSA and the OSU Photography Society. He is survived by his wife Carla and two sons and a daughter.

Herb, 90, died August 17 after a short illness. His funeral service was August 26 at First Community Church. He was born in East Cleveland. He graduated from Ohio University in 1949. He joined Battelle Memorial Institute in 1952 and managed the polymer science group. He held 18 patents and eventually rose to vice president of industrial business development. He retired in 1992, but he continued consulting at Battelle for another decade. He joined the Torch Club in 2000. He is survived by his wife Jeanne and a son and daughter.

Jerry, 93, died July 24 at home in Westerville. His memorial service was July 29 at First Presbyterian Church of Westerville. He is survived by his wife Dorothy Driskell, who is a past president of the Torch Club and the current membership chair. He also is survived by three daughters and two step-children. Jerry served as a quartermaster in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He graduated from Marion Harding High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State. He was an elementary school principal in Columbus City Schools for more than 30 years.

Past president provides year-end financial report for 2017-18

By Rich Davis, immediate past president

As I reported in the May *Torch Lighter* newsletter, we finished our year in a strong operational and financial position. We had not yet "closed the books" on the year as there were outstanding transactions associated with the final meeting, etc. As of our summer Board of Directors meeting on August 22, Howard Gauthier has submitted, and the board approved, the final treasurer's report for the 2017-18 year.



Rich Davis

As our membership had (sadly) declined last year, our revenue, which is almost entirely made up of the membership's dues and guests at meals, was \$25,900, which is \$3,075 below the projected budget. Similarly, the club's expenses are almost entirely made up of the Faculty Club dinners and the IATC dues, which also are tied to the size of our club. Therefore, the expenses were \$3,168 below budget as well, at \$21,321. The net result is a very minor deviation of \$93 to the good. Note our revenue exceeded our expenses by \$4,578. Since the enhanced dinner menu and added

appetizers were initiated mid-year, the frugal first half of the year contributed to that surplus. The coming year will be closer to a balance between revenue and expenses.

The club has been accumulating a surplus for an extended period of time. The end of year checking account balance sits at \$25,716. The club is acting responsibly in maintaining reserves to get through any future surprises affecting the revenue or expenses in a negative way. The board decided the account balance was in excess of that needed to meet those “surprises” and set a minimum reserve level of \$15,000. As a result, the board agreed that dues remain the same for the coming year. As expenses will continue to increase over the years, the board also supported using the excess over the minimum reserve to maintain the dues at current levels for years into the future.

President’s message: Welcome to the 2018-19 Torch season

By Thomas Costantiello, president

I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to serve as your president this year. Without the commitment of our members and our board, we would not be one of the top clubs within the International Association of Torch Clubs, Inc. Since our founding in 1924, we believe in the words of our founder, William Bullock, that Torch should be a **broadening, cultural, educational** and **social** experience.

The time-honored tradition of our papers makes us truly special. We have an outstanding program this year, including new and veteran members covering cultural, world and historical topics. Please take the time to thank each of our presenters. All of them will have worked for many months to tailor their programs and graciously share their knowledge with us.

Before and after every one of our presentations we have the distinct opportunity to connect with old friends or make new ones so we do not narrow – but expand as we learn from each other.

As we head into our 93rd year, I want to share the International Association of Torch Clubs’ mission statement: *“To enable local clubs and members to perpetuate the sharing of knowledge, experience, and fellowship among various professions.”*

It is this mission that we should embrace and build upon so the Columbus Torch Club can burn brightly beyond our time. To be this successful, it cannot be done without determination, fellowship and membership growth.

My dream for our club is to celebrate our 100th anniversary at the December 2026 meeting. I hope you will share this dream with me. If so, we need your help and I am personally asking you to consider supporting Torch through:

- Recruitment of a new member
- Service on the board
- Program presentation

Most importantly, help magnify our fellowship by welcoming our visiting guests and connecting with our new members to reconfirm their decision to be part of one of the greatest organizations with the greatest members in Columbus. As this year passes and becomes history, let it be our gift to those in the present to shape a better future for all.



**Thomas
Costantiello**

Member's Moment – Pat Smith

Presented by Dorothy Driskell on May 3, 2017

Those of us who know Pat identify her with education. But like a sturdy stool, she has more than one leg: there's politics, the arts, and history, all of which have helped to define her.

Pat grew up in Chillicothe, our first capital, where she entertained various groups, performed in dance recitals and acted in class plays. She enrolled in Ohio State's arts college, but after hearing her



Pat Smith (left) and the presenter for her Member's Moment, Dorothy Driskell.

professors often warn that there were no jobs for theater majors, she transferred to education. She graduated with a double major and a minor, having been named to Alpha Epsilon Rho, the speech honorary, and holding various offices in her sorority.

Upon graduation, she married her college sweetheart to whom she was wed for 54 years and they moved to Zanesville, Ohio's second capital. There she taught freshman English and civics and gave birth to her first-born. Three years later, they moved to Marietta, the first capital of the Northwest Territory. She was active in the League of Women Voters, ran her husband's campaign for city council, chaired Washington County's annual Republican Finance Drive, and was a founding member of the Valley Players, acting in and directing plays. She formed an antiques study group

and was accused of being a communist when she founded Marietta's first pre-school. It recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Pat taught freshman English in Belpre where the principal, having listened to her frequent advice to the basketball coach, assigned her to practice what she preached when the coach fell ill before an important tournament game. She beat Parkersburg, even though the team had lost to the school during the regular season. This was in the days when women coaches were unheard of. She kicked a whole row out of class for a week for cheating. That row included the school board president's son, the mayor's daughter, and the sons of a minister and the chief of police!

During the eight years in Marietta, she nurtured her first born, had a new baby she barely made it to the hospital to deliver, built a house and helped her husband entertain customers.

Shortly after their relocation to Worthington, named for Thomas Worthington, of course, she became a docent at the Ohio History Center. She then taught a year in Dublin to keep her certificate valid, leaving to finish her master's degree while pregnant for her third child. She read *Moby Dick* in the delivery room and, after receiving a spinal block, told her Ob-Gyn that she now knew what it felt like to be harpooned!

She served as president of Worthington Republican Women's Club and then as president of the Ohio Federation of Republican Women, a 13,000-member organization that she totally reorganized, arranging workshops on management and leadership skills, encouraging women to run for office, and showcasing candidates and office holders. She set up a foundation to encourage girls to become involved in politics and brought in national figures such as Liz Dole, Maureen Reagan, Pat Buchanan and John Connolly.

Gov. Rhodes rewarded her with a five-year appointment to the Ohio Arts Council. She was later named to the Columbus Jazz Arts Board where she served for many years, the Ohio Alliance for Arts in Education, the Governor’s Youth Art Exhibit and on and on. This was all happening while she was twice elected to the Worthington School Board, each time leading the ticket of seven candidates.

The Republican Party asked her to run for Franklin County commissioner, the second woman to run countywide. After agreeing to be the sacrificial candidate against 12-year incumbent Michael Dorrian, she received 42% of the vote after 14% was expected. Buck Rinehart, the newly elected mayor of Columbus, told her she could name her own position in his administration. She became the city’s cultural arts coordinator and formed the Cultural Arts Commission, which published the “Columbus Cultural Plan.” She moderated “Cultural Happenings,” a weekly TV show on Channel 3.

President Reagan appointed Pat to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education where she authored *Illiteracy in America*, which won an American Library Association award. She received a second Presidential appointment to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, tasked with helping ease women into the military. Her reports on military base visits went directly to the Secretary of Defense. Members credited her with forcing the Army to reinstate women it had removed from 23 military occupational specialty codes – representing thousands of jobs – and give them back pay.

She then began her ten-year service on the Ohio Board of Education. She was the second woman to serve as president. After surviving her board tenure, she was hired as educational policy advisor to the Ohio Office of Budget and Management and then served as project director for the \$1.7-million, legislatively mandated evaluation of Ohio’s nearly \$1 billion expenditure on educational technology.

More recently, out of 1,500 applicants, she was one of 50 chosen as a peer reviewer for the federal Race to the Top applications and subsequently served as a reviewer for other grant applications to the departments of Education and Labor.

Finally, Pat threatened me with total annihilation for making her go through all her resumes and papers for her Member’s Moment until she realized that her kids could adapt this for her obituary.

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2018-19

At the club’s May meeting, members voted to support the Nominating Committee’s slate of Violet Meek as president-elect and Deborah Stevens and Tom Davison as at-large members of the Board of Directors. The other members of the board are either continuing in multiple-year elected positions or are board appointments that don’t require a vote of the members.

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)

Club inducts attorney as new member at May meeting

Eric B. Gamble

Born and raised in Columbus, Eric graduated from Upper Arlington High School where he played on the school's hockey and tennis teams. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Otterbein College where he was on the tennis team. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Capital University Law School in 2002 and passed the Ohio bar examination that same year.

As a practicing attorney, Eric has co-authored numerous estate planning articles for the Ohio State Bar Association.

Eric and his wife live in Marblecliff Crossing. She teaches English as a second language in Columbus City Schools. They were married by the Rev. James Long, who has been a Torch Club member since 2004. The couple enjoys cooking, attending concerts and playing tennis.



Tom Costantiello (left) sponsored Eric Gamble for Torch membership.

Notice of club's dues for 2018-19 will be distributed soon

Thom Seelbach, club secretary, will distribute an email message this month with a notice for payment of the Torch Club's annual dues for 2018-19. The amount is unchanged from last year.

Individual dues are \$300. Payment may be made at the Torch Club meeting on October 4 or may be paid by mailing a check to the club's treasurer, Howard Gauthier, at 2751 Alliston Court, Columbus, OH 43220-4215. The check should be written to "Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio." If individual dues are paid after the Torch meeting on November 1, the charge will be \$320.

Households with two members will pay dues of \$575. If paid after the Torch meeting on November 1, the household dues for two members will be \$600. Dues for household members are less because the club is passing along the fee reduction from the International Association of Torch Clubs for the second member from the same address.

If a member would like to be temporarily inactive for the 2018-19 program year, the member should seek approval from the club's board. The member then may pay dues of only \$75, which permits the member's name and contact information to be published in the club's program book and provides a subscription to *The Torch* magazine.