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

Welcome to a new program year for the Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio. The club will resume its monthly in-person meetings and dinners on Thursday, October 6, in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive. Here is the schedule of Torch papers at this time:

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

Club’s Board of Directors sets dues at 2019-2020 level

By Susan Tilgner

As we begin the new Torch Club year, it’s time to pay dues. As you know, the last two years have been out of the ordinary. As the pandemic unfolded in the spring of 2020, we had to cancel our last two meetings of the year in April and May. The board promised that once in-person meetings resumed, we would provide a credit for those missed meetings. In the 2020-2021 year, all meetings were virtual so the board set the dues at only \$50 for the year. In-person meetings finally resumed last year, and dues were set at \$240, providing a \$60 credit for the two missed meetings in 2020.

The Board of Directors met in August to discuss the dues for this year. Costs have risen everywhere and the Faculty Club is no exception. The Faculty Club has reasonably increased the cost of our meals for the 2022-2023 year. However, the board decided to hold the dues at the pre-pandemic level of \$300 per year (\$550 per couple). At this time our finances are stable, and the board will work to absorb the

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Club's Board of Directors sets dues at 2019-2020 level

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Faculty Club's increase in other areas. This meets our goal of holding dues constant but maintaining the same quality and service we enjoy at the Faculty Club.

To pay your dues, make your check payable to: *Torch Club of Columbus*, then send your check to our treasurer, David Lenz, 1926 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, OH 43204. Or bring your check to the first Torch Club meeting on October 6 at the OSU Faculty Club.

President's message: Football, fall foliage and Torch fellowship

Fall is here so that means it's time for football Saturdays, fall foliage and meeting with our Torch Club friends again. It also means I officially begin my term as your president, and I am looking forward to an engaging and enjoyable year. We kick off our Torch year on October 6th with a presentation by Susan Warren Smith titled "Walking the Way: El Camino de Santiago de Compostela."

Throughout the year, we will hear about topics such as the Columbus economy, advances in medicine, climate change in Ohio, and even an OSU murder mystery! And meetings are made more meaningful by each of you, our members. We all look forward to the thoughtful and sometimes lively discussion following each presentation around the dinner table! That's what makes the Torch Club membership special.



Susan Tilgner

I hope everyone has had a safe and fun summer, and I look forward to seeing you on October 6th. As always, feel free to invite a friend to join you for the meeting, either in October or anytime throughout the year. We always enjoy having new folks add to our Torch discussions!

Club members recognized at IATC convention in June

The annual convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs met in Saratoga, N.Y., in June. Columbus Torch Club members played key roles:

- Elizabeth Short received the Gold Torch Award for her service as District 5 director and for bringing greater visibility and appreciation to the IATC Awards Program as program chair.
- Convention delegates elected Rich Davis as a director-at-large on the IATC Board. He concluded a term as IATC treasurer and is a former president of the Columbus Torch Club.
- Dorothy Driskell concluded her term as IATC president. Dorothy is a former president of the Columbus Torch Club. She turned the duties of IATC president over to Susan Breen-Held of the Des Moines, Iowa, Torch Club, for a two-year term.

The convention was attended by 57 Torch members and their guests representing 25 of the IATC's 50 clubs.

Member's Moment – John Firebaugh

Presented by Steve Sterrett on June 3, 2022

I am pleased to deliver this Member's Moment for John Firebaugh, a member of our Torch Club since 2015.

John grew up on a farm in Wayne County, Ohio. (The county seat is Wooster.) After serving almost two years in the U.S. Army – most of that time at Fort Knox in Kentucky – he enrolled at The Ohio State University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering.

John subsequently served as an engineer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and Farmers Home Administration.

In the mid-1960s, John met Francille when they both were members of the Buckeye Trail in Central Ohio Hiking Club. At the time, Francille was an assistant professor in Ohio State's School of Home Economics. Hiking those trails together led to their marriage in 1970.

Francille eventually became dean of what is now Ohio State's College of Human Ecology and later vice provost for international affairs. When Francille was appointed dean of the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University, John joined her in Ithaca, N.Y.

Fortunately for us, John and Francille returned to Columbus when Francille retired from Cornell. Francille joined the Torch Club in 2009. A few years later, she was our club's president. Then she convinced John to join us.

As you may have noticed, John is a man of few words, but let me tell you that he has deep thoughts. John has written a brief essay on time, which he has asked me to read as follows:

The Earth, rotating 360 degrees on its axis, creates a day. In a Biblical parable from the book of Matthew, Chapter 20, versus 9-16, Jesus talks of hiring people throughout a 12-hour workday. We can thus conclude that a full day is 24 hours long.

Our planet rotates around the Sun every 365 and one-fourth days, but how do we divide the year into repetitive cycles that fit our commerce and our rhythmic repetition?

The week also was set by Semitic peoples. We can read in Genesis, "Six days shall you labor and do all your work." This establishes a six-day work week. I think the industrial revolution and the prosperity it provided enables us to enjoy a five business days and a two-day weekend.

But to whom may we credit (or blame) for dividing the hour into a cumbersome 60 minutes with 60



Steve Sterrett (left) and John Firebaugh pose for a selfie at the Torch Club meeting on June 3.

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Member's Moment – John Firebaugh

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seconds per minute? If anyone here knows, please tell us! Thankfully, the division of seconds reverts to the decimal system – one tenth of a second, etc.

On a geologic scale, time involves, at a minimum, a large portion of a lifetime to notice any environmental change or to theorize about such a change. Geologists may seek to verify and document terrestrial differences in our ever-changing planet through time.

On a cosmic time scale, astronomers have observed changes that have occurred through the eons. Our Milky Way galaxy is getting darker, and we will have a pitch-dark sky when the sun isn't lighting our side of the Earth. That's my interpretation of the Big Picture Science episode broadcast on WCBE radio at 7 a.m. on May 27th. If anyone here heard it, maybe you can enlighten us.

The next issue is: Does time end or go on ad infinitum? If time ends in our universe, will it continue in one of the other universes the deep thinkers have hypothesized?

Thank you for listening to John's musings.

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