

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

John Dillon opened the meeting at 6 PM

Approximately 27 members were in attendance.

Annual dues is currently \$75 a year. This is an increase of \$15 dollars a year to \$75 and was discussed with the majority of the increase will go to the Torch International organization. Feedback from the group went to Art Goldschmidt our representative to the International organization.

John Dillon announced speakers for next years talks.
Torch Club Program, 2023-2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept 13	<u>Steve Turns</u>	The Classical Guitar - History & Construction
Oct 11	<u>Dean Snow</u>	The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program
Nov 8	<u>Roger Geiger</u>	Historical Perspective on American Higher Education
Dec 13	<u>Bill Arden</u>	The Star We Live With - Studying the Sun
Jan 10	<u>Ron Smith</u>	The NCAA, Football Concussions and a Multimillion Dollar Lawsuit
Feb 14	<u>Jean Lee</u>	The Washingtons and the Many Worlds of Mount Vernon
Mar 13	<u>Gordon DeJong</u>	Is Demography Destiny? Ten Master Trends
Apr 10	<u>Heather Shoenberger</u>	Artificial intelligence in the Public Space
May 8	<u>Steve Smith</u>	Traditional Farming in Latin America
June 12	<u>Ming Tien</u>	Wolf vs Dog - Genetics and Biochemistry

This year's officers include

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt

Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

THE CLASSICAL GUITAR: Brief History and Construction

The presentation briefly reviews the historical development of the classical (nylon-stringed) guitar. Starting with the musical bow (130,000 years ago), the development follows through the Roman Cithara (origin the of word guitar), the Gittern (13th Century), the Vihuela (15th Century), the Renaissance guitar (1450-1650), the gaudy Baroque guitar (1650-1750), the Romantic guitar (1750-1850) to the modern Classical guitar (1850-present). The second part of the presentation shows, step-by-step, how a modern artisanal Classical guitar is constructed. Details include, among others, the construction of the neck, bending of the sides, installing the rosette in the top panels, bracing the soundboard, and assembling the components. The presentation concludes with Torch Club member Wayne Osgood playing one of the presenter's guitars. Several guitars are available for inspection.

Steve is Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering, retiring after 35 years of service at Penn State. He received his BS from Penn State, an MS from Wayne State University while working at GM Research Labs, and subsequently his PhD from University of Wisconsin- Madison. His research interests were combustion, combustion-generated air pollution, and engineering education. He is the author of three textbooks. His *An Introduction to Combustion* is used around the world and is available in Korean, Chinese, and Portuguese editions. He has received several Penn State teaching awards. Steve has always enjoyed listening to and making music. As an adult, he resurrected his interest in trumpet playing by taking lessons from Penn State professor Rob Howard and performing in a wide assortment of musical groups. More recently he has abandoned the trumpet for the guitar, and fulfills his need to be always making something by building guitars. Steve and his wife Joan have been married for 53 years and have two sons, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the State College Ramada Inn at 5:00. Member Dean Snow will present The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program

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The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted
Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023
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The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program Dean Snow

There are 1199 UNESCO World Heritage Sites on Earth.

- World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, having outstanding value to humanity.
- To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be a somehow unique landmark which is geographically and historically identifiable and has special cultural or physical significance.

They include well known sites such as the Taj Mahal, the City of Paris, Great Wall of China Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA and the Frank Lloyd Wright house in Fallingwater, PA. Every nation state recognized by the UN is invited to form a National Committee to manage nominations.

The U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (World Heritage USA) promotes “the conservation of world heritage and stronger connections to the global heritage community through advocacy, education, and the international exchange of people and ideas.” The US office is in Washington, DC.

- The US National Committee solicits nominations and guides their development and submission.
- US/ICOMOS is now also known as World Heritage USA.
- It is a group of other preservation minded advocacy groups.
- It shepherded the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks nomination.
- The submission must have involved government agencies, universities, and associations.
- The USNC forwarded the nomination to ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites

In 2023 there were 17 World Heritage site nominations and included the 8 Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in in southern Ohio north of the Ohio River valley.

The sites are Newark Octagon, Newark Great Circle, Hopeton, Mound City, Hopewell Site, Seip, High Bank and Fort Ancient. The sites date from 100 BC to 400 CE.

The first men to identify, map and measure the sites are Ephraim Squier (1821-1888) and Edwin Davis (1811-1888). They tested and mapped 200 sites over 2 years and the Smithsonian published their findings in 1847. It was one of first scientific works published by the Smithsonian. The earthen works demonstrated a variety of circles, rectangles and squares with 90-degree corners, equal side lengths and with 4 openings and 4 entry mounds. The works demonstrated a variety of sizes and orientations including a Field Square with 4 mounds in the middle of each of the four sides and the Wright Square with 8 mounds including each corner and the midpoint of each side.

The evidence regarding the uses of large fields by the peoples of indigenous North America indicates that the square Hopewell enclosures were used for Shinny, a game like modern field hockey that intertwined myth, sport, ritual and religion.

How were the mounds constructed?

- Possible with simple tools.
- Required many participants.
 - Periodic regional gatherings
 - Team sports
 - Moieties
- Tools and procedures
 - Fire (cleared area)
 - Cordage and sticks
 - Stone mattocks
 - Deer scapula hoes
 - Baskets
- Construction was possible with very simple tools, but construction required a temporary concentration of many people.
- The number available determined the size of the earthwork.
- We infer that it is likely that the earthwork was used periodically by a similarly sized concentration of people.
- What known activities involved such numbers?
- Racket ($\approx$ lacrosse)
 - Goals sometimes miles apart
 - Accommodated hundreds of players
 - Too many participants for a field square
- Double ball (two balls attached to a rope)
 - Played exclusively by women
 - Goals 100m to over 2000m apart
- Ball races
 - Small field of play
- Shinny ($\approx$ field hockey)
 - Played with ball and curved stick
 - Nearly universal in North America
 - Played by men and/or women.
 - Fields 10-22 acres (4-9 hectares) in size
 - Teams sized for the available space
 - Intertwined myth, sport, ritual, and religion

There appears to be a logical developmental progression from four-mound squares to squares with both eight openings and eight mounds, as is the case for the Wright earthwork at Newark. Two sites show what appears to be the final form in this evolution, octagons with variable openings and eight interior mounds. "Octagon" is not precisely correct, because the interior angles are not the same. They are both squares with bowed sides. Curiously, High Bank has calibrated radiocarbon dates that cluster around a 184CE median probability, very early if this

form is to be considered developmentally late in the span of Hopewell culture. There are only two dates for all of Newark. Their calibrated median probability is 354 CE. Taken together, the radiocarbon evidence does not yet demonstrate that enclosures have eight mounds and overall shapes approaching octagonal are developmentally late, although that possibility remains open.

What accounts for variable orientation?

- Topography?
- Forest cover?
- Random?
- Archaeoastronomy?
 - Serpent Mount is a special case, appears to be serpent with an egg in its mouth.
 - Only Newark has a plausible axis claim.
 - Northernmost moonrise standstill.

What about Radiocarbon Dating?

- Hopewell sites span 100 BCE to 500 CE.
- Squarish earthworks with rounded corners and loss of burial mounds occur throughout that span.
- Field squares span 295-325 CE.
- More elaborate sites like those at Newark are not sufficiently dated.
- As usual, archaeologists want to do more.

The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023 Roger Geiger will present
A Historical Perspective on American Higher Education.

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The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 6 PM

Approximately 35 members were in attendance.

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The next meeting is Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Bill Arden will present: The Star We Live With, Studying the Sun.

A Historical Perspective on American Higher Education
Roger Geiger

Roger Geiger graduated from the University of Michigan with a [Bachelor of Arts](#) with a major in English in 1964, a [Master of Arts](#) in history in 1966, and a [Doctor of Philosophy](#) in history in 1972.

He was an instructor in history at [Northern Michigan University](#) from 1966 to 1968 and at the University of Michigan from 1972 to 1974. From 1974 to 1987 he was employed at [Yale University's](#) Institution for Social and Policy Studies. He joined the faculty of Pennsylvania State University in 1987.

He is Distinguished Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at [Pennsylvania State University](#). His talk examined the Privatization of Higher Education or the Neo-Liberalization of Higher education in the US.

Roger described the origins of federal student loans and their subsequent expansion as an inherent component of financing higher education. Their exploitation by for-profit corporate universities after 2000 led to \$1 trillion outstanding loans by 2012—a colossal failure of federal policy. In these same years, tuition discounting was adopted by private colleges and universities and steadily eroded a rising share of tuition income.

These trends have fed the current disenchantment with higher education and questions of its return on investment.

Roger divided the current system of higher education into four sectors:

Academic – enrolling most of the top 25% of all higher education students.

Open – enrolling schools with minimal selection of students.

Community Colleges – enrolling the commuter student.

Commercial – online institutions now enrolling 15% of students..

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The meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 7 PM.

Approximately 38 members were in attendance.

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Guests include David Little and Doreen Vossen, guests of Bill Arden, Art McGarrity guest of Bob Hendrikson.

Former President Gary Miller has moved to Pittsburgh.

The Star We Live By – A close look at our Sun

About our speaker

Bill Arden holds bachelor's and master's degrees in physics and acquired a master's in astronomy later in life (there's also an MBA in there, but we don't talk about that). After a career in engineering and management, he taught college in Minneapolis for 12 years, teaching astronomy for the last two. He moved with his wife Connie Sherman, to Pennsylvania in 2016 to be closer to family. His studies in astronomy included five years of research modeling the solar corona; that's the origin of the talk at the meeting.

About the topic

Astronomy is, by its nature, an observational science. We don't have laboratories where we can "turn up the temperature on that star and see what happens." The sun is the nearest thing we have to a lab; we can study it up close (well, we consider 93 million miles to be "close" in this business) and investigate aspects of stellar physics that would be impossible any other way. The talk will cover some basic concepts about our star and some of the techniques, instruments and spacecraft we have to explore its behavior.

Overview of the talk

*Introduction

*The Sun in context

*Observing the Sun

*The Sun – What we observe

*The Sun – Behind the scenes

*Space Weather - the Sun's effect on Earth

If it weren't for the Sun, no life would exist on Earth.

The Sun affects us in other ways, too.

On September 24, 2011, at 0940 UT, an X1.9-category flare with an accompanying Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) erupted from an active region of the sun numbered 11302. Two days later the blast reached earth. The Earth's magnetic field **clanged**. The visual effects were dramatic with the appearance of aurora around the world. The magnetic field clang caused wide spread power interruptions.

The Sun in Context

The Sun – by the (rough) numbers

Mass: 1.989×10^{30} kg (333,000 Earths)

Diameter: 875,000 miles or 149,000,000 km equal to 1 Astronomical unit (AU), it takes light from the sun 8.3 light minutes to reach earth.

Temperature: It depends where you measure but the surface we see is about 10,000°F or 6000K.

The corona is about 7 million degrees (why?)

Solar radiation on Earth: about 125 Watts per square foot (1365 W/M^2)

The sun is an average star on the main sequence and is expected to last 10^{10} years.

Observing the Sun

The Sun looks white to us

It's the light our species grew up with, and our eyes are tuned to see its brightest light. In fact, though, it gives off electromagnetic radiation over the whole spectrum of wavelengths

Sunlight through the atmosphere is a little bit yellow, sunlight in space is white.

How we look at the sun: from Earth as amateurs and as professionals and from space (for everybody) and probes SOHO, SDO, STEREO and other spacecraft.

Amateur viewing with hydrogen-alpha (red, 656.3nm) and other wavelengths

White light or neutral density filters

How the pros do it - from earth:

Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST), Haleakala Observatory, Hawaii. Swedish

Solar Telescope - La Palma, Canary Islands

Big Bear Solar Observatory - Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California

Viewing from Space

Satellites

SOHO: Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (1996 on)

SDO: Solar Dynamics Observatory (mid-2010 on)

STEREO: Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory

STEREO A (ahead of earth) and STEREO B (behind)

Instruments

Digital cameras which transmit raw data to Earth

Often “false color,” since we can’t see UV light or magnetic fields.

Missions to the Sun

Some major missions:

SOHO (1996): L1; LASCO; MDI

SDO (2010): Geosynchronous; AIA, HMI, EVE

Hinode (2006): LEO; Extreme UV imager; X-ray telescope

STEREO (2006): Viewing the Sun from both sides

RHESSI (2002): LEO; Physics of particle acceleration and explosive energy release in flares

Parker (2018): Suggested exploring the corona by flying *through* it.

Eugene Parker (1927-2018) was an American solar physicist. He proposed the existence of the solar wind. The Parker Solar Probe, launched in 2018, is the first NASA mission to be named after a living person.

Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)

Nasa’s STERO sees the entire sun with two space craft spaced 180 degrees apart on earth’s orbit.

Sunspots occur in cycles.

On average, every 11 years, Cycles vary in amplitude (sunspot count) and duration. We are currently in Cycle 25.

Maunder Minimum

~1645 to ~1715 – The time of Bach, Molière and Rembrandt

Corresponded to the deepest part of the “Little Ice Age” 1350-1850. There were almost no sunspots for 70 years. Solar UV varies over the course of a solar cycle, so there probably was a connection to the cold winters.

A painting “The Frozen Thames” by Abraham Hondius, 1677

What is a sunspot?

It’s a place where the Sun’s magnetic field pokes through the “surface” of the photosphere.

The magnetic field cools the gas around it, so the spot is a little darker. Sunspot temperatures 3000-4500 K, photosphere about 5800 K.

They usually come in pairs. At the beginning of a solar cycle, they occur in mid-latitudes; later ones appear closer to the Equator.

Prominences and Filaments

Prominences and *filaments* are masses of dense, relatively cool gas held in place by magnetic fields.

Prominences and filaments are the same thing; a prominence is seen from the side, and a filament from the top.

They're cooler than the photosphere (so a filament appears dark) but hotter than space (so a prominence appears bright)

They can last for weeks to months, and sometimes erupt over hours.

Solar Flares

Can release $\sim 10^{25}$ joules in half an hour – twice the total solar energy that reaches the Earth in a year.

For comparison, total annual world energy consumption is about 5×10^{20} J

A large flare has 20,000 times more energy.

It's a burst of light, and travels at light speed.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

Massive burst of solar wind, plasma & magnetic fields released from corona. Mass roughly 1.6×10^{12} kg. Fast CMEs are associated with solar flares; slower ones with filaments and prominences. They act on the Earth's magnetic field and cause magnetic disturbances, aurora, etc. Near solar maximum, about 3 CMEs / day; near minimum, about 1 every 5 days. "Halo" CMEs are directed along Sun-Earth line (but may travel away from, or towards, Earth)

Flares versus Coronal Mass Ejections

Flares are local on the Sun's surface; CMEs are huge. Flares are primarily photons, which travel at the speed of light; CMEs are bursts of photons, protons and electrons and travel much more slowly. Large flares often give rise to CMEs. Cannon metaphor: The flare is the muzzle flash, seen locally. The CME is the cannonball.

The Sun – Behind the Scenes.

Astronomy is an *observational* science.

We can't say "Let's turn up the temperature of that star and see what happens."

All we can do is observe the Universe.

The Sun is a great stellar laboratory.

It's close, it's easy to see, even in daylight, we can measure its spectrum and estimate its age and we can generalize what we learn to other stars.

Parts of the Sun: The Corona, the Convection zone, the radiative zone, the Sun's core, the Chromosphere and Coronal Streamers

Solar Magnetism

“If not for magnetic fields, the Sun would be as uninteresting as most astronomers seem to think it is. “

The Sun rotates differentially. It's a ball of gas, so there's no requirement that it rotate as a solid body. At the poles, rotation period is about 36 days. At the equator, rotation period is about 25 days. So - the equator rotates faster than the poles. This drags magnetic field lines around the Sun. Solar plasma (ionized gas) follows the magnetic field lines

The Solar Wind

Interacts with the Sun's magnetic field, and together they permeate the Solar System. First proposed by Eugene Parker in the 1950s. Observed in 1962 by Mariner 2 spacecraft. The *solar wind* is a constant stream of particles from the Sun, Not only light, but protons, electrons & ionized atoms.

Fast solar wind ($\sim 750 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). It is relatively steady during solar minimum, it originates in the open field of high latitude coronal holes. Slow wind ($300\text{-}400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) originates at lower latitudes and is more variable.

This two-speed wind was an unexpected discovery!

SPACE WEATHER - THE SUN'S EFFECTS ON EARTH

What is “Space Weather”

Conditions on the Sun and in the solar wind, the Earth's magnetosphere, ionosphere and thermosphere that can influence the performance and reliability of space-borne and ground-based technological systems and can endanger human life or health.

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Some Examples of space weather

On Sept. 1, 1859, R. C. Carrington observed a white light flare on the surface of the Sun. The next night, auroras were observed as far south as Cuba. Miners in Colorado woke up in the middle of the night thinking it was dawn.

Telegraph operators worldwide experienced burn injuries from currents traveling down their wires. That was the most advanced technological equipment of the day.

The New York Railroad Superstorm lasted 3 days, May 13-15, 1921. It was the most intense solar storm of the 20th Century. The CME arose from the region of a sunspot that was 21,000 by 94,000 miles across (the Earth is 8,000 miles in diameter). It caused electrical fires near Grand Central Station and disrupted telegraph communications. Auroras were seen over Times Square

On March 13, 1989, solar activity induced a huge geomagnetic storm on Earth. The power grid servicing Quebec province was completely shut down. The blackout affected

six million people for nine hours. The effects were enhanced by the low conductivity of the rock shield below Quebec.

What causes space weather? The Earth is surrounded by its own *magnetosphere*. The magnetosphere is created by the Earth's magnetic field. It's a complex structure, which interacts with the solar wind and magnetic field.

Can we predict the next storm?

We can't predict very far out and not more than a day or two in advance. So we have to wait until a solar event occurs.

Solar flares travel at light speed – 8.3 minutes from departure from the Sun to arrival at Earth.

CMEs travel much slower – they're particles, so can't travel at the speed of light. Arrival times are hours to days.

Thank you!

Respectively submitted,

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary

12/18/2023

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New member approved: Arthur McGarity

NCAA, FOOTBALL CONCUSSIONS AND A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR LAWSUIT:
ROBERT GEATHERS V. NCAA (2024)
RON SMITH
TORCH CLUB JANUARY 10, 2024

Case Studies:

Ed O'Bannon electronic games and likeness

Shawne Alston 2014-2021

Robert Geathers, Sr

Jeffery Kessler, attorney for Shawne Alston: "Athletes have been mistreated" presents to the United States Supreme Court

David Langfitt, attorney for Robert Geathers, Sr, suing for traumatic brain injury (TBI) from college football head injuries.

NCAA argues: Smith lacks qualifications, Smith opinion have no relevance, Smith unfairly prejudices the NCAA, a historian is not needed, Smith has no specialized ability, the NCAA had certain duties to athletes is an improper legal opinion, Smith is not a medical doctor or a medical historian

Smith quotes Herodotus and Thucydides, 5th century BCE historians for the Peloponnesian War and brain injuries.

The primary source historical evidence may have been too damning to the NCAA. Smith's damning findings: Concussions in football were known to have lasting effects in the late 1800s before the NCAA was formed.

College football rules contain nothing to require physicians to attend football games or practice. Harvard's published medical findings were not used by the NCAA Football Rules Committee. Players with concussions should not enter games unless a doctor certifies re-entry.

NCAA MEDICAL HANDBOOK (1933): **"A CONCUSSED ATHLETE SHOULD PRECLUDE FURTHER PLAY THAT DAY."**

Walter Oakeson, Football Rules Committee. "A MAJOR QUESTION: SHOULD FOOTBALL RULES "BE DIRECTED CHIEFLY TO MAKE THE GAME SAFE FOR THE BOYS WHO PLAY IT OR SPECTACULAR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SPECTATORS?"

American Football Coaches Association "HAVE A PHYSICIAN AVAILABLE AT ALL PRACTICES AND GAMES." AFCA (1933).

NO NCAA RULE: THE NCAA HAD NO RULE FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ABOUT PLAYER CONCUSSIONS TO PARTICIPATE

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (TBI) examples: Mike Webster Pittsburgh Steelers 1974-1988 pro football player

David Klossner – NCAA Director of Health & Safety: "THE NCAA DOES NOT DEAL WITH CONCUSSIONS- UNIVERSITIES DEAL WITH CONCUSSIONS"

NCAA SETTLES OUT-OF-COURT: *ARRINGTON V. NCAA* (2019). THE NCAA PAYS \$75 MILLION DOLLARS FOR A CONCUSSION STUDY. THE NCAA DOES A NOT ADMIT LIABILITY.

Testing Helmets - 1912 HELMETS HAVE NOT PREVENTED CONCUSSIONS

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE NCAA

1. The NCAA took no action to inform athlete of **concussion** effects and need for doctors.
2. The NCAA forbade **Pell Grants** to athletes.
3. The NCAA rid \$15/month **laundry** money.
4. The NCAA did away with **4-year** scholarship.

AMATEURISM: THE United States Supreme Court

THE ALSTON CASE CONCLUDES (2021):

THE NCAA HAS NOT ADOPTED ANY CONSISTENT DEFINITION OF AMATEURISM.” “EDUCATIONALLY-RELATED BENEFITS MAY BE AS GREAT AS ATHLETIC-PERFORMANCE RELATED BENEFITS [\$5,980].”

THE NCAA LOSES 9-0, JUNE 21, 2021

Next meeting of the Centre County Torch club is February 14, 2024 at the Ramada Inn

Jean Lee presents **The Washingtons and the Many Worlds of Mount Vernon.**

Thank you!

Respectively submitted,

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary

1/15/2024

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Treasurer's report: Peter Jurs

We have 46 dues-paying members (plus six family members, who pay reduced dues). The checking account has approximately \$4000, with the bill for the January dinner not yet received. The Ramada has told us that food prices are increasing and the per-meal cost will be raised by \$1.50 to \$22.68; it is expected the March meeting dinner will be \$23 or \$24 per person. (Several members said they would support raising it to \$25 to add a bit more to the treasury for covering the cost of guests' meals, and to simplify making change since most members pay in cash.)

John Golbeck relates a "It is a small world" story of traveling across Canada and meeting a member of the Canadian Native American mosque in the Canadian Northwest Territories that was described and shown by Louise Goldschmidt in her presentation a year ago.

TRADITIONAL FARMING IN LATIN AMERICA

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB

February 14, 2024

Steve Smith

Traditional/Peasant Farmers

- Families or individuals who farm
- Small plots of land - manageable by a family
- Grow most of their own food
- Not in farming for a business, it is their life and livelihood
- Primarily use traditional methods, low reliance on modern inputs

Traditional Agriculture

- An indigenous form of farming
- High level of ecological rational
- Intensive use of local knowledge and natural resources
- Management of agrobiodiversity in the form of diversified agricultural systems

Management Principles of Traditional Farmers

- Maintenance principals of a spatial and temporal diversity of crops - They don't want every crop to ripen at once
- Optimum utilization of space and environmental resources
- Recycling of nutrients
- Water conservation and management
- Control of succession and provision of crop protection against pests.

Traditional Farmer Goals

- Risk advantage
- Yield stability
- Yield security
- Diet
- Cultural and ritual
- Yield advantages

Next meeting: March 13, 2024

Gordon DeJong presents Is Demography Destiny? Ten Master Trends

Thank you!

Respectively submitted,

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary

1/15/2024

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Approximately 30 members were in attendance.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year.

This year's officers:

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt was unanimously re-elected.

Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

Treasurer's report: Peter Jurs

Food prices are increasing, and the March meeting dinner is \$25 per person.

Is Demography Destiny? Ten Master Trends
Gordon DeJong

Scott Kretchmar introduced Gordon DeJong.

Ten Master Trends

1. Immigration during the Trump years
2. Fertility in the US less than 2 and means the US is not able to replace its current population.
3. There is a decline in marriages and traditional family unit
4. Dramatically increased in populations of immigrants
5. Striking life expectancy in equality
6. Changing migration human capital gains
7. Increased race and ethnic population diversity
8. Persistent labor shortages and demand for workers
9. National depopulation
10. Changes in US population fertility and mortality

Immigration during the Trump years

Decline in the marriage rate, the US population fertility rate falls and the population replacement number is less than 2.

Also there is a dramatically increased population due to immigration.

Striking life expectancy inequality.

Race and ethnic population diversity.

Persistent labor shortages and demand for workers.

Fertility rates continue to fall, and marriage rates will also fall.

Changes in family composition, since the 1960's decrease in the number of children in a two-parent family. In addition, cohabitation and increasing age for marriage means less children and less of a tax base for social security.

Decreasing population growth and aging of the existing population means decreased Social Security base, etc.

What is the future for the American Family?

Will we follow a Scandinavian model with a decreasing difference between marital and nonmarital unions?

Expect a dramatic difference in aging. Expect a dramatic growth of the US population over the age of 65 from 55 million in 2024 to 95 million by 2060.

Leading causes of death in 2018 before Covid were heart disease, cancer and accidents.

With Covid the leading causes of death are changing. For people over the age of 65 the leading causes of death are the same but expect changes. Future causes include drug overdose and alcohol abuse are becoming important. Disease prevention is becoming more important.

Life expectancy inequalities will continue. US ranks 47th in the world for life expectancy at 79 for 2023. Life expectancy in Hong Kong is 86 years and Japan is 85.

Immigration science shows immigration is a benefit and provides a steady supply of workers.

Population for the US will peak at 370 million in 2080. The current population of the US is 337 million

Thank you!

Respectively submitted,

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary

1/15/2024

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2024
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Approximately 30 members were in attendance.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year.

This year's officers:

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt was unanimously re-elected to represent the club at the IATC convention in Richmond in June.

Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

Food prices are increasing, meeting dinner is \$25 per person.

Guests: Peter Jurs introduced Ezra Nanes of Accuweather and the current Mayor of State College.

Jean Lee will be the speaker for the May 8 meeting, speaking on "The Washingtons and the Many Worlds of Mount Vernon, 1650-1860."

Member Emilie Allan suffered a stroke last week.

The presentation:

The Impact of Generative AI Today:
Leveraging Gen AI and Addressing Criticisms

Mehrdad Mahdavi & Heather Shoenberger
Department of Computer Science & Engineering
Bellisario College of Communications

Societal Impact of Generative AI

Privacy

Safety

Transparency

Security

Accountability

Human Rights and Ethical Considerations

Mehrdad began the presentation.

Artificial intelligence has societal impact. Two effects of AI are predictive (what will the stock market be tomorrow) and generative or reasoned/learned.

AI can be shallow (one task) or general (many tasks).

Tasks are data driven or learned from data. Can AI replace human reasoning?

There are three types of problems.

1. Automation with little or no intake.
2. Human expertise that mimics human thinking.
3. Wisdom that leads to discovery

Over the past 15 years new data leads to intelligence.

Examples: Chat GPT, Alpha Fold predicts protein folding, and Tesla Autopilot (leads to 736 accidents).

We can reject AI or embrace AI.

Heather continued the presentation.

Chat GPT is evolving and currently runs the equivalent of thousands of neurons and soon will have millions of equivalent neurons.

The Khan Academy for children uses AI.

We can embrace AI or criticize AI.

AI will transform labor skills. Chat GPT may be a more efficient writer of reports.

However artificial intelligence programs such as Chat GPT can create copyright and legal issues.

Is text created by artificial intelligence fact or fake?

Thank you.

Respectively submitted,

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary

4/15/2024

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2024
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Approximately 30 members were in attendance.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year.

This year's officers:

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt was unanimously re-elected.

Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

Food prices are increasing, meeting dinner is \$25 per person.

We will be appointing a first vice president who will become president for the new year.

Two Silver Torch awards were made at the meeting.

A Silver Torch award was given to Arthur Goldschmidt who joined the group in 1989. He was president in 1993. And remains the Centre County delegate to the National Torch Club.

A Silver Torch award was made to John Goldbeck. John joined the club in 2017. He was vice president in 2021-2022. He was president 2021-2022. In addition, he is the web site manager for the past two years and has updated the Torch Club records at Pennsylvania State University Libraries.

Jean Lee, professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the speaker for this meeting. Thanks to Dr Lee for the synopsis of her

Mount Vernon: Inspiration for the New Nation, 1783-1799
Jean B. Lee, PhD

Bill Arden introduced Jean Lee, a retired professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jean moved to State College to be closer to family. Her book-in-progress, from which this evening's presentation was taken, is titled The Washingtons and the Many Worlds of Mount Vernon, 1650-1860.

John Washington, George's great-grandfather, settled in the Pope's Creek area of Virginia in 1657, after being shipwrecked in the Potomac River. Within ten years he married well and rose to prominence, including as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1677 John Washington and a distant kinsman (Nicholas Spencer), obtained a grant to 5,000 acres on the

upper reaches of the Potomac. In return, they agreed to pay for the passage of 100 English indentured servants to Virginia.

Originally named Little Hunting Creek Plantation, John Washington's 2,500 acres passed successively to his descendants. Augustine Washington and his family, including young George, were the first Washingtons to live on the land, if only briefly. Augustine's son Lawrence (George's half-brother) took up permanent residence there and renamed the plantation Mount Vernon. In 1761 it passed to George Washington himself.

During the 1760s the new owner strove to make Mount Vernon more self-sufficient than most Virginia plantations by switching from production of tobacco to grains, hemp, and flax; instituting milling, weaving, and sewing activities; and emphasizing trade with the West Indian sugar islands.

Washington left Mount Vernon in 1775 and did not again take up residence there until the end of the War for Independence. His writings reveal his excitement over the founding of the new nation, but also his concern that the American experiment in self-government might fail unless the citizenry practiced virtues such as honesty, industriousness, frugality, and sobriety. These and other "virtues" were deemed essential for the survival of governments based on popular consent and representation (in contrast to hereditary monarchies).

From Washington's return from the Continental Army in late 1783 until his death sixteen years later, he and his laborers, free and slave, worked to make Mount Vernon an inspirational example of both republican virtues and, importantly, the most advanced agricultural methods and experiments of the day. In the latter he was a prime exemplar of the Practical Enlightenment in America. By the 1790s his 16-sided threshing barn, new mill, and distillery were both prosperous and exemplified his ambitions for the estate and, through it, the agricultural nation.

Absent a national museum or library at the time, Mount Vernon also became the repository of Washington's wartime papers, battle flags and weapons, and even his retired war horses. Visitors fortunate enough to dine with George and Martha Washington also heard firsthand their memories of and hopes for the American Revolution.

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary
5/11/2024