

**No January minutes available**

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (February 13, 2013)

Gary Miller, presiding in the absence of President Snow and Vice President Vincenti, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The following guests were introduced: Marylee Taylor, Joyce McKay, Mary Bruce Serene, Jack Matson, Elizabeth Goreham, and Louise Goldschmidt. Miller then introduced James Serene, who spoke on "Solar Power, 2013 and Beyond." Serene has been familiar with solar power at first hand since 1980, when he installed his first solar panel. He later built a house in Charlotte that abounded in passive solar energy systems. He understands how solar power works and has invited Jack Matson, the founder of a green design company in State College called Envinity, to attend as a resource person.

Serene argued that America's dependence on fossil fuels puts our security at risk, citing Anthony R. and L. Hunter Lovins' *Brittle Power: Energy Strategy for National Security* (Brick House, 1982, reissued in 2001), which was well received when it came out, but its case for developing renewable energy sources was ignored during the Reagan and Bush administrations, which believed that fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas remain plentiful and cheap. Consequently, we consumed 19 million barrels of oil per day in 2010 and the value of our daily oil imports amounted to \$1 billion. Our dependence on imported oil from Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Iraq, Algeria, and Colombia puts us at risk. We spend \$20 billion per year just to defend the Persian Gulf shipping lanes. Our government subsidizes fossil fuel extractive industries, which have spent a billion dollars since 2000 just to lobby against solar power, and even nuclear power companies spend millions to campaign against what it calls "intermittent power." During the 1980s the oil companies bought up the firms working on solar energy, then closed them down. Even the Koch brothers have fought against solar power, and during the recent presidential campaign Romney misrepresented Obama's solar power initiatives, averring that 50 percent had failed (the true figure was below 5 percent).

Despite all these efforts, solar power will grow at the expense of fossil fuels because we need it. Serene showed slides reminding us of the melting icecaps, but solar power has many uses, not only for heating water, but also photovoltaic cells that produce direct current electricity. Many companies are making charging stations, cars, motorcycles, snowmobiles, trucks, and buses. Solar power is now used in military installations, e.g. 60 percent of the power used by the Philadelphia Navy Yard is solar. Serene showed pictures of solar "farms" from the American West, which operate even when the sun isn't shining. Solar power can be concentrated for the generation of steam to produce electricity, just as fossil or nuclear fuels are used. During the great storms like Katrina and Sandy, electrical grids can break down, but solar power can be harnessed locally.

Serene showed how European Union countries, notably Germany, are adopting solar power to generate electricity. He displayed bar graphs that show how China has taken the lead in solar panel production and will soon become the world's leading consumer of solar-generated electricity, far ahead of the US, which continues to rely mainly on fossil fuels, none of which will last forever, whereas the sun should last for at least another five billion years. Yingli Solar, founded in 1998, has become the leading producer of solar panels. Its production costs have plummeted since 2000, so that US companies cannot compete with it. He predicted that the US will lose in solar panel production as it has in steel, textiles, furniture, and other industries where it once led the world. In terms of installation cost per kilowatt hour of energy produced, solar panels are more economical than the cost of building coal, natural gas, or nuclear-powered electric generating plants. Solar panels can be placed anywhere, not just on roofs of buildings, and they don't require pipelines. Most manufacturers are developing electric cars that will depend on solar-generated electricity. A bar graph projecting future energy sources in the US predicts continuing growth of photo-voltaic cells but coal and natural gas will go on being major players. Penn State's extension service has a website about solar power. The US Department of Energy has a program to reduce production costs to lower solar power generation costs to below fossil-fuel generation costs by 2020, but it needs finance, streamlining, and cutting red tape. The US needs a uniform coding system, like what other countries have.

A lively discussion ensued on solar power: what US companies are consuming it; to what extent is it or should it be subsidized; are present batteries adequate for storage of solar-generated power; what does it cost to install

a domestic solar power system; how does solar power compare with geothermal power; how does solar power work in Germany; the high cost of fossil fuels in Europe; political obstacles in spite of growing interest by the American people in solar power; the use of solar energy by private firms such as Walmart; the size and scale of domestic solar panels; the need for research on photovoltaic devices and batteries to make them more efficient; the establishment of charging stations on interstate highways as electric cars become more common; how economic is solar relative to fossil fuel power in domestic or commercial use; and the relative efficiency of incandescent, fluorescent, and LED lighting; the need to stabilize the climate; and the need to develop batteries that charge more rapidly.

Roy Hammerstedt gave a brief introduction to the talk he will give in March about personalized medicine. Despite the snow, 16 people attended the meeting, including six guests (at least one being a potential new member). The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, Secretary

**No March minutes available**

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (10 April 2013)

Treasurer Clifford Bastuscheck, acting on behalf of President Dean Snow, who was absent, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. to announce that the chocolate sheet cake on display was to honor Jack Hargleroad on his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, which was today. Art Goldschmidt will represent the club at this year's convention. Pete Cole was approved for membership. Gary Petersen introduced Dr. Louis Persec (a radiologist with specialization in nuclear medicine) as his guest.

John Vincenti, who lectured on "Advances in Prostate Cancer Treatment," also introduced his guests: Cyndi "Lou" Vincenti, his wife; George and Debbie Trudeau; Ned and Inge Book; Bob Fogarty; and Louise Zawadzki. All of them, and many others whom he also named, have helped him in his fight against prostate cancer. The prostate is a gland found only in males, grows gradually throughout a man's lifetime, many older men suffer from BPH, and it is highly likely that most older men have prostate cancer, often without knowing it. During 2012 it is estimated that 241,740 new cases occurred, of which about 28 thousand are likely to prove fatal, for prostate cancer is the #2 killer of American men. The prognosis depends on whether the cancer has already spread. Because of an article recently published in *Consumer Reports* that questioned the efficacy of Prostate Specific Antigen testing as a means of diagnosing cancer, Vincenti argued that so far only regular PSA testing can identify whether a man's prostate cancer could spread. Every man should know his PSA score and beware if it suddenly rises. Treatments include prostatectomy, cryotherapy, brachytherapy, high intensity focused ultrasound, x-ray and gamma ray therapy, and the treatment Vincenti got, which was proton therapy, a relatively new technique that (judging from the picture John showed) exposes body parts other than the prostate to less radiation than older methods. He referred to Robert J. Marckini's book *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer and You Don't Need Surgery to Do It* (2006) and urged any man to undergo regular PSA tests, get a biopsy if the score rises faster, confer with his family doctor or a urologist, and even get a second opinion if need be.

Vinenti chose to consult a doctor at the University of Pennsylvania who prescribed a bone scan (done in State College) and 2 MRIs, which found that he indeed had two tumors, both on a scale severe enough to require treatment if he wanted to survive. After undergoing a colonoscopy, bone scan, MRI, hormone pills, visicoil implant, and CT simulation with markers, Vincenti underwent 44 proton treatments in the Roberts Proton Therapy Center at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The treatment was non-invasive, amounted to 30 seconds' radiation on each side. He suffered no fatigue, loss of appetite, incontinence, depression, fear, or apprehension, nothing except a slight reddening of his skin; but other patients may experience some of these effects. HUP communicates fully with patients and their families (and home doctors and hospitals). Since his treatments, which ended 27 February 2013, he has continued the hormone pills and also had various forms of alternative medicine: reiki therapy, yoga, acupuncture, nutritional classes, and meditation. Most of the cost was borne by Medicare. At the time proton therapy began (2006), the cost was \$600-1500 per treatment; this should decrease. Vincenti gave a history of nuclear research, the cyclotron, radiation therapy for cancer, and proton therapy. Other applications include pediatric, head and neck, brain and cranial base cancers, tumors of the eye and orbit sarcomas. He told about his 12-year-old basset hound, Isaac, who was diagnosed last November with spleen and liver cancer. The vet gave him 30 days to live, but Isaac remains alive due to the treatment he has received. He put on a cap that says "Proton John," read a poem entitled "Radiating" written by Louise Zawadzki, and told how he rang the Roberts bell upon his cure. The chief marketing officer at Roberts turned out to be Suzanne Harbolis Slater, whom John had taught in State College Area High School. In the ensuing discussion, we learned that his PSA score, which had risen from 0.9 in 2007 to 9.7 in 2012, was now 0.05. Dr. Persic affirmed that Vincenti had made wise decisions, but the cost of proton therapy for every man would be prohibitive. Frank Deutsch noted that one should note a rapid rise in the PSA and suggested that the patient or physician should graph the scores. Similar arguments are happening regarding mammograms for women at risk for breast cancer. Gary Peterson noted that men used not to talk about cancer.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (May 8, 2013)

President Dean Snow called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. The election of new club officers will take place in the June meeting. Jim Sullivan, who is the EMC Insurance Company Market Representative for Pennsylvania, introduced himself and guests Leslie Sullivan and Louise Goldschmidt, and went on to introduce Employers Mutual Casualty Company, headquartered in Des Moines, and its role in providing property and casualty insurance to companies throughout the US, the premiums just in 2012 amounting to \$1.35 billion. Jim outlined briefly the history of property and casualty insurance (viewed as sharing risk) from its origins in ancient China and Mesopotamia and especially since the Industrial Revolution. The expansion of modern industry has expanded the need for insurance. He focused especially on how employers are liable to pay compensation for bodily injury to workers, noting changes since antiquity, and the growing need for insurance to cover these claims. He cited various cases and acts of Congress pertaining to employers' liability, as well as an "unholy trinity" defenses used by employers to shield themselves from having to pay compensation. In England and the US Common Law used to protect employers against workers' suits, but with the growing complexity of modern industry, the increasing number of firms and of workers, and the greater risks of mining and manufacturing in modern times, some form of worker protection was needed. Prussia (and Germany) under Chancellor Bismarck pioneered in legislation that insured workers against loss of earning capacity due to injury and old age. Britain under Prime Minister Gladstone followed suit in 1885 and 1897, although Common Law and practice continued to permit workers seeking jobs to sign "right to die contracts," which exempted employers from paying any compensation to an injured worker.

Legislation in the US occurred later, due in part to our federal system. Wisconsin in 1911 was the first state to mandate comprehensive workers' compensation; Pennsylvania did so in 1915; and Mississippi did so only in 1948. Early laws specified how much doctors and other caregivers might receive for treating an injured worker. Some states created compensation boards; others required injured workers to sue in the courts. Over time, occupational hazards and repetitive injury got added to the causes for workers' compensation, and "impairment" came to be distinguished from "disability." Legislation has to cover whether compensation for loss of earning should be in the form of a lump sum or the payment of 2/3 salary. "Second injury funds" are needed in case a second on-the-job injury leads to incapacitation but must beware of fraudulent claims. Changes in the Social Security Act (1935) and, most importantly, the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) have affected the work environment and hence the risks for employers, increasing their need for insurance against claims regarding medical costs, disability, rehabilitation, and death. The states vary in how they provide insurance: most are NCCI states, some (like Pennsylvania) have independent bureaus, a few states are called "monopolistic" and set their own rates. Some industries, e.g., federal employees, coal miners, and workers in very hazardous occupations are subject to special legislation. The US now has a large workers' compensation industry, employing 2.5 million workers and involving about two thousand private insurance companies. Included are claims adjustment, risk reduction, actuary, injury management, medical claims, underwriting, legal representation, fraud detection, and claims reporting.

Questions from the audience included the role of Pennsylvania coalminers; working from home in cases of partial disability; how experienced employers can rate types of disabilities; fraud investigations; the eligibility of undocumented immigrant workers; state liability in cases where employer negligence was clearly at fault; insurance for truly dangerous occupations, implications of Pennsylvania Act 46 signed in 2011 by Governor Corbett for state funds, municipalities, and insurance companies; the probable effect of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"); and Penn State's history of carrying insurance for its workers.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. 13 members and 2 guests attended.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (June 12, 2013)

President Dean Snow called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and announced Cliff Bastuscheck's retirement as club treasurer. Cliff reported that our treasury had a balance of \$2,457.42 as of 31 May, sufficient for us to avoid monthly bank charges. Paulette Berner and Louise Goldschmidt introduced themselves. Dean Snow opened the floor to nominations. Under the Bylaws, John Vincenti, the current vice president, will automatically become president. Steve Smith has indicated a willingness to be the new vice president, and Lee Stout has offered to be the new treasurer. Art Goldschmidt will continue to be secretary. No other nominations were made. John Vincenti moved that nominations be closed; motion passed unanimously. He then asked for a unanimous vote for the new officers; motion approved by a voice vote. Lee Stout called for a round of applause for the outgoing officers, Dean and Cliff, for their service to our club. Art announced that he will represent our club at the IATC Convention in Columbia, SC, on 27–30 June, and urged the members to think over the summer about people they might invite to attend our fall programs and who might become future members. John distributed a paper containing our new Web address and the dates, talks, and presenters for the 2013–2014 program year. Our Web site will include old minutes, names and contact information for officers and other members, and announcements of future programs.

Tom Berner spoke on his and Paulette's March 2013 trip to Cuba under the aegis of the Penn State Alumni Association, focusing on Cienfuegos, Trinidad, and Havana. Despite the numerous restrictions imposed by the US government on American travel to Cuba, the United States is in fact second only to Canada in the total number of its citizens who go there each year, but he noted English, German, Spanish, and Japanese tourists, as well as several Road Scholar tour groups. Private automobiles are scarce, except for lovingly maintained vintage American cars, but their Chinese-made tour bus was luxurious and bicycles made in China abound. Private businesses are growing, especially restaurants. Because Cuba's ally, President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, died during their sojourn, music was forbidden on the TV and radio stations and in the hotels for a long mourning period. Tom spoke at some length about the Cuban people, living conditions, the cigar factory they visited, and efforts to preserve architectural monuments from before the 1959 Revolution. He then showed slides of his photographs and his wife's paintings of Cuba, which they have compiled in a book called *Eye on Cuba: Pixels and Bristles*, which is available for sale via Amazon.com. A lively discussion ensued on comparisons with China, Cuba's changing political and economic prospects, its vivid colors, architecture and architects before and during the Castro era, the University of Havana, Cuban newspapers and bloggers, Cuba's need for an industry other than tourism, the scarcity of electric power (generated by oil imported from Venezuela) in Cuba, and other topics.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (September 11, 2013)

President John Vincenti called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. He announced that he was giving each member in attendance an already stamped brochure describing the club's meetings for the 2013-14 program year. He expects that each member will mail his copy to a potential member with an invitation to attend one of our forthcoming meetings. Louise Goldschmidt was the only guest at this meeting, but it is hoped that many guests will come to future meetings and will decide to become members. He promised a free dinner to the member who brings in the largest number of new members during this program year. Treasurer Lee Stout reminded members to pay their IATC and Club dues if they had not already paid. Art and Louise Goldschmidt reported on their experiences at the 2013 Convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs: visit to battle sites and to homes in Columbia, stately or otherwise, and the Columbia Zoo. Art urged members to consider attending the 2014 Convention in St. Catharine's, Ont.

Art delivered a short paper on "Dusé Mohamed Ali: A Pioneer African Nationalist," which he said was a continuation of a series of talks he has given on men who lived on the fringe between two contrasting cultures. Born in Alexandria to an Egyptian father and a Sudanese mother, Ali grew up in England and spent most of his life in Europe and the US, working as an actor and a journalist, but his great passion was for achieving the liberation of Africans and other Blacks from colonialism, publishing *In the Land of the Pharaohs* in 1911 and editing *The African Times and Orient Review*, the first English-language periodical put out by a person of color, between 1912 and 1920. He later lived in the US, where he backed Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, known for its Back to Africa campaign. Ali went to Nigeria in 1931, founded a nationalist newspaper called *The Comet*, chaired the first convention of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, and died in 1945.

Art followed his Torch Talk with an impromptu speech on the background to the Syrian crisis, noting the country's lack of any tradition of nationhood and its strong religious sectarianism. The outbreak of its revolution in February 2011 was inspired by the successful "Arab Spring" revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt and fueled by the resentment of Syria's Sunni Muslims, 70 percent of its population, against the 10 percent minority of Alawites who have ruled since 1966. He explained how the Alawites rose to power through their preponderance in Syria's armed forces, dating back to the French mandate (1922-1945). Initially led by young liberals, the rebels expected to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad's regime quickly. Instead, the regime and the military, armed by Russia and Iran, remained in power, and Islamist groups like al-Qa'ida and al-Nusra infiltrated the rebel ranks. The Obama administration has increasingly supported the rebels. When the Syrian Army reportedly killed some 1,400 Syrians, mainly civilians, with chemical weapons, Obama threatened to send Cruise missiles against strategic sites in Syria as a warning to the regime not to use poison gas. He referred the issue to the US Congress but did not promise to abide by its recommendations. Two days ago Russia's government, following an offhand remark by Secretary of State Kerry in a press conference, proposed that the international community supervise the removal of all chemical weapons from Syria. This idea was endorsed by the UN Secretary General and the Obama administration. Kerry and Russian Foreign Secretary Lavrov are about to meet in Geneva to discuss how to carry out the removal. Most of the members took part in this historical and political discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Attendance: 14 members and one guest.

Next talk: Lee Stout, "Preserving our Historic Treasures: How & Why," 9 October 2013, 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, Secretary



## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (October 9, 2013)

President Vincenti called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Treasurer Stout stated that the Club is in good financial shape. Anticipating his absence next month for a medical appointment, Vincenti announced that President-Elect Smith will preside. He has photographed everyone who attended tonight's meeting, but if a member doesn't like his picture, he may email one or wait until December, when he and any member who missed tonight's meeting may be photographed. Each person should also email a short bio. Mark Meckstroth introduced two guests who may seek membership: Jim and Vanitha Dayananda. Lee Stout introduced his wife, Dee, and a friend, Ginny Grims, as well as Louise Goldschmidt.

Lee Stout, former Penn State Archivist, spoke on "Preserving our Historic Treasures: How and Why?" Tomorrow is National Electronic Records Day. He clarified the relationship between "preservation," "conservation," and "restoration," all of which involve making an existing object available for the future. Challenges to preservation include the internal chemistry of the item, the environment in which it is kept, and the people who handle it. Film presents special challenges, as the earliest film was nitrate-based and highly flammable, but magnetic tape used for sound recording is also impermanent. Microfilming records has largely been superseded by digitizing them. We choose to preserve diverse items: paper, pictures, film, and photos. Each must be preserved in different environments. Many items have low intrinsic value. The National Archives and Records Administration estimates that only 0.4 percent of all records need to be preserved in their original form; 99.6% could be reformatted without losing information. Even so, digital data, however ubiquitous, may become irretrievable as computer hardware and software change.

In electronic world, three desiderata are reliability, integrity, and authenticity. But, as computers change, media grow obsolete; tapes, disks, CDs, and thumb drives are unstable; file formats vary immensely; and the sheer volume of the digital record is huge (6 terabytes for the Clinton administration's email records; 500 terabytes for image files of the 2000 census returns). Someone must decide what to keep; what (and when) to toss out records; how to organize, preserve, and store the materials; and how to maintain access and enable use. This applies also to individuals and families. Everyone must identify what he wants to save and where it is located, decide what matters, organize "archival" material in one place, and keep at least three backup copies in different places and media. It would be wise to review all this at least every five years to fit new technology. Some should be printed out. Everyone should plan for contingencies, such as floods, fire, etc., and record vital matters, and make sure someone knows the relevant passwords. New legal issues: who has access to Facebook pages or emails pertaining to a dead person? Six states have passed laws pertaining to digital assets. A testator should add a codicil to his will empowering an executor to act in the event of his death.

Lively discussion ensued. Questions included natural disasters affecting university libraries and archives, securing one's records from unwarranted access, restoration of the [Henry Varnum] Poor frescoes in Old Main, whether a computer's hard drive can survive a fire, does the legal system preserve confidentiality in records, changing work conditions in libraries and archives as new equipment becomes available, how to preserve old color slides, the superiority of paper over digital records and magnetic tape, the changing quality of paper over the centuries, and whether a CD or DVD can be used to back up paper records.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Next month Tom Berner will speak on "Pennsylvania Barn Stories."

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, Secretary

## **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 November 2013)**

Vice President Stephen Smith, serving in the absence of President John Vincenti, called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. Art Goldschmidt, acting for Gordon DeJong, introduced Marylee Taylor, a recently retired professor of sociology, as a candidate for membership in the Club. The vote to accept her was unanimous. He also introduced his wife, Louise, and friend, Bob Ritzmann, who is a retired engineer. Tom Berner introduced his wife, Paulette. Art reminded the members of the June 2014 IATC Convention in St. Catharine's, Ontario, and urged them to invite prospective members to future meetings. Steve introduced the speaker, Tom Berner, who spoke on "Pennsylvania Barn Stories: A Work in Progress."

Tom is in the process of writing an illustrated book about old barns in Pennsylvania. His interest grew out of having observed of picturesque barns during road trips he and his wife made between New Mexico and Pennsylvania, especially on I-81 and I-80. He has visited and photographed many barns and plans to write about the history and current condition of 32 barns in 21 counties. Some of them were originally built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, many by German settlers. Indeed, there is a type called the "Pennsylvania Barn" that can be found in other states, such as Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana, having a basement devoted to the housing of farm animals, with hay stored on an upper level. Some continue to serve working farms; others have been converted to other uses, including a girls' camp, an antique outlet, a Roman Catholic academy, playhouses, restaurants and banquet halls for weddings or parties, and residences. Some of the barns bear huge signs for Mail Pouch Tobacco; one has a restored sign for Red Man Tobacco, although the company no longer advertises on barns. Among the farming uses of the barns are dairying, fruit farming, and (before the great blight) storing varieties of chestnuts. He showed a Berks County barn that belonged to the parents of the author John Updike, who wrote a short story called "Pigeon Feathers" that was drawn from an experience of his own childhood. Tom credited his wife Paulette for aiding in the process of documenting and photographing these barns and answered many questions from the audience. The relative paucity of examples from northern Pennsylvania was partly due to the different origin of its settlers, who came mainly from New England, and fewer have been documented by the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania. He does not know when his work will be published; he is currently applying for grants.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting, on 11 December 2013, will feature Dean Snow speaking on "The American Revolution: Battles at Saratoga."

## CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (December 11, 2013)

President John Vincenti called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and announced that Region 2 Director Meredith Rousseau was attending. Dean Snow introduced Michael Hecht and Steve Smith presented Gary Herbert; both are considering membership in our club. John still needs to take pictures and get brief bios of some of our members. Art announced that we may suggest to Hoag's Catering what we want to have for dinner in the future and asked if anyone wishes to attend the June 2014 Convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs. John has already signed up to go. Art then introduced Meredith Rousseau, who is a member (and secretary) of the Lancaster Torch Club. She spoke briefly on how Torch Clubs are related to the IATC, the admission of women to membership, and the condition of other clubs. The IATC Board, of which she is a member, seeks more input about *Torch*, now that this magazine has a new format. She urges more members of our club to attend the IATC Convention; the last one hosted by St. Catharine's was well-organized and very successful.

John introduced Dean Snow, who gave a thought-provoking lecture about his archeological excavations in 1972 on the site of the Battle(s) of Saratoga in October 1777, which he argues was the tipping point in the American Revolution. Up to that time, few people believed that the Americans could really win their independence from Great Britain. Dean directed a team of student archeologists, mainly from SUNY at Albany, supported by a \$2,500 grant, as they tried to find the three major redoubts that had been built by the British. The battlefield is quite large, equivalent in area to that of downtown Washington from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and they could excavate only selected portions. They found many artifacts and a skeleton, which Dean initially assumed was that of an American male soldier outside the walls of a British fortification. Later, after many discussions with other archeologists, he concluded that the skeleton was really that of a British female inside the fortification who had peered over the parapet and been killed by a blast of buckshot from an American musket. This was one of many puzzles that his team tried to solve. Dean cited another example: did Timothy Murphy actually fire the shot that led to the death of Simon Fraser, one of the British commanders (not the same as the founder of Simon Fraser University)? We must know how the rifles and muskets used by the British and American troops worked, and almost all history books repeat what is really a spurious claim. The team also excavated the burial site of Simon Fraser, whose body was later removed before 17 October, when the British surrendered, and no one knows its final resting place. They excavated the house in which Fraser died and ascertained from the many artifacts they found that he was accompanied by his wife, children, and servants. A lively discussion ensued, as members asked Dean about the number of shots Murphy that fired, whether the British fired back at him, the possible publication of his paper in *Torch*, Fraser's family (a large Scottish clan), other archeological digs and published studies on Saratoga, the subsequent careers of the student archeologists, German mercenaries and their views about the American colonists and Indians, how the fortifications were built, command of the terrain, what later happened to the battlefield, differences between male and female skeletons, later attempts to memorialize the battles, contemporary coverage of the event in newspapers, how the British interpreted their defeat, and why they dispatched forces north from New York City while also sending troops south from Montreal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Eighteen people (fifteen of whom were members) attended.

The next talk will be presented by John Vincenti, about "Small Business Pitfalls," on 8 January 2014.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary