

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (8 September 2015)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Introductions: Diana, wife of Amit Das; Caroline, wife of Gordon DeJong; and Mary and Geoff, wife and son of Gary Petersen. Ed Buss reported on his attendance at the June 2015 convention of the International Association of Torch Clubs in Lincoln, Nebraska, and distributed a written report, which he summarized. He also gave the secretary the papers prepared by the IATC leaders, including the IATC Business Plan, proposed amendments to its Bylaws, plans for its 2024 centennial celebration in Minneapolis, a draft brochure updating “Torch Is....,” and copies of the membership application. [I will make these available to any member upon request-AG] Membership in the IATC is around two thousand. Clubs range in size but average around 38 members. Art reported on our move from Celebration Hall to the Ramada Inn, his need to get responses from the members as to whether they will attend or not, and how we are charged more if fewer than 20 attend a dinner. Lee Stout stated that the treasury contains about \$2500. Gordon strongly urged each member to try to recruit at least one new member; he aims to increase the club’s size by ten this year. Tell recruits that we are a knowledge-sharing association, not a service club or a fundraising operation.

Lee Stout nominated for membership Bob Hendrickson, who attended in June but could not be present at this meeting. His nomination was passed unanimously. At the president’s request, all members present introduced themselves and described something interesting that happened to them during the summer. He then introduced Gary Petersen, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Crop and Soil Sciences, who spoke on “Soils around Your House: Factors for Siting and Managing Your House.” He began by explaining the diversity of soils and described their impact on every level from the farm to the globe: precision farming, on-site waste disposal, wetlands, farm land preservation, nutrients, the “clean and green” program, urban soils, flood plain management, water quality, urban sprawl, land degradation, climate change, and food security. Loss of agricultural land is a local, state, and national problem with many causes. In our region, mountain ridges consist of sandstone and shale; our valley soils are basically well-weathered limestone. The seasonal perched water table in some soils varies in depth according to the season, rising closer to the surface during wet periods. Colluvial soils flank our ridges and they have an almost impervious fragipan layer that perches water above it. Colluvial soils are unstable and pose a problem to developers. A home builder should first consult a soil map before siting a house in our region. Although Pennsylvania has more people using septic tanks than any other state, they often malfunction on our soils, leading to a high incidence of water-borne diseases. Flooded basements are often the result of improper siting of the house, poor construction techniques, and badly designed downspouts, among other problems. Landscaping and gardening need a one-foot layer of topsoil, but developers often remove topsoil and sell it. Shallow depth to bedrock or seasonal water tables will pose problems for landscaping and gardening. Penn State will test your soil for acidity and chemical content for \$9. Careful site selection and proper construction techniques are needed to ensure good management of storm water runoff. The controversial Toll Brothers construction project, which would build student housing on former farmland in Ferguson Township, near the junction of Whitehall Road and Blue Course Drive, was discussed. The project’s land area, roughly 60-75 acres, covers less than two percent of the recharge area for local wells. The State College Area Water Authority has seven well fields and 23 different wells. A lively discussion ensued. Questions included how clay and sandy soils affect drainage, French drains, the two wells that are near the Toll Brothers project, why the issue has become so emotional, why the land cannot be rezoned back to its original state, how water scarcity will eventually make a meat-based diet unsustainable, why family farms are vanishing, new methods of waste disposal, gray water, failed attempts to pump sewage uphill, the need to avoid contaminating our flood plain soils, the proposed park to be built near Whitehall Road, and the often misinformed nature of Centre Region politics. Gordon thanked the speaker, announced the next talk, and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Twenty-three people attended, of whom 19 were members.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (14 October 2015)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Ming Tien introduced his guests: Kendall Munk, Paul Chidester, Sarah Schwartz, and Lulu Yarber. Amit Das introduced his wife, Diana. Steve Smith proposed for membership Gary Herbert, a retired philosophy professor, who will be invited to the next meeting. Gordon reminded members of his goal: a net addition of ten new members this year. Each member should identify and ask one potential member. He drew attention to the membership applications on the tables and noted the household membership: half-price for the spouse or partner of a current member. He invited each member to speak about a book, TV program, or experience that sensitized him/her to ethnic or gender inequities in our society. He cited examples from his life, as did many members.

He introduced John Kramer, Penn State Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Criminology and first executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and also staff director of the US Sentencing Commission, who spoke on The Death Penalty in Pennsylvania. His commission wrote guidelines for judges in death penalty sentencing. Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Wolf has declared a moratorium on the death penalty, one of four states to do so, and six states have recently abolished it. The Supreme Court ruled in *Furman v. Georgia* (1972) that there must be a degree of consistency in applying the death penalty. This decision was clarified by the Court's ruling in *Gregg vs Georgia* (1976) that allowed the death penalty if it was proportional to the crime committed and if the state had sentencing guidelines. This led to the creation of state commissions on sentencing, including the one that Kramer directed. In *Woodson vs NC* (1976) the Supreme Court ruled against the death penalty if the methods of execution used were capricious or "cruel and unusual." In Pennsylvania each county lets its prosecutor decide whether to seek a death penalty in a given case, based on the nature of the crime committed, defendant's ability to tell right from wrong, his age, or his possible mental retardation. This state's guidelines list 18 aggravating factors (proved beyond a reasonable doubt) and 8 mitigating factors (based on a preponderance of the evidence). The jury's decision need not be unanimous. There must be at least one aggravating factor; judge or jury must be unanimous when there also is a mitigating factor. Jurors must have been selected who accept the death penalty. One aggravating factor is malice aforethought: was crime intentional? Did the prosecutor file notice for the death penalty? The defendant can negotiate his execution by accepting conviction and life imprisonment, but only if notice is filed before the judge decides. Some aggravating or mitigating factors may exist that could not have been considered during the trial. There may be disparity in the process, leading to unwarranted discrimination, for over half the convicts on death row are African American? The commission has studied this question for six years.

Some aggravating issues: Did the murder occur while committing a felony? Does the defendant have a history of violent felony convictions? Was the victim a child under 12? Did the defendant have a protection from abuse order? Did the act cause grave risk of death to someone else? Was the defendant perpetrating a drug felony? Mitigating circumstances: did the defendant have a mental or emotional disturbance? Did s/he have the capacity to know right from wrong? Did s/he act under duress? Is there any other evidence of mitigating circumstance in character and record of defendant? The commission has studied 6622 murder cases, classified by their nature. 99% of the verdicts have been life imprisonment without parole; only 1% actually led to execution. 184 are on death row now; 221 in 2010. Only three executions in PA: 2 in 1995, 1 in 1999, all of which could have been appealed. Six were freed after they were found innocent on appeal. Of the 184, 100 are black, 65 white, 17 Latino, and 1 Asian. Blacks are 12% of Pennsylvania's population. Ongoing issues: execution of mentally ill, effectiveness of counsel, death-qualified juries, exonerations, and unwarranted disparity in death penalty decisions in Philadelphia especially if murder was black and victim was white. Wolf argues that PA system is proven to be flawed, ineffective, unjust, and expensive. The commission's study is scheduled to be released in 2016. Members' questions: aren't all murderers mentally disturbed? Can courts ever achieve mathematical perfection in sentencing? How reliable are IQ tests of mental competence? Do blacks commit a preponderance of heinous crimes?

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. The next program, on 11 November, will feature Dean Snow's talk on Indian Law.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (11 November 2015)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45. Steve Smith introduced his invited guest, Gary Herbert, a retired philosophy professor at Loyola University, and proposed him for membership. He was approved unanimously. Marylee Taylor introduced her guests: Doug and Maryann McCall-Taylor, and Don and Ginny Mulhatten. Gordon invited members whose surnames begin with A to H to introduce themselves and tell something about their professional activity. He described his work as a demographer, Ed Buss spoke on his genetic research on turkeys, Frank Deutsch told about seeking the solution to a long perplexing mathematical puzzle, Louise Goldschmidt spoke on Islamic art history and Art (a historian) about his Middle East textbook that has gone through 11 editions, and Roy Hammerstedt (a biochemist) spoke on miniaturizing the extraction of information.

Gordon then introduced Dean Snow, a retired anthropologist, who spoke about Indian law and why it is different. He cited the US Constitution, Art. 1, Sect. 8, which empowers Congress in par. 3, "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes." But some states had as English colonies made separate treaties with Indian tribes, notably Massachusetts regarding Maine, even though Congress in the 1790s passed a series of "Nonintercourse Acts" forbidding state governments to deal with tribes within their borders. Some state governments argued that these acts applied only to the tribes beyond the 13 original states. In 1820 the Missouri Compromise admitted Maine to the Union, apart from Massachusetts, as a free state, with Missouri's admission as a slave state to keep the number of free and slave states equal as the US spread westward. A legal issue remained: in 1786 a wealthy man named William Bingham had bought two million acres of Maine land, which he gradually sold off in lots to would-be farmers, as did some of the Indian tribes in 1822 and 1833, all without federal involvement, but ownership issues festered for the next 150 years, until some Indian tribes in Maine sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs successfully, demanding compensation. The Bureau referred the case to the Department of Justice, which phoned Dean and asked him to come to Washington to advise them, while concurrently interviewing a distinguished lawyer who had been hired by the State of Maine, Edward Bennett Williams, each in a separate room without knowing that the other man was being consulted. Snow's later report argued that Maine had no case and the Indian tribes must be compensated. This was affected by the 1980 Settlement Act, awarding money and land to Indian tribes in Maine, chiefly Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Malacites, and Micmacs.

More recently the Penobscot Indians have argued that the settlement included the river and not just the islands in it, hence tribal game wardens could stop duck hunters and fishermen with valid Maine permits from hunting and fishing on rivers and streams unless they got separate licenses from the tribes. Indians were enfranchised by the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, yet many Indians refuse to vote because they argue that the Constitution underscored their independence, yet many do serve in the US Army. What is Indian land? In New York the Oneidas are buying up farms, which are removed from county and township tax rolls, and even claiming portions of the NY Thruway. They, as well as some New England tribes, have successfully built profitable gambling casinos in collusion with state governments, which take a share of their revenues. This wasn't an option for the tribes in Maine, because the population is still not dense enough to support casino gambling, except for bingo. Indian rights even trump the First Amendment clause: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," as shown in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990). A lively discussion ensued regarding the Bingham family, Longfellow, Jackson's removal of "civilized" tribes, tribal rights in Oklahoma, how tribes reach decisions, Indian-owned casinos, tribes that prosper, the Indian Medical Corps, indigenous peoples' games, comparisons with Canada and other countries, tribal archives and oral tradition, and the Penobscot language's disappearance. The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (9 December 2015)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45. Frank Deutsch presented Jim Ultman (chemic engineer), Roy Hammerstedt introduced Phil Park (expert on business startups), Art Goldschmidt introduced Jim Sullivan's friend and former colleague, Chuck Yackeren, and Lee Stout introduced his wife, Dee. All are considering membership now that we meet in the Ramada Inn. Gordon urged members to bring guests who might become new members, including spouses or significant others. Art announced the 2016 IATC convention in Columbus, Ohio. Gordon invited members to introduce themselves and state key issues in their professions. Bob Hendrickson, a retired professor of Higher Education, spoke on the issue of freedom of speech vs "safe zones" for students, a conflict that has roiled Missouri, Yale, Hamilton, and the University of San Diego. Instructors must warn students if they treat issues that could offend some, e.g., Islamic terrorism. John Kramer, criminal justice, is concerned with researchers who write polemics on key issues, such as the death penalty. Mick McKay, worked for Dow Chemical and is concerned about its business side, how to find the money for research and development, especially energy, Dave Mudgett started out in math & physics, did research for industry, went to graduate school in electrical engineering to study control systems, taught it at Penn State, but took leave to play guitar and run a guitar shop, then returned to study computer science, and now teaches in Information Science and Technology, but he seeks people who share his interest in control systems. A student of Norbert Wiener, he teaches mathematics, computer programming, and sophomore engineering courses. He still thinks at age 62 that he can do something meaningful.

Gordon advised members of changes in the printed program: Jim Serene cannot speak in February, so he and Gordon will exchange dates for their Torch Talks; in March Art will speak on the Middle East, replacing Mark Meckstroth, who has moved away. He then introduced Lee, retired University Archivist and Penn State historian, to speak on "Our Fascination with Stuff: Keeping and Explaining Things that Matter." His talk started with reading Eric Rutkow's *American Canopy: Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation*, for lumbering and the wood products industry matter to Centre County, about which he plans to write a book, leading into the history of objects, social history, and ending with downsizing. 1 history books used to focus on military, political, and diplomatic matters well into the 20th century and even now, such as Mary Beard's *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*. Historians still write biographies, histories of cities, shipwrecks, and sports. Starting in 1960s, however, social history--everyday people and their lives--came to the fore, e.g. *Poverty and Progress in a 19th Century City* by Stephan Thernstrom, putting the people back in: underdogs, minorities, and women. Scholars ask how subordinate groups function and interact with authority, relying less on letters and diaries, but more on large data sets like the US census records, and on quantification.

France's *Annales* School, typified by Fernand Braudel, *The Structures of Everyday Life*, which shows how people lived over the course of time and focuses on the mentalities of nations and cultures. A non-specialist can read Eric Sloane's *Our Vanishing Landscape* and Jack Larkin's *The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840*. Local history and genealogy matter more. *How to be a Victorian* by Ruth Goodman covers even washing clothes, cooking food, and traveling to work in Victorian Britain. Bill Bryson's *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* goes through his house, room by room (even stairs), and reflects on how people lived and what was changing. Commodity history includes Antony Wild's *Coffee: A Dark History* and Mark Kurlansky's *Salt: A World History*, which treats its production, trade, and its role in the rise of capitalism. Historians study commodities that have been superseded by others, as coal by oil. Why some and not others? Historians may expand into broader topics, like beverages in Tom Standage's *History of the World in 6 Glasses*. *A History of America in 36 Postage Stamps* tells broader stories. Neil MacGregor wrote *A History of the World in 100 Objects* based on objects from the British Museum collection. A similar history was put out by the Smithsonian. Both treat how we look at objects, e.g. in a collection, a means of promoting an institution. Lee Stout himself wrote on 15 objects in the Penn State archives, such as a peace pipe and a photo of Mrs. Atherton as a 14-year-old girl. Which heirlooms matter? *History of Secrets* by Dawn Raffel tells about objects in her mother's house. How do we teach our heirs a sense of respect toward an heirloom? What if no one cares? People must learn how to maintain and preserve metal, wooden, or paper objects. People have many photos, films, and videos, and digital preservation is harder than it sounds, for operating systems keep getting upgraded. Should you throw unwanted objects into a dumpster, find other people to buy or take them, or give them to an institution? Many seemingly unvalued

objects have value for social historians. Members' questions: How did he find books on commodities? Windows 10? How the internet enhances our ability to find objects, like vintage guitars, online, but some evil-doers collect commodities for investment.

Our January meeting will feature John Vincenti on "Steward's Treasure: Alaska." The December meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 January 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and called for introduction of guests. John Vincenti introduced his wife Cyndi; Frank Deutsch introduced Jim Ultman, an engineer who also headed the interdisciplinary physiology program at Penn State; and Roy Hammerstedt had previously introduced Phil Park. Jim and Phil were unanimously elected into membership. Gordon encouraged members to present additional candidates for club membership. He called for a moment of silence in memory of Peter Bennett, a former member who died on 4 January and then announced changes in the 2016 program: because Jim Serene will be away in February, he and Gordon have exchanged dates for their talks; Mark Meckstroth having moved to Huntingdon and resigned his membership, Art will talk about Terrorism in the Middle East in March, a program cosponsored by St Andrew's Episcopal Church which has sponsored a series of Middle East talks this year. At Gordon's request, Jim spoke on his work as an orthopedic surgeon and his concern about physicians' over-prescription of OxyContin and especially its long-term version, causing a national problem of opioid drug addiction; Michelle Smith talked about her 28 years' experience as a Spanish teacher in State College Area High School; Steve Smith affirmed that her teaching has been widely praised as effective and told about his job as professor and department head of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, as well as the development of the Centre Soccer Association, involving girls as well as boys; and Lee Stout told about being University Archivist and the importance of evaluating and storing business, government, and organizational records.

The members' alphabetical order having reached John Vincenti, he summarized his *curriculum vitae*: teacher, union leader, commissioner, and township supervisor. He is interested in the various forms of energy and how we use them. This led into an account of his 2014 trip to Alaska, the US purchase of which is due to William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, at a price of \$7.2 million. Seward was quite a remarkable statesman in his own right, but the Republicans passed him over for Lincoln in their 1860 convention is that Seward was deemed "too radical." Many Americans questioned the purchase of "Seward's icebox," even at a price of 2 cents per acre. Russians bribed some Congressmen to approve the purchase of Alaska (the "Great Country"). Its size (470 times that of Rhode Island) and location have made it valuable. It was a conduit for sending lend lease goods valued at \$11.3 billion to Russia during World War II, including 7,383 warplanes. Alaska has a museum devoted solely to airplanes used within Alaska itself, where they are absolutely needed, even though flying conditions can be bad (13.9 accidents per thousand flights). Alaska is known for its fisheries; each year 120 million juvenile salmon are released into its rivers. John challenged concerns raised about GMO salmon. He spoke about dogsled-racing, a favorite but expensive sport. Gold mining has been a major industry, resulting in about 40 million troy ounces of the metal being extracted since 1880, but out of 34 thousand claims, fewer than ten mines are currently operative. The oil industry matters; he showed a tool called a fig used in petroleum exploration and extraction. The 800-mile oil pipeline running from north to south in a zigzag pattern crosses three geological faults and 500 rivers, with 550 crossings for caribou and other wild animals. Daily production reached its maximum of 2,017 barrels per day in 1976; recent output is around 497 bpd. One third of Alaska's jobs depend on oil. Alaskan residents share the revenues it generates. About 13% live on lands affected by permafrost, which has cut down travel in the past 30 years. He spoke of the Nenana lottery, in which Alaskans try to predict the date and time of the ice flow break. He described Mt. Denali (formerly McKinley) and the huge Denali National Park, harboring 160 bird, 37 mammal, and hundreds of plant species. Mt. Denali is the third highest peak in the world, and John has flown to its summit. Alaska had 949 earthquakes during 2015. He and several other members discussed their earthquake experiences. John questioned the common view that the glaciers are shrinking; some are actually growing. Totems are not all religious; often they serve as signposts. He lauded Glacier Bay National Park. Robust tourism saves Alaska from overdependence on one industry. A brief discussion ensued; the meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (10 February 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. He introduced his wife, Caroline. Art Goldschmidt nominated Chuck Yackeren for membership in the Club. He was approved unanimously. Ed Buss introduced his guest, Scott Flipse. Gordon urged everyone to bring potential members to future meetings. He expressed condolences to Ed on the death of his wife, Dorothy, after a long illness. Jim Serene will give his presentation, which was originally scheduled for tonight, in May. Mark Meckstroth's talk in March, will be replaced by one on Middle East terrorism, by Art.

Gordon's Torch Paper was entitled "Understanding U.S. Immigration: Immigration Policy and Politics." His approach is that of a demographer, drawing on two main concepts: "stock" (the composition of a people) and "flow" (people coming in and going out). The US currently has 42 million immigrants; 13 percent of its total population was born abroad, almost the same as a century ago. A contentious issue then, it led to extreme restrictions in the 1920s, but the outgroup then comprised Italians, Jews, Poles, and Russians. Almost 49 percent of the current immigrants have been naturalized as US citizens. Among their hurdles were five years' residence, passing an English and a US history and civics test, getting fingerprinted and pledging allegiance. A third are legal permanent US residents. About 11 million are undocumented; they are what the press mainly talks about. Gordon presented 2012 statistics on legal permanent residents and legal temporary non-immigrants. Grounds of preferences for legal immigration: family ties account for the largest number, but others are employment-based, refugees, and asylees. The US keeps no official records on illegal immigrants; 400,000 noncitizens were deported in 2012. The number of undocumented immigrants coming probably equaled the number leaving. The main causes were falling US demand for labor, increased likelihood of deportation, and the declining Mexican birthrate. Immigrants from China and India now exceed those from Mexico and Central America. Lately more college-educated immigrants have entered than those who haven't finished high school, contrary to press reports. Congress has set quotas for some types of visa, but not for reuniting families. Only 90,000 are allotted for refugees and asylees; Obama wants to raise that quota for Syrian refugees. There are quotas for some types of non-immigrant visas, but not for students, short-term job trainees, and intra-company transfers. There are about 240 types of non-immigrant visas. The press and public think, erroneously, that newcomers to the US get special privileges. In fact, illegal immigrants are ineligible for most federal income support, health, and welfare programs. Even legal immigrants must wait five years.

Refugees are an exception; they are assumed to be needy and not immediately employable. Illegals can't get Social Security, SSI, Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, and Medicare. The US does not keep statistics on emigrants, many of whom are US citizens, e.g., people retiring to live in a cheaper country. His figures are based on what other countries report. Removals from the US (deportations) are gradually rising; number of would-be immigrants turned back at the border has declined since 2000. Many states have enacted bills regarding immigrants, usually but not always negative. Some other countries forbid all immigrants, e.g., North Korea. UK, Canada, and Australia have a point system, rating education, special skills, resources, absence of a criminal record, and family already in the country. European Union countries and some Middle East states admit guest workers but are now deporting some. A few count ancestral blood ties, especially after WW II. No country now has open borders. Gordon cited two Supreme Court decisions regarding immigration policy: *Plyler vs Doe* (1982) ruled that Texas may not deny free public education to illegal immigrants' children, which would violate the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. *Arizona v United States* (2012) ruled that state and local police officers cannot stop or arrest persons just on "suspicion" (racial profiling) Gordon cited key ideas in American politics: illegal immigration requires more control, leading to the Real ID Act (which will soon turn drivers licenses into national identity cards); immigrants from some countries are terrorists; reform means amnesty for illegal immigrants, their cheap labor enhances American business competitiveness; illegal immigrants threaten our culture by creating a bilingual society; government restrictions harm personal freedom, America was founded to welcome im-migrants; immigrants burden the criminal justice system. draw government benefits without paying their fair share of taxes, drive down native workers' wages, and increase inter-group tensions and racial conflicts. Audience questions: why has Mexico's birthrate fallen recently? Speaker lists mainly negative political talking points, but what about more positive ones? Gordon added some benefits from highly skilled immigrants that he failed to mention, notably innovations, sciences, and the arts. Do not news media in the West report differently

from Eastern ones? How do restrictive immigration laws discourage illegals from leaving the US? Why does US law place more restrictions on workers than on family members? Many restrictive policies result from voter ignorance.

Meeting adjourned 7:57. Next meeting: 9 March 2016.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (9 March 2016)

Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. He announced that Scott Flipse, who attended last month as a guest, had applied for membership and asked him to step outside while the members voted on his application, which was approved unanimously. Jim Serene introduced his wife, Mary Bruce Serene. At Gordon's request, our Regional Director, Meredith Rousseau, spoke briefly to the members, encouraging them to consider attending the International Association of Torch Clubs Convention, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, 23-26 June 2016, to submit their papers to the *Torch* magazine, and to collaborate with her club on a possible regional meeting in Lancaster. Gordon welcomed the attenders from St Andrew's Episcopal Church, State College, who had been invited by Gary Miller, as a first step toward collaboration between our club and other local organizations. Gordon then introduced the speaker, Art Goldschmidt, Professor Emeritus of [Middle East] History, whose topic was "Terrorism in the Middle East—and What Do the Locals Think of It."

Art began by defining "history," "terrorism," and "Middle East." Do Middle Easterners have a penchant for terrorism? Terrorist acts most frequently occur in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Iraq, Iran, and Turkey; sometimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, and Israel, generally taking the form of bombs set off among crowds of people, sometimes assassinations, or Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers. Almost all Middle Easterners fear terrorism and brand it as a method practiced by their enemies. Historically, al-Qa'ida began as an organization that served Islamic fighters in Afghanistan against the Soviet occupation in the 1980's but which evolved into a terrorist group fighting American cultural and political influence in the Middle East, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11. The Islamic State (also ISIS, ISIL, or Da'ish) grew out of al-Qa'ida in Iraq in 2012-2013 and it aimed to take control of territories in the Muslim world and to revive the Islamic caliphate. ISIS sees the US as terrorist in its "shock and awe" tactics during its 2003 invasion of Iraq, but we accuse them of terrorism when foreign journalists are beheaded by ISIS fighters on video. Our targeted bombing of the Islamic State's capital, Raqqa, seems like terrorism to them, too, but of course many people in Raqqa and Mosul, now under ISIS rule, would welcome us as liberators. Terrorist individuals or groups may be motivated by (1) access to food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities of life, (2) building the realm of Islam at the expense of non-Muslim lands, (3) independence from foreign military, political, or cultural control, or (4) a desire to feel power and respected. Art cited many well-known terrorist incidents committed by Middle Easterners but warned that some individuals and groups that practice terrorism are from other parts of the world. We must learn all we can about terrorist groups, find out who their enemies are, and learn how to enlist them in the ongoing struggle. He then took questions.

Why is the US so involved in fighting terrorism? Why do we support (and not attack) the Saudis economically? Gary Herbert, as editor of the *Human Rights Review*, received articles claiming that Middle Easterners felt we had exploited them and undermined their culture. Were the political borders of the Middle Eastern countries drawn following the World Wars? Is ISIS nationalist or religious, and does Iran support it? What is the history of the Sunni-Shi'a split, and is one side more inclined to terrorism? Who supports ISIS politically and financially? What are its immediate and long-term goals? Does it try to divide and weaken the West? As a result of Iran's recent parliamentary elections, will the liberals gain control of its government? Given Donald Trump's campaign pledge, could the US government bar Muslims from entering the country, or discriminate against them, or expel them? Noting the position of the Taliban in Afghanistan, did memories of British rule over India enflame Muslim feeling in Pakistan? Does the Quran say that Muslims can or should kill non-Muslims? Why do some Muslims, in an act of desperation, use children as suicide bombers? Why are so many boundaries on the map (which Art had passed out) straight lines unrelated to geographic or ethnic borders? How can we teach Middle East history to young people as "the truth" or expose them to people who are different from themselves? Will the Taliban make peace with Afghanistan's government? Is conflict resolution possible in the Middle East? Art can no longer recall if or how he answered these excellent questions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Next meeting on 13 April 2016: Frank Deutsch, "Betsy Aardsma's Murder in Pattee Library in 1969."

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (13 April 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Gary Miller introduced Al Turgeon, John Vincenti introduced Bruce Valoris, Frank Deutsch, Jim Ultman, and Gary Petersen introduced their wives. Gordon thanked Gary Miller for bringing guests from St Andrew's Church to the March meeting and reminded all members to bring potential members as guests. He and President-elect Jim Serene urged members to volunteer to give Torch Talks in the 2016-2017 program year. Art asked if anyone wanted to attend the annual IATC convention in Columbus, Ohio. Jim Ultman volunteered. Gordon called on some of the new club members to talk about what they did and any noteworthy trends in their professions. Scott Flipse spoke on construction, Bob Igo on the growth of online learning as delivered by the Penn State World Campus, Phil Park told of a visit to the American Legion bar in Orbisonia, PA, and Jim Ultman spoke about significant changes in the field of chemical engineering. After drawing the Club's attention to the latest issue of *Torch*, Gordon introduced Frank Deutsch, a retired mathematics professor, who read the Torch Paper on the unsolved murder of Betsy Aardsma in Pattee Library's stacks in November 1969.

Drawing on David DeKok's *Murder in the Stacks*, published in 2014, Frank began by describing the crime scene and the people present in the library around 5 that afternoon, when a mysterious thump was heard, followed by a gasp, a crash, and the sound of books hitting the floor, especially a 25-year-old male in a sport coat and khaki pants, who said "somebody had better help that girl" and ran off, evading his pursuers. Classmate Marilee Erdely rushed into the stacks' Core section, found Betsy, smoothed her hair and her dress, and re-shelved some of the books. A librarian came and called for an ambulance to take Betsy to Ritenour Health Center, where she was pronounced dead. Only after the Director of University Health Services, the Dean of Student Affairs, and the Vice President of Student Affairs were informed did anyone call the Pennsylvania State Police. The trooper who came had never investigated a murder before, and the immediate crime scene and any evidence that might incriminate the killer had been contaminated. Professor Mary Willard, a well-known crime investigator, searched the scene on the following day and found traces of human semen. Police found two illustrated Dutch pornography books lying open in a nearby carrel. Forty state troopers were assigned to investigate the crime. They interviewed numerous students and faculty, trying to identify that running man.

Initially, they suspected a classmate who had been in the stacks at the time of the murder, but he maintained his innocence and passed polygraph tests locally and in Harrisburg. The most likely suspect was another graduate student, Rick, who carried a narrow-bladed knife similar to the apparent murder weapon, had dated Betsy, and appeared, out of breath and disheveled, at the door of his professor an hour after the murder. Rick was interviewed by the State Police, but they didn't know that he had engaged in pedophilia or that he had called on his professor, who reported the visit to his dean. Rick had molested his younger cousin, Chris, who didn't report Rick, whom he had idolized and for whom he worked for pay, gathering rocks and preparing samples, and much later Rick actually hinted to Chris that he knew who killed Betsy. Seven years later Rick's professor spoke to his dean, who in turn informed the University's outside counsel, Delbert McQuaide, but not President Oswald. McQuaide thought the police had completed their investigation. Rick must have been guilty, because his description matches that of the running man, his visit to his professor's house an hour later in which he asked about the murder, his claim to the police that he first knew of the murder a day later, the knife he carried which resembled the one with which Betsy was stabbed, and his mother's accusation heard by his young cousin. One can only speculate about Rick's motive for murdering Betsy. Penn State records are unavailable, exempt from Pennsylvania's Open Records Act. Chris was interviewed forty years later by two writers. The cold case officer actually told the Aardsma family that Rick most likely was the murderer, but did not report his findings, and suspicions lingered about that classmate, who had never confirmed or denied a role in the murder. Club members asked Frank about Mary Willard's investigation, why Chris wasn't questioned at the time, why the State Police refused to comment, some of the rumors that were current just after the murder, the dean's intention to write revelatory memoirs about Penn State, memories of the library staff, the building's construction, and how the stacks are configured, the reason why Betsy was there, and the Dutch pornographic magazines.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting on May 11: Jim Serene, “Everyone Loves Children: The Emotional Dilemma of Dealing with an Overpopulated World.”

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (11 May 2016)

President Gordon DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm. Ming Tien introduced his guest, Steve Beckerman. Bruce Valoris and Al Turgeon) were proposed for membership and approved unanimously. The Club has added eight new members this year, but still must recruit more. Members may also invite their spouses, using the family membership rate. Gordon proposed a slate of officers for 2016-17: Jim Serene, President; Roy Hammerstedt, Vice President; Art Goldschmidt, secretary; and Lee Stout, treasurer. The slate was approved unanimously. He nominated Art as the Club's official delegate to the 2016 IATC Convention, eligible for a \$250 reimbursement from the IATC. Louise will also represent the club. This was approved unanimously. Gordon will inform the IATC officially. Lee gave his treasurer's report. As of 1 September 2015, the balance was \$2,244; receipts and expenses are almost even. As of today, our balance was \$2,345, for a net surplus of \$101. Gordon asked members to rate our current venue. The general opinion: Ramada Inn has better food, service, and location than Celebration Hall. Requests are usually honored. Only problem is that we get moved around unexpectedly. Jim circulated a sheet of paper, seeking volunteers to present papers in 2016-17. Gordon introduced Jim Serene, speaking on "Everyone Loves Children: The Emotional Dilemmas of Dealing with an Overpopulated World."

Jim began by ordering applause to Gordon for his leadership this year, and then told how he grew up among steel workers near Pittsburgh, who typically had large families. However, the future seems cloudy because of air and water pollution, overcrowding, new (and old) diseases, international unrest, mass migrations, hunger, and unemployment. Crowded conditions, caused by too many humans, exacerbate these problems. Efforts to limit offspring have been lacking. He cited Kevin Cole's article in the recent issue of *Torch* magazine, which named the four bodily organs of communication: head, heart, guts, and gonads. Sex attracts the largest audience.

Robert Malthus wrote a celebrated treatise on population in 1798, arguing that the human population increases faster than the means of supporting it. This tendency has continued at an accelerating rate. Today three billion people on this earth live in extreme poverty, earning less than \$2 a day. Each day 45 thousand die from hunger resulting from poverty and food shortages, caused by wars, dictators, or droughts. Mass migration to Europe is coming from, not only Syria, but many war-torn or impoverished African countries. The Earth began about 4.5 billion years ago. Cells that reproduce sexually appeared 2.5 billion years, *Homo Sapiens* arose about a million years, and farming began ten thousand years ago. Sexual desire in humans—especially males—is strong and was probably needed to keep males around after the baby was born. Human reproduction has not abated amid all the modern innovations. The women's rights movement and family planning go back only a hundred years. Female genital mutilation, used to "keep women "under control," has harmed over 100 million Asian, African and Middle Eastern women, about 2 million every year, to make intercourse painful for them, thereby discouraging premarital sex and maintaining chastity after marriage. Most religions, founded by men, oppose abortion and birth control devices, even as the media promote means of stimulating male sexuality. Roman Catholicism teaches "Tampering with the male seed is tantamount to murder." Buddhism favors male dominance. Even in the West male dominance persists. Our attitudes toward sex, reproduction, and survival have not evolved. Religious texts were written by men when people were few, and scientists were punished for defying divine law. People's behavior should adjust to 21st century conditions, but their rapid population growth results from short-term thinking. Jim notes that, since Immigration Laws were changed in 1965, Hispanics have added 60 million and Asians 15 million to the US population. Foreign and domestic aid has caused a population explosion, because, since Reagan's presidency, restrictions have been placed on birth control when domestic and foreign aid packages were developed. This undermines our existing methods to rid the world of hunger. Unemployed young men are apt to be recruited by terrorist groups. Over half the world's 8 billion people are under the age of 25. Must humanity experience a catastrophe before it addresses the overpopulation problem? Malthus wrote to prevent this. Responsible religious leaders should speak for family planning, as Martin Luther King did. Humans are going to go on having intercourse. Contraception, if consistently used, might help to diminish overpopulation worldwide.

Many discussants brought up the slowing of population growth in developed countries, including China, and a resulting shortage of young adult workers. Who should control decisions about having children? Religion is one of the few forces that can compete with the sex drive. As for Roman Catholic teachings, Catholic families in the

US maintain their faith, but most use some form of birth control. A significant factor in successful population control is educating girls. Agricultural output won't rise forever; look at the effects of nitrogen runoff on the US, as well as water shortages in the Middle East. Many of these changes occur over the long run and are hard to measure. All agreed that more discussion is valuable.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. The next program is on 8 June, featuring Steve Smith: "Capitalism and Inequality."

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, Secretary

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TORCH CLUB MINUTES (8 June 2016)

President Gordon DeJong opened the meeting at 6:45 pm. Jim Serene introduced Walt Ebaugh, geologist, as a potential member (Jim: he wants to join). Gordon urged all members to carry Torch Club brochures to give to possible recruits. John Vincenti will soon prepare next year's brochure, as speakers have volunteered for all monthly meetings. Gordon reviewed the past year: new location, more members, and the joint meeting with St Andrews; thanked the volunteers of next year's talks, this past year's presenters and club officers, including Mick McKay (as acting treasurer); and asked members to tell how they frame inequality: whether economic, social, transnational, or access to resources, family, and education? Seven members volunteered answers about inequality before Gordon introduced the speaker, Steve Smith.

Inequality has dominated this year's political discourse. This may be inescapable, as the income gap widens, and the education and achievement gaps widen more. Steve read Jerry Miller's "Capitalism and Inequality" in *Foreign Affairs* (Mar-Apr 2013) and several books. Wages have stagnated since the 1970s; the median wage adjusted for inflation has indeed declined since 1989, while CEOs' salaries have skyrocketed relative to workers' average wages. Share of national income going to the top one percent declined between 1920s and 1970s, but since then has risen from 10 to 22 percent. The share of wealth has also widened: the wealthiest 10 percent own 80 percent of all stocks. Should we care if labor gets a declining share? Classical economic theory favors inequality because it rewards worker initiative. But too many Americans lack the means to enjoy a middle class living standard, which someone said requires \$130,000 per year, whereas the median annual income is \$50,000. Concerns over inequality include uneven access to power, which could threaten liberty; insufficient aggregate demand to keep the economy running well; and potential social backlash, leading to the populism of Sanders and Trump, and also Hugo Chavez of Venezuela;. Robert Reich is concerned the rules of the market are being written by Wall Street, big corporations, and the wealthy elite. We assume people have equal access to the marketplace and information, but they don't. Capitalism's 17th-18th century rise allowed entrepreneurs to innovate, but many couldn't do so. Capitalism may reward dynamic innovation, but risks failure and unemployment. Workers generally have a narrow range of abilities and hence limited access to jobs especially when products change or demand shifts.

Advent of capitalism gave some people more control over and responsibility for their lives but led to greater insecurity. Inequality was its inevitable product. Recently post-industrial capitalism has created a rising service sector, based on knowledge, science, and technology, causing further inequality and insecurity. Steve summarized inequality's causes: technological change (automation and outsourcing); globalization reinforces this factor; stratification of marriage patterns (based on wealth and educational attainment, and also poorer couples tend to divorce or separate, leading to one-parent families, hindering the development of their children), rising importance of human capital (experience, ability to solve complex problems, self-discipline; nurturing families reinforce schooling in promoting cognitive skills); education, which is not a panacea (access to college education accounts for 60 percent of inequality since 1970, a gap that has widened by family, low minimum wage, and decline of unions), and financialization of the economy (the financial sector is 7-8% of economy now as compared with 4% in 1980, thanks to the deregulation of banks and other financial institutions, less lending to small businesses, high rents in communities with high unemployment, and the NASDAQ index correlates to inequality.) What can we do? Raise minimum wage? Increase earned income tax credit? Offer more technical training? Impose steeper income tax rates on the rich? Adopt macroeconomic policies that will reduce unemployment?

Discussion points: foreign competition has harmed manufacturing industries. Government regulations have inhibited investment. Poor people have limited mobility. Parents should cooperate with their children's teachers. Income tax inhibits innovation. Fewer people engage in food production, while our service economy grows. The US balance of payments has long been negative. We need checks and balances between government policies and private investors to solve these problems. Housing expenditure should not exceed 30% of income, but some poor people pay over 50%. Unable to buy houses, young people must pay rising rents. Abuse of drugs and other irresponsible behaviors. Jobs were lost to mechanization, but we must invest for future need. Professions and jobs have changed within our lifetimes, so people must be prepared to change careers and move to where the

jobs are. Classical economic theory ignores the reality of people's lives. The US imports too many consumer goods. Compassion is needed in a market-driven economy.

Gordon declared the meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Art Goldschmidt, secretary (who plans to request a better PA system for future meetings)