



St. Catharines Torch Club

March 2015 Newsletter

Film Presentation: Honor Diaries

Next Meeting

- Thursday March 12, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner.
- Best Western, St. Catharines.
- **Dinner:** garden salad with house dressing, ossobuco with mushroom risotto, vegetable medley, dessert.
- Cost: \$25.
- **Film Presentation:** Honor Diaries, Introduced by Doreen Peever
- Please let your phone captain know whether you are coming.
- If you require a special meal, please contact Doreen Peever or Julia Frankel.
- If you need a ride, contact David Warren at 905-934-9765.

This month, as an experiment, we will have a movie night at our meeting. The film is "Honor Diaries", a one-hour documentary from 2013 concerning the status of women in some Islamic cultures. It features interviews with nine women, most of them Muslim and all well-known for their advocacy of women's rights. The film deals with women in Islamic societies and discusses arranged marriages, genital mutilation, and the restrictions on women's rights, such as those of education, free movement and association, as well as the freedom to dress as they please and the right to financial independence. In addition to the nine main interviews, there are many brief interviews and news segments. More information about the film can be found at its website, at <http://www.honordiaries.com/> as well as at [Wikipedia](#) and the [Internet Movie Database \(IMDb\)](#).

Honor Diaries won the Interfaith Award at the St. Louis International Film Festival in 2013, and was nominated for Best Documentary at the Chicago International Film Festival in 2013. However, the film has not been met with complete approbation. Some critics have accused it of being Islamophobic. Most of the criticism seems to deal with the background of individuals and groups associated with the production of the film, rather than with the content of the film itself. See for example an [article by Sheema Khan](#) in the Globe and Mail.

The film will be introduced by Doreen Peever, and it is hoped that a lively discussion will follow.

February 11, 2015 Meeting

Secretarial notes by Abraham Rempel

Regular Meeting

Date: February 11, 2015

Location: Best Western

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attendance: 34, including 7 guests

Welcome: Michael Manley-Casimir (Vice President)

Our President had laryngitis and handed over her role to our equally capable VP.

Invocation & Toast to the Queen: Doreen Peever

Business:

Michael encouraged members to volunteer for next season's executive positions.

Abraham Rempel (Secretary) drew attention to two Torch papers from our club: Tilly Chandulal's recently published one and his own in the upcoming issue, as a compliment to our club's abilities. In a moment of blatant self-promotion, he also announced the publication of his book, *The Book of Nots in Science & Religion*.

Speaker Introduction:

Joe Engemann introduced the speaker as a longtime colleague and fellow educator, and as one who has been a mentor to him for many years. Dave Sydor's progressive views on education, particularly in the development of writing skills, have had a lasting impact on the school system. A true teacher and an equally capable learner, Dave has a highly experiential and encyclopedic knowledge of American music. This was his second presentation on musical history, and surely not his last.

A Selection of Songs and the Stories Behind Them

If ever there was an engrossing presentation with not even a hint of controversy or threat to club sensitivities, this one surely topped the list.

One story was pure music trivia – Elizabeth Cotten's left-handed guitar playing is where the expression "cotton-picking hands" came from. One was socially conscious – "Wimoweh" or "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" was written by a black South African in 1939, but it took 67 years for his family to receive a royalty payment from the Walt Disney Company, thanks to the integrity and persistence of folk-song hero, Pete Seeger. Another was dark humour – Stack O. Lee shot and killed a man on Christmas Eve over his exceptionally tall hat, and this inspired the song "Stagger Lee." Lee eventually died in prison.

Still another was both dark and humorous – despite his band's trepidation, Louis Armstrong performed "I'll be Glad When You're Dead, You Rascal You" for the Memphis police force, which included members of the Ku Klux Klan, in retaliation for their overnight incarceration in a Memphis jail. In complete oblivion, the police chief was moved to thank Armstrong for dedicating the song to them.

Two stories were heart-warming. Carly Simon sat in the bull pen of the Brooklyn Dodgers as a little girl because her father (Richard Simon of Simon & Schuster fame) had invited Jackie Robinson to live in their family home. From that came Carly Simon's recording of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

The most heart-warming inspiration came from Doc Pomus' marriage to a beautiful woman despite his crippling polio and consequent obesity. On their wedding day many of the male guests danced with his wife, but not Pomus, despite her pleading with him. But rather than get discouraged, he wrote on a napkin:

*You can dance, every dance with the guy
Who gives you the eye, let him hold you
tight.*

*You can smile, every smile for the man
Who held your hand beneath the pale
moon light.*

*But don't forget who's takin' you home,
And in whose arms you're gonna be.
So darlin' save the last dance for me.*

The question period was unusually short. So maybe Dave can tell us something about the song "Ain't Misbehaving," sung in a 1955 movie by the same name.... at our next Torch evening.

Closing Remarks: Michael Manley-Casimir

Next Torch: Thursday, March 12, 2015

Other News

Merle Richards has suggested that Torch members may be interested in a show by local artist and former Brock faculty member Barbara Bucknall. She will be exhibiting at Arts Place in Port Colborne until April 12. The flyer on the

next page has all the details, and you can also visit the Arts Place [website](#) for more information, including a biography of the artist.

Newsletter and Website

The St. Catharines Torch Club website is at <http://vaxxine.com/torch>. Updates for the website and items for the news-

letter can be sent to stcatharinestorch@gmail.com

Somewhere Between Earth & Heaven



Barbara Bucknall

February 20 - April 12

Reception: Sunday March 1, 2 - 4 pm

Arts Place Gallery

714 King Street, Port Colborne
905.834.9060

Friday - Sunday, noon - 4 pm

artsplacegallery@gmail.com - artsplacegallery.com