

# SCIENTECH CLUB NEWSLETTER

SCIENTECH

2020

**Vol. 101**

**No. 2**

**January 13**

The 102<sup>nd</sup> year as a forum for the exchange of information in scientific and technical fields

A club for people who never stop learning

Meeting at 12 noon on Mondays, Northside Events and Social Club (formerly K of C)

2100 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St., Indianapolis, IN

In an emergency call 317-253-3471

Admission & lunch \$12 @ 11:15 am, admission & coffee or tea \$2

Reservations not needed

<http://www.scientechclub.org>

<http://www.scientechclub.org/foundation/AngusFoundation.asp>

**Jim Willson President**

**Dick Carter, VP**

**Bob Yee, Secretary**

**Charlie Shoup, Treasurer**

## **January 2020**

- 20 **Program:** 249<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, a 1000 Bed Combat Casualty Hospital  
**Speaker:** Gonzalo Chua, MD, Professor/Radiologist (retired), Scientech Club member
- 27 **Program:** Engineering a Better Future for Cancer Patients at the Joe & Shelly Schwarz Cancer Center at IU North Hospital  
**Speaker:** Sara J. Grethlein, MD, Director, Joe & Shelly Schwarz Cancer Center, IU North Hospital

## **February 2020**

- 3 **Program:** U.S. Education – in Need of a Major Overhaul  
**Speaker:** Dick Garrett, PhD, Eli Lilly mgt. (retired); Assoc. Prof., Kelly School, IU-Blgtn, Scientech Club member
- 4 **Board of Directors Meeting**
- 10 **Program:** Less Oil or More Caskets: The National Security Argument for Moving Away From Oil  
**Speaker:** Greg Ballard, Visiting Fellow –University of Indianapolis and former Indianapolis Mayor
- 17 **Program:** The Great Scopes Monkey Trial – State of Tennessee vs. John Scopes  
**Speaker:** Hal Johnston, Lieutenant Colonel (retired), Veterans Court

More at: <http://www.scientechclub.org/programs/calendarpagecss.asp>

### **Sciencetech Club Annual Dues**

Members should have received the 2020 dues notice via email with additional reminders at the Monday meetings. Please give a copy of the form [on page 5 of the newsletter](#) and your check (payable to Sciencetech Club) to Doug Gettelfinger at a Monday meeting or send in via US Mail. **Payments are due by January 15, 2020.**

### **Smart911**

The following was received from Sciencetech Club Secretary Bob Yee for publication:

**The Sciencetech Board of Directors asked me to provide information to our members about an improved 911 service. This service can significantly improve your access to help in an emergency. The following are excerpts from the smart911.com website:**

*“Over 80% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones. When you dial 9-1-1 from a mobile phone, the 9-1-1 call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location.*

*This is a serious problem in an emergency when seconds count, particularly if you or your loved ones have medical conditions, or are unable to safely speak.*

*With Smart911, you can provide 9-1-1 call takers and first responders critical information you want them to know in any kind of emergency.*

*When you call 9-1-1, your Smart911 Safety Profile displays on the 9-1-1 screen and the 9-1-1 call takers can view your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like.*

*Smart911 is a national service meaning your Smart911 Safety Profile travels with you and is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide.”*

**If you wish to use smart911, go to the website smart911.com (<https://smart911.com/>) and register. You can provide as much information as you wish. You can register your cell phone and/or your landline phone. Then download the smart911 application to your cell phone.**

### **Today's Program**

**Program:** A Tale of Two Anniversaries

**Speaker:** Chris Lafave, Curator with the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library

**Introduced by:** Jeff Rasley

**Attendance:** 132

**Guests:** Jim Bebet (sp?), Susan Brandt, Bill Clemens, Mark Owens, Philip Sowders, Sue Wilson, Horst Winkler

**Scribe:** Larry Hutchison

**Editor:** Carl Warner

Our speaker today was Chris Lafave, **Curator of the Vonnegut Museum\*Library**. The museum is located across the street from the Madame Walker Theatre. His subject was Kurt Vonnegut and, using humor, he talked about influencing events in Kurt's life with a focus on two of his novels, "The Sirens of Titan" and "Slaughterhouse Five".

**Vonnegut was born** in Indianapolis in 1922, a descendant of German immigrants that had come to this country from Westphalia. The early generations of the family were commercially successful, most notably known for founding the Vonnegut Hardware Company. His father, Kurt Sr., was a skilled architect known for having designed the Das Deutsche Haus (The Athenaeum) and the Fletcher Trust Building. His mother, Edith, was a Lieber who were brewers and quite wealthy. As a youngster

Vonnegut started at the exclusive Orchard School, but the economic wellbeing of the family began to deteriorate. The brewery of the Lieber family was closed as a result of prohibition, and The Great Depression effectively ruined the architecture business of his father. Vonnegut's brother and sister had graduated from private schools but economics dictated that Kurt Jr. attend public schools which led him to Shortridge High School where he wrote for the school paper, the Shortridge Daily Echo, and graduated in 1940.

Vonnegut's early adult years were checkered and unfocused. He started at Cornell University after high school but was uninterested in his major (bio-chemistry) and turned out to be an indifferent student. He joined his father's fraternity, Delta Upsilon (Drunks Unlimited?) and wrote for The Cornell Daily Sun. On the whole, scholarly pursuits were unappealing, and he left Cornell after being placed on academic probation. At various times over the next few years, he attended four other universities but never acquired a degree.

By the time he left Cornell WWII was in full swing, and he enlisted in the Army in March 1943. Just as his family setting had been instrumental in influencing his outlook on life, the events of the war impacted him profoundly. In 1944 while on leave, his mother committed suicide by overdosing on sleeping pills. Vonnegut eventually got sent to Europe and participated in The Battle of the Bulge where he was captured by German forces in December 1944. This led to him being shipped as a prisoner to Dresden, a city that no one expected to be bombed because of its lack of military significance. This was not the case as the city was devastatingly firebombed in early 1945 while Vonnegut and his fellow prisoners holed up in a meat locker. Eventually he was freed and repatriated to the U.S.

After the war, he seemed to continue his search to find who he was. His family background demanded that he make a success of himself in some field other than writing. For a while he was enrolled as a student of anthropology at the University of Chicago, and later he worked at GE. While at GE, he had his first piece published in 1950 in Collier's magazine. With limited successes in his background, Vonnegut resigned from GE, moved to Cape Cod, and began to write full time. Over the next forty-five years, he devoted himself to writing. His output included fourteen novels, three collections of short stories, five plays and five works of non-fiction. Mr. Lafave's speech today focused on two of the novels.

#### Slaughterhouse Five:

The protagonist of this novel is Billy Pilgrim. While not based on him directly, many of the experiences of Billy Pilgrim are those of Vonnegut. The humor is black and the settings of non-earth travel are off the wall. And the novel is anti-war, written at a time (1969) when the nation was reeling from the effects of the Vietnam War, which no doubt contributed to its popularity.

#### The Sirens of Titan:

This science-fiction novel is concerned with free will and being stripped of it. Remember Vonnegut wanting to write early in life and being pushed by family into careers that led to "success"? The characters in this novel, the main being Malachi Constant, have lost their free will and can only make the best of the situation.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. died in April 2007 as a result of brain injuries incurred by a fall at his home. He had by this time lived in New York City for many years. He was a prolific writer who had suffered from depression for much of his life and had attempted suicide in 1984. Some of his writings are absurd to the extreme (maybe his life was extreme), but he clearly was a giant in American literature in the late twentieth century.



**Chris Lafave**

**2020 Sciencetech Club Annual Membership Dues**  
**Payment must be received by January 15, 2020**

\$50 \_\_\_ Single Resident

\$80 \_\_\_ Family Resident

\$25 \_\_\_ Single Non-Resident

\$40 \_\_\_ Family Non-Resident

Resident = Marion & contiguous counties

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to make any changes to contact information for the Sciencetech Club Roster, please include here:

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**Print and return this form with your check payable to Sciencetech Club; please keep a copy for your records. Form and check may be delivered to Doug Gettelfinger at a Monday meeting or mailed to: Doug Gettelfinger, 505 Lexington Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032**