

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
January 5, 2017

President Fuqua convened the January meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and twenty-six members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3034.34.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Russ Guffey, and Mitchell Kaye.

President Fuqua introduced new member Daniel Stahls.

Two prospective members were voted on. Both votes were affirmative.

Papers were presented by Dr. William M. Rowlett, a member since 1970 and #4 in seniority and Dr. H. Kendrick Dougherty, a member since 2001 and #18 in seniority.

In "il Buono Pope," William told us that Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, who became Pope John XXIII, did the following: sought reunion with separated Christians, worked for world peace, increased the number of cardinals, invited bishops to Rome to improve understanding of the Church at the grassroots level, advocated human dignity and freedom, and called for Vatican II (the 21st Ecumenical Council of the Church). He did this and much more while serving only five years as pope. When asked how he was able to accomplish so much in such a short time, he responded, "My foot was on the accelerator."

"The Great Solar Eclipse" is coming to Hopkinsville on August 21, 2017. Although the total eclipse will be visible in 12 states, Ken tells us that our two minutes and 41.2 seconds leads the nation. This happens as the moon provides a total barrier to our view of the sun. What remains for the two plus minutes is a view of the corona or outer atmosphere of the sun. Only during a "total" are we afforded a glimpse of this beauty. Noted eclipse chaser Fred Espenak says, "The corona's gossamer crown of pearly light displays an ethereal beauty that transcends both science and nature. It hypnotized the viewer into an altered state where time seems to stand still." Ken just hopes it doesn't rain.

Comments were made by James Coursey, Lindsey Adams, John Atkins, Marvin Denison, and Russ Guffey.

Presenters for the February meeting will be George W. Engler and John T. Soyars.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
February 2, 2017

President Fuqua convened the February meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and thirty-two members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2815.24.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Edward Higgins, Robert Ison, Robert Martin, George Byars, Tim Cato, William Engler, John Soyars, and Brett Pritchett.

President Fuqua introduced new members Cody Noffsinger and Dr. Jay Allen.

James Coursey, representing the Carnegie Library Committee, presented a report detailing potential sites and costs for our monthly meeting.

James Coursey made a motion that our September meeting be held at the Carnegie Library with Pioneers catering. The motion carried.

Papers were presented by George W. Engler, a member since 1983 and #6 in seniority and John T. Soyars, a member since 2010 and #27 in seniority.

Mr. Engler presented "The Catcher Was a Spy," the story of Major League baseball player Moe Berg, who also spent time spying for the United States. In 1934, while touring Japan with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, Berg secretly filmed select areas of Tokyo. He was gathering this information for the Office of Strategic Services in case the U.S. eventually found itself in conflict with Japan. Later the OSS asked Berg to help assess German progress toward a nuclear bomb. Part of that job involved getting close to German physicist Werner Heisenberg to find the level of his involvement. Berg was actually prepared to kill Heisenberg if he was helping Germany develop a bomb.

Mr. Soyars' presentation of "Particle Physics Research for a Dummy: A brief History" gave us some basic subatomic history, introduced us to some terms, and explained aspects of two particle accelerator laboratories. One of those is in Switzerland, and the other in Batavia, IL. John's interest in this subject was piqued by his brother who works in the Batavia lab. Fruits of the labor of people like John's brother are seen in cancer therapy, medical diagnostics, development of medications, and creation of the Web. Efforts have been made to prevent this research. The reasons behind these attempts have dealt with dangerous aspects of the work. To date, these efforts have failed.

Comments were made by Jim Coursey, Robert Sivley, Daniel Stahl, Mitchell Kaye, and Jason Powell.

Presenters for the March meeting will be Robert E. Ison and Jason B. Powell.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

March 2, 2017

The March meeting of the Athenaeum Society was convened by acting secretary/treasurer Duncan Cavanah who was substituting for Vice-President Mitchell Kaye who was substituting for President Terry Fuqua.

Roll was called, and thirty-two members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2598.90.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Jim Adams, Whitney Westerfield, Chris Gilkey, Wendell Lynch, and James Adams.

Papers were presented by Robert E. Ison, a member since 2000 and #15 in seniority and Jason B. Powell, a member since 2007 and #23 in seniority.

In his paper "Droning on and on," Robert Ison posed and answered lots of questions concerning the use of drones. He explained laws regarding both recreational and commercial activity. He also discussed their use as weapons by both U.S. military and law enforcement and left us with a question. If law enforcement is allowed to use lethal drones, what process must be followed prior to the act of aggression?

Jason Powell asked "Where Are You Going to Shop?" For those of us who have spent many years in Hopkinsville, Cayce-Yost was once the answer. Now retail giants Walmart and Amazon are vying for our business. The two continue to look more alike as Amazon increases its brick and mortar presence in communities and Walmart tries to become the most visited retail website in the world.

Comments were made by Steve DeMoss, Mark Schweizer, Chris Schweizer, Marvin Denison, James Coursey, Robert Martin, Jay Allen, Hollis White, Russ Guffey, Wendell Lynch, and Ken Dougherty.

Presenters for the April meeting will be James B. Coursey and Tim Cato

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

April 4, 2017

President Fuqua convened the April meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Hopkinsville Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and 29 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$2309.67.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Edward Higgins, Dave Cavanah, Terry Fuqua, and Brett Pritchett.

The membership voted to reimburse Terry Fuqua \$111.26 for money he spent for our website.

The Nominating Committee nominated officers for 2017-18. Mitchell Kaye will serve as president, Russ Guffey as vice-president, and Dave Cavanah as secretary/treasurer.

Papers were presented by James Coursey, a member since 2009 and #24 in seniority and Tim Cato, a member since 2015 and #36 in seniority.

On the morning of January 15, 1947, the mutilated body of Elizabeth Short, soon to be known as The Black Dahlia, was discovered in a vacant lot in Los Angeles, California. In "The Black Dahlia," James Coursey gives vivid details about the victim's life as well as her death. Although the murder was never solved, James names the probable killer and targets members of the Los Angeles Police Department who may have been involved in the cover-up.

Tim Cato affirmed his love of porches. In "Porch," he described front, side, and back porches in his great-grandparents' home. The porches were used as storerooms or areas to ripen tomatoes or even spots to sell chickens or eggs to neighbors. But for Tim, the value of a porch is probably the same as it is to us. It is an open, kid-friendly, relatively cool in the summer, social, family spot. We need spots like that.

Comments were made by Wynn Radford, Wayne Goolsby, William Rowlett, Brett Pritchett, Robert Martin, William Turner, and Robert Harper.

Presenters for the May meeting will be George H. Byars and Whitney H. Westerfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY

May 4, 2017

President Fuqua convened the open meeting of the Athenaeum Society at Oakland Manor. He welcomed 78 members and guests and explained the evening's activities.

Papers were presented by George H. Byars, a member since 1987 and #11 in seniority and Whitney H. Westerfield, a member since 2010 and #26 in seniority.

In "White Sulphur Springs," George Byars described the resort located in the Allegheny Mountains of Virginia (later West Virginia). For over 200 years, the resort, known for much of this period as Greenbrier, has served as a plush resort for the wealthy and well known. Through the years such notables as Daniel Webster, Davy Crockett, Henry Clay, Robert E. Lee, Joseph Kennedy, General John Pershing, The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, J.P. Morgan, and 30 U.S. Presidents have spent time there. Greenbrier's contribution to our country has been immeasurable. It has served as a holding center for diplomats, a federal hospital on two occasions, a prisoner-of-war camp, and a fall-out shelter for Congress. The newest addition is an elegant spa. George closed by saying, "Long live the Greenbrier."

Whitney Westerfield took us to the Dark Web. That is where one goes to purchase arms, hire assassins, view pornography, or obtain credit card numbers. Everything seems to be available to those who have sufficient Bitcoins. In "Setec Astronomy" (which is a term gleaned from a Robert Redford film and is an anagram for "Too Many Secrets), Whitney gives us a glimpse of the part of the web traveled by The Dark Overlord and countless others who steal information from governments, banks, TV networks, and, of course, us. The convenience of the digital age invites intrusions into each of our lives. Since most of us are not inclined to say "No" to those conveniences, we would be wise to heed Whitney's advice. Be more informed about the realities of the world we live in, especially as we continue to live and operate in the digital space.

President Fuqua presented the Hal King Twinkie Award to William Turner, Robert Sivley, Wynn Radford, Robert Harper, Ken Dougherty, James Coursey, John Atkins, Wayne Goolsby, and Robert Sivley, Jr.

Presenters for the September meeting will be James G. Adams, Jr., and Marvin D. Denison.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
September 7, 2017

President Kaye convened the September meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Carnegie Library.

Roll was called, and 30 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3361.42

Excuses for previous absences were given by Wendell Lynch, James Adams, Jr., Bill Engler, and Jason Powell.

A summary of expenses for the previous year was given by Secretary/Treasurer Cavanah. He also detailed the actions of the Society concerning our website.

President Kaye asked for volunteers to serve on the Membership and Nominating Committees.

Papers were presented by James G. Adams, Jr., a member since 1981 and #5 in seniority and Marvin D. Denison, a member since 1986 and #9 in seniority.

Jim Adams is a big James Bond fan, and in his presentation, he introduced us to the real James Bond: Dusko Popov. Ian Fleming, the author of the James Bond books, based his fictitious character on Popov. Fleming knew Popov and even trailed him once while working for British intelligence. Popov was a double agent for the Nazis and Allies and not completely trusted by the Allies at that time. His allegiance and worth were proven, however, when misinformation he passed on to Germany convinced them that the D-Day invasion would occur at Calais and not Normandy.

Marvin Denison asked if "A Picture is worth 10,000 words?" The heart of the presentation is the plight of thousands of children left in Vietnam after American involvement in the county. They were products of encounters between American soldiers and Vietnamese women, and their plight was dreadful. They were hated by their country and never aided by the U.S. Eventually, a series of laws in this country allowed many of these children along with their mothers and siblings to come here. The bookends of the story are the operas *Madame Butterfly* and *Miss Saigon*. *Madame Butterfly* tells about a woman left behind in Japan, and *Miss Saigon* tells a similar story taking place decades later in a different location.

Comments were made by John Atkins, Jim Coursey, and Bob Sivley.

Presenters for the October meeting will be ~~James Adams, III and Robert Martin.~~

Terry Fuqua + Matt Frenichs

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
October 5, 2017

President Kaye convened the October meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and 24 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3572.22.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Lindsey Adams, Russ Guffey, and Wynn Radford.

President Kaye named members of this year's Membership and Nominating Committees. Membership will consist of Jim Adams, Lindsey Adams, and Daniel Stahl. The Nominating Committee will be made up of Matt Frerichs, Hollis White, and Cody Noffsinger.

President Kaye discussed future meeting sites. It was decided to discuss that more in future meetings.

Papers were presented by J. Terry Fuqua, a member since 2002 and #18 in seniority and Matt Frerichs, a member since 2013 and #29 in seniority.

Terry Fuqua presented "What I Know Nothing About" or "Some Paradoxes We Choose to Ignore in Everyday Life" in which he examined various scientific experiments that don't turn out as one would expect. For example, Alpha particles bound by the nucleus of uranium-238 should be there forever, but the position is not well defined, so it can tunnel out and result in radioactivity. Terry closed with the question, "What DO we really know?"

Matt Frerichs described "The New Space Race." The old space race was initiated by the Soviet Union in 1957 when they launched Sputnik. The challenge was answered in 1962 when President Kennedy said, "We choose to go to the moon." Today the race is to Mars and the competitors are Lockheed Martin/NASA versus Space X. NASA plans to reach Mars by 2030, and Space X intends to be there by 2022. Matt examined plans, equipment, and safety precautions for both groups. He also pointed out that Space Radiation may pose the biggest health risk with deep space travel.

Comments were made by Robert Sivley, Jr., Brett Pritchett, Robert Sivley, Cody Noffsinger, Hollis White, Daniel Stahl, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the November meeting will be James G. Adams, III and Robert Martin.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
November 2, 2017

President Kaye convened the November meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and 23 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3346.94.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Wendell Lynch, Robert Harper, Jim Adams, Marvin Denison, Whitney Westerfield, James Adams, and Tim Cato.

Two prospective members were nominated by the Membership Committee.

Papers were presented by James G. Adams, III, a member since 2009 and #24 in seniority and Robert Martin, a member since 2014 and #33 in seniority.

In "Second to Gun," James Adams reviews gun control in the United States with particular interest in the various interpretations of the Second Amendment made by the Supreme Court. In a ruling following an incident in Louisiana in 1873, the Supreme Court granted state and local governments the right to impose gun control regulations. Subsequent actions changed or clarified previous interpretations. The last case decided by the Supreme Court involving the Second Amendment concerned a "stun" gun used by a lady in Massachusetts. So it is apparent that we are just getting started. As courts change as massacres become more numerous and horrific, and as the rights of individuals are evaluated and reevaluated, I don't think any of us can guess where our nation will stand on this issue in twenty years.

Robert Martin presented "Victorian Funeral Customs." Many of the ways that we mourn the death of a loved one today can be traced back to British monarch Queen Victoria. When her husband Prince Albert died in 1861, she withdrew from society for ten years and wore mourning clothes for forty years. We can also look back to Victoria to see the first influence of funeral directors who arranged the funeral procession along with many other duties. The Victorian era also ushered in park-style cemetery burials, funeral biscuits, and the grand funeral. Queen Victoria did not leave her funeral to chance. She left a twelve page set of instructions.

Comments were made by Whitney Westerfield, John Atkins, Terry Fuqua, Russ Guffey, Mitchell Kaye, and Robert Harper.

Presenters for the December meeting will be Robert J. Cope, II and Robert Y. Harper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES of the ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
December 7, 2017

President Kaye convened the December meeting of the Athenaeum Society at the Holiday Inn.

Roll was called, and 24 members were present. The financial report was made. The balance was \$3284.38.

Excuses for previous absences were given by Robert Ison, Edward Higgins, Dan Stahl, Wynn Radford, Jason Powell, James Coursey, William Turner, and Robert Sivley, Jr.

Two prospective members were voted on. Both votes were affirmative.

Papers were presented ^{by} Robert J. Cope, a member since 2000 and #12 in seniority and Robert Y. Harper, a member since 2000 and #14 in seniority.

In "Stampede," Robert Cope told the story of mustangs roaming wild in the West. There are now nearly 70,000 horses and burros making a pest of themselves. The problem started in the 16th Century when Spanish Conquistadors brought horses to the New World. ^{Many} ~~May~~ escaped or were allowed to roam free. Federal officials have tried to control the numbers but without noticeable success. The thundering hoofs of the Mustang create a real allure but the simple fact is there are now just too many hoofs.

Robert Harper explained the "Problems with Statistics." Statistics are numerical facts assembled to present information. However, the information that is gathered may not always be as accurate as we would assume. For instance, a survey may not be responded to by some segments of the population. Other problems may also be encountered. Telephone sampling may not be reliable. Few people have land lines and fewer are willing to participate. Man in the street polls are limited to the input of those present. Internet polls are limited by those who will not respond. So the problem with statistics may well be that the results that we count on may not be reliable.

Comments were made by Jason Powell, Edward Higgins, Dan Stahl, Terry Fuqua, William Rowlett, and Mitchell Kaye.

Presenters for the January meeting will be Edward H. Higgins, III and Chris Gilkey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer