

SABR BASEBALL REMINISCENCE CHARTERED COMMUNITY CONFERENCE NOTES

March 6, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chicago – Bill Grimes
Cleveland – Joe Shaw, Ray Danner, David Bodemer
Los Angeles – Jon Leonoudakis, Kimi Ego, Jeff Hubbard, Barry Mednick
Louisville – Chris Betsch
New York/New Jersey/Conn. – George Sommerfeld, Perry Barber, John Alcamo
Phoenix – Johanna Wagner Martin, Jennifer Blatt
San Francisco – Marlene Vogelsang, Cesar Love
Tallahassee – Matt Hudson
Texas – Ira Siegel, Monte Cely, Linda Cely
Washington State – Gary West

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Several newer chartered community members were in attendance:

Cesar Love is from the San Francisco Bay Area chapter (Lefty O'Doul). One of his interests is baseball astrology, and he is the author of the book "Baseball: An Astrological Sightline".

David Bodemer from the Cleveland chapter (Jack Graney) joined us. Dave is an IT professional and offered his assistance to our community in that regard.

John Alcamo lives in New Jersey and is a member of the North New Jersey (Elysian Fields) chapter.

Jennifer Blatt is from the Phoenix area (Hemond-Delhi chapter). She joined the group as a result of a recent informational meeting held with SABR's Women in Baseball committee.

Johanna Wagner Martin (Phoenix) and Matt Hudson (Tallahassee) are also recent group members, now attending their second meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS

CLEVELAND – Joe Shaw (Jack Graney chapter chair) reported on continuing progress with the Cleveland-area chapter of the national Alzheimer's Association. A walk-thru of a prototype pilot program presentation was recently held with the key ALZ Association sponsor and she is enthusiastic about the effort. Participant recruiting is underway, with an April target for an initial session. Ray Danner and David Bodemer are volunteers in this effort, and Joe also reported that a good friend of the SABR chapter, noted author and Negro Leagues expert Ike Brooks, is also a key contributor.

LAS VEGAS – Monte reported for Rob Sheinkopf. The Ruvo Brain Health Center will be a longer-term opportunity as they sort through their current program and staffing commitments. Rob will be pursuing the local Veteran's Administration, Sun City – Summerlin, and a local outlet of the Brookdale Senior Living communities to determine potential interest. (note - Brookdale Senior Living is a large national senior living chain. They have over 720 locations in 42 states.)

LOUISVILLE – Chris Betsch reported that their chapter (Pee Wee Reese) chair Tad Myre is in touch with the local chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and will be attending a joint virtual event with a local Memory Café outlet next week.

SAN FRANCISCO – Bay Area (Lefty O’Doul) chapter chair Marlene Vogelsang reported continuing discussions with potential sponsors in the greater Bay Area. Greg Johnson and Cesar Love are also volunteers supporting the local SABR efforts.

CHICAGO – Bill Grimes (Emil Rothe chapter) advised he is continuing to pursue contacts at Northwestern University. Bill also reported he is just recently in contact with Belmont Village Senior Living, a senior community with close local links to Northwestern. (note – Belmont Village is an assisted living/memory care operator with more than 30 locations nationally. They partner with numerous local universities to provide innovative “whole brain fitness” programs.)

SAN DIEGO – Jon reported that he has conducted two monthly sessions in partnership with Alzheimer’s-San Diego and that feedback has been very positive. He relayed a story from a caregiver about the positive effects the session had on her mother. Jon continues to work with ALZ-SD to smoothly transfer the leadership of the program to a local volunteer.

BILLINGS, MONTANA - KOELSCH SENIOR COMMUNITIES – Jon advised that he conducted a pilot session at the Billings community. His main topic was Montana Baseball. The participant group there appeared to be mostly later-stage Alzheimer’s patients and our programs are not geared towards that audience. How to approach that target population would be a subject for future study.

ART FOR ALZHEIMER’S

Jon advised he has been in touch with SABR member Jason Schwartz about his participation in an effort to create artistic renditions of baseball cards to raise funds to support Alzheimer’s research. Jason’s art studio, Heavy J Studios, is one of over 40 members of the art card community that have banded together to raise money for the Alzheimer’s Association through the #Art4Alz initiative. More at: [HJS supports #Art4Alz – Heavy J Studios](#)
Mike Jabroni (@jabroni32308) is the founder of the overall Art for Alzheimer’s effort.

RESEARCH STUDY UPDATE

Jeff Hubbard and Monte Cely reported on the status of the Baseball Reminiscence Research Study. The Research Team volunteers met for an organizational meeting on Feb. 27. Eight volunteers were in attendance – we’ve got a strong group and have covered most of the skills we’ll need to conduct a feasibility pilot. We discussed the project’s goals and an outline of a project management plan. Current action items are – further refine the project plan, make contacts with academics and professional experts that may be interested in supporting this effort, and continue to evaluate existing survey tools for use in conducting interviews.

NEW BASEBALL MEMORIES PLAY BOOK RESOURCE

Monte and Linda Cely, working with Jon and George Sommerfeld, developed a “Play Book” to provide advice and guidance for SABR chapters and external partners to plan and develop new baseball reminiscence offerings. The goal of this document is to tie together all the resources we already have available, add still more background & advice, and package it in an easy-to-use format. Feedback so far has been very positive.

Monte demonstrated how to access the Play Book on our web site and reviewed the Table of Contents. The Play Book is at: [baseball-memories-play-book-v1.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#) where you can view the document or download it (.pdf format). You can also email Monte for a copy.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS REMINISCENCE VIDEO

Jon reported he has conducted twenty video interviews to provide footage for this promotional/awareness video. Interview subjects include participants, caregivers, family members, and volunteers from the U.S. and Scotland. Sports include baseball, soccer, golf, rugby, and shinty (a Celtic version of field hockey). Jon and his media partners are editing now and will have a first-cut prototype soon.

Jon also asked for ideas for volunteers to do some graphic art work in support of this project.

RAPID RESPONSE FORCE – TO ADDRESS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Jon introduced this topic. It’s likely we’ll continue to get requests to showcase and pilot our programs in areas where we do not yet have local SABR chapter involvement. In the online/Zoom environment, we could seize on some of these opportunities and centrally conduct a session with SABR volunteers and contributions from our national chartered community group. An example of this is the pilot programs Jon has conducted with Alzheimer’s San Diego. In addition, this could provide an opportunity for our newer volunteers to participate in a “live” program. The “Rapid Response” idea is still a concept, but please consider if you’d like to participate.

MAUDE’S AWARD – INNOVATION IN CONNECTING WITH PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Jon reported that SABR is going to apply for this Award, which seeks to recognize and promote innovative programs in Alzheimer’s care. This has been socialized with our contacts on the SABR Board and officers, and they are supportive. More information on this Award program is at: [– Maude's Awards](#)

INTERGENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Johanna Wagner advised the group that SABR is submitting a grant application that will need a demonstration of multi-generational support. The idea is to promote involvement of the younger generation in SABR programs, with an eye towards both supporting their personal development as well as longer-term sustainability of SABR’s membership base. Multiple SABR chapters and committees will be involved, but Johanna sees that Baseball Reminiscence can both support and

benefit from this initiative. Johanna would support outreach to university programs (gerontology, sports management, etc.) if we can identify areas for multi-generation cooperation.

If you have ideas to support this grant, or wish to discuss further with Johanna, please contact her at: jwagner@sabr.org

Jeff introduced Kimi Ego, who reported on a current inter-generational program called “Youth Movement Against Alzheimer’s”. This program pairs high school and college student volunteers with dementia clients to engage in memory exercises and dementia friendly activities. Their governing board has recently approved including reminiscence activities, including sports reminiscence, as part of their program. This would create additional opportunities for partnering to provide baseball reminiscence programming. The Movement currently has 42 chapters nationally. More information is at their web site at:

[Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's \(theyouthmovement.org\)](http://theyouthmovement.org)

WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL UPDATE

Just a reminder, our website is at: www.sabrbaseballmemories.org

The web site has been up for just over four full months – in that time we’ve had approximately 1400 views from over 300 visitors (some as far away as France and Hong Kong).

We recently added an informative video on the effects of Alzheimer’s on the brain. That can be viewed from the web site or YouTube at: [How Alzheimer's Changes the Brain - YouTube](#)

OPEN DISCUSSION

Perry Barber stated that she has gotten several comments on her Twitter feed about the importance of inter-generational involvement to support quality-of-life of friends and family dealing with Alzheimer’s.

Several others also commented on the value of our reminiscence efforts, not only the positive impact on participants and their families but also how rewarding these programs are for us as volunteers.

As a SABR-chartered group, we’ve come a long way in just a few short months. And, as Jon stated, “We’re just getting started!”

TRIVIA QUIZ

No SABR get-together is complete without a trivia quiz. Monte posed these four music reminiscence questions (answers at the end of these notes):

1. Although rock and roll and pop music were king in the '60s, there were a few popular instrumentals on the charts as well. Counting total sales, what was the top instrumental song of the 1960s?
2. This 1955 hit song about coal mining - by Tennessee Ernie Ford - posed the question in its refrain: "You Load Sixteen Tons, and What do you Get?" What do you get?
3. How many members do we currently have in the SABR Baseball Reminiscence chartered community? The answer lies in the title of this popular song – originally composed in 1946 and sung by both Nat King Cole and Chuck Berry – about a famous U.S. Highway.
4. 1960 was a great year for baseball and reminiscence. The top-selling rock song on the charts is still an all-time best seller and started a big dance craze.

NEXT MEETING

Our next group Zoom conference will be **Saturday April 10**

Times: 4pm Eastern; 3pm Central; 2pm Mountain; 1pm Pacific (time zones)

An agenda and Zoom call-in information will be forthcoming prior to the meeting

If you have an issue, idea or need help or advice in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact:

Jon at jbleonoudakis@me.com

George at allbcoop@yahoo.com

Monte at cely@swbell.net

Trivia quiz answers:

- 1 – *Casino Royale*, Herb Alpert & Tijuana Brass (*Classical Gas* by Mason Williams was 2nd)
- 2 – "another day older and deeper in debt"
- 3 – *Get Your Kicks on Route Sixty Six* - 66 is the correct answer
- 4 - *Do the Twist* – Chubby Checker