

**SABR BASEBALL REMINISCENCE CHARTERED COMMUNITY  
CONFERENCE NOTES  
May 22, 2021**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cleveland – Joe Shaw, Dave Bodemer  
Las Vegas – Rob Sheinkopf, Michael Green  
Los Angeles – Jon Leonoudakis, Kimi Ego, Jeff Hubbard, Barry Mednick  
Louisville – Kelly Park  
Michigan – Kiyoko Taniguchi  
New York/Conn. – George Sommerfeld  
North New Jersey – Donna Muscarella  
Pacific Northwest – Gary West  
Texas – Ira Siegel, Monte Cely, Linda Cely

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chartered community chair Jon welcomed everyone to the conference. Sixteen SABR members and guests were in attendance. In particular:

Donna Muscarella from the North New Jersey chapter has joined the group and is attending her first meeting.

Kiyoko Taniguchi from the Detroit/Southern Michigan chapter is attending. She is a Japanese language journalist, credentialed by the Associated Press, and interested in our programs.

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

CLEVELAND – Jack Graney chapter president Joe Shaw reported the exciting news that their first Baseball Memories program, held April 27, was a huge success! Partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association Cleveland Area Chapter, twelve participants and caregivers enjoyed an hour of baseball reminiscence. Joe and teammate Dave Bodemer shared that they didn’t get far into their prepared presentation, as the attendees quickly started talking and sharing their memories. The program was then featured in an interview that aired on local ABC news. The interview, along with a promo trailer, can be viewed on the [Cleveland page of our web site](#) .

Joe also shared the late-breaking news that the Cleveland Indians have come onboard as a supporting sponsor. This is an exciting development, marking a first direct relationship between SABR Baseball Memories and MLB, and will open up some great possibilities for the program.

The Cleveland Baseball Memories program will continue their home stand with their next monthly session on May 25.

LOUISVILLE – Pee Wee Reese chapter member Kelly Park shared that he presented a baseball memories program to a local Memory Café session on Monday, April 12, in cooperation with the Alzheimer’s Association – Greater Kentucky/Southern Indiana Chapter. The session was based on his recent book *Just Like Me* which has many great stories about big-leaguers’ memories of their sandlot days. Kelly reported that the program was well-received by the participants, and this was strongly confirmed by feedback from local Alzheimer’s Association personnel.

Kelly and SABR chapter president Tad Myre will be working with their local contacts to build on this success and develop it into an ongoing program. Tad has also shared the idea of working with the local Alzheimer’s Association to develop a Baseball Memory Café with a Zoom component for rural outreach.

LAS VEGAS – Rob Sheinkopf (Maddux Brothers chapter) reported that he plans to make another pass at potential local sponsors once the new promotional video is available.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST – Gary West (Pacific Northwest Chapter) reported he is ready to ramp up efforts in the greater Seattle area. He is contacting local SABR chapter officers to promote interest in fielding a program. Gary envisions starting with a virtual offering.

SAN FRANCISCO – Lefty O’Doul chapter president Marlene Vogelsang reported (offline) that they are continuing to pursue potential sponsors and may have discovered some interest in Sacramento.

SAN DIEGO – Jon reported that the program sponsored by Alzheimer’s San Diego is ongoing and that they are making plans to again meet in person, possibly as early as June.

NORTH NEW JERSEY – At the invitation of Elysian Fields chapter president David Krell, George and Monte attended their April 12 chapter meeting to discuss and answer questions about SABR’s baseball reminiscence programs. As a result, several members of that chapter have joined the chartered community. Donna indicated she is very interested in baseball reminiscence, but wants to be very cautious about in-person contacts for the time being.

LOS ANGELES – Jeff Hubbard (Allan Roth chapter) reported that the recent monthly program with Alzheimer’s L.A. was a big hit – a fun session with lots of great discussion among the dozen attendees. Jon reported that he facilitated an initial online program with the Veteran’s Administration Home for Heroes facility. This was the first session there in fourteen months, since the facility was closed to in-person groups. Six vets were in attendance, two of them “regulars” from the earlier in-person sessions. Feedback from the local VA contact was great, and a June meeting has already been scheduled with them.

WESTCHESTER, N.Y. – George reported that he is continuing his telephone conference-call offering with his Senior Citizen Baseball Hour group. He is keeping in touch with the director and hopes that the Alzheimer’s-focused groups will soon be open to in-person sessions.

TEXAS – Monte and Ira Siegel (Rogers Hornsby chapter) reported that the Alzheimer’s focused programs in both Austin and Georgetown are continuing bi-weekly sessions via Zoom. The Austin session meets on Monday, Georgetown on Wednesday; depending on logistics and scheduling, they sometimes meet jointly. Ira stated that the Austin program has now been operating for six years. The Georgetown group is supported by a large group of volunteers from nearby Sun City-Texas. [An update on the Texas programs is on the Hornsby chapter web site.](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL SPORTS REMINISCENCE VIDEO**

Jon reported that the video development is complete and the media is now in post-production. Jon hopes the film will be done by EOM June with release dates to-be-determined. There will be both a 23+ minute “full” version, as well as a 2-3 minute “sizzle reel”. Discussions will get underway shortly with the SABR office in Phoenix as to the best approach to advertising, promoting and releasing the video.

Rob asked about which version would be most appropriate for approaching potential new sponsor groups. He felt the “sizzle” version would be more effective to catch the attention of non-profit management personnel who seem overburdened with pandemic-related issues and after-effects. We’ll need to fold this consideration into our “release” plans.

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

Jon reported that SABR has submitted a proposal for a [Maude’s Award](#). This is the second annual round of awards, and we have already received acknowledgement that the proposal has been received and is being considered. Awards in the “group” category, for which we submitted, are \$25,000 each. Award recipients will be announced in Fall, 2021.

## **WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL UPDATE**

Just a reminder, our website is at: [www.sabrbaseballmemories.org](http://www.sabrbaseballmemories.org)

Monte reported that the web site has been in operation since November, 2020. In that time we’ve had approximately 2300 views from over 660 visitors (50 internationally, 18 from Japan in just the last month). There have been 55 downloads of the Baseball Memories Play Book over the last two months.

SABR colleague David Bodemer in Cleveland has signed on as another webmaster. David has extensive current web development experience and has already recommended improvements to the site. He will look into cross-platform compatibility to ensure that the site renders well on multiple devices and screen sizes.

## RESEARCH STUDY UPDATE

Monte reported that we've made good progress in developing necessary materials for the research study – including a project plan, survey questionnaire(s), consent and confidentiality forms, interviewer's guide and introductory letters to both sponsor organizations and participants. In June we will begin discussing the project with our local sponsors, with the goal of beginning to conduct interviews over the summer. We plan to interview participants and their caregivers, as well as our volunteers.

The Research Team, composed of ten SABR volunteers, is meeting often to wrap up our preparations and proceed with conducting the research. We have a project status briefing scheduled with SABR HQ and board-of-directors representatives on May 27.

## OPEN DISCUSSION

George advised that volunteers should be aware that sponsor organizations may be especially vigilant as they re-open face-to-face meetings. Evidence of vaccinations, or other health tests, may be required of us as we begin to re-enter their facilities.

Kioko stated she planned to write an article about our baseball reminiscence efforts. She asked about appropriate background and pictures, and we advised there is a lot of information already available in the public domain and for which releases have been obtained. Kioko also said she'd consider how to promote the program in Japan (SABR has a Tokyo chapter).

Jon advised that he has been interviewed recently on podcasts for *Knowledgeable Aging* and *What's Next-Living Longer, Better, Stronger*. [Both of these, as well as other interesting videos, are on our YouTube channel playlist.](#)

## TRIVIA QUIZ

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

Warm-up: The Dodgers won their first World Series in 1955. One of the top Western TV shows in '55 was *The Lone Ranger*. What actors played the roles of the Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto? The actor that played Tonto was an outstanding athlete and came to Hollywood as a stunt-man. It's not clear if he played much baseball, but he excelled at another team sport – what was it?

1. Major league catcher and later funny-man and broadcaster Bob Uecker starred in the sitcom *Mr. Belvedere*. What was Uecker's character's name? What was Mr. Belvedere's first and middle names in the show?

2. Major league pitcher and author Jim Bouton's book "Ball Four" was made into a 1976 TV series that was cancelled after five episodes. What was the name of the team in the TV series?

Bouton also was involved in developing and selling a popular baseball-themed product that has now sold over 800 million units. What is it?

3. The "Rifleman" Chuck Connors is one of a handful of major league baseball players to also play professional basketball. On November 5, 1946 – playing for the Boston Celtics – Connors achieved an NBA "first". What did he do?

**NEXT MEETING --** Our next group Zoom conference will be **Saturday July 10, 2021**

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](mailto:jbleonoudakis@me.com)

George at [allbcoop@yahoo.com](mailto:allbcoop@yahoo.com)

Monte at [cely@swbell.net](mailto:cely@swbell.net)

Trivia quiz answers:

Warm-up: Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels; lacrosse

1 – George Owens; Lynn Aloysius Belvedere (played by Christopher Hewett)

2 – The Washington Americans; Big League Chew

3 – he shattered a plexiglass backboard