**Senior Men’s Club of Birmingham**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting – May 15, 2020**

**Preliminary Information and WELCOME:** John Maten took us through a brief Zoom tutorial about the muting feature. President Jerry Stribbell welcomed all members and reminded us that tomorrow is Armed Forces Day. John Maten said *The Pledge of Allegiance*, followed by a recording of *You’re A Grand Old Flag.* Bob Hayes offered the invocation.

**CLUB BUSINESS:**

**Minutes**: Minutes of the May 8, 2020 meeting have been posted on the Club’s website.

**Guests:** We had three guests: Cliff Bath’s grandson Austin Thomasoon, who studied film and is a writer interested in hearing today’s speaker. Pete Mehra’s guest is Dr. Jack Baker a pediatric ophthalmologist that enjoys golf and sailing. Malcolm Hendy’s guest is John Thornburg from Indiana.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** President Stribbell called for the committee reports.

**Visitation and Health:** Swarn Rajpal mentioned there were no recent deaths or updates to illnesses to report.

**Classic Movie Group:** Fred Hansz reminded us that there have been no meetings since the March 9th showing of *Phoenix.* The group will meet via Zoom on June 8th at 1 PM to view the 1942 classic *Casablanca*.

**Computer Group:** Tom Allen mentioned that on May 20th at 3 PM, he will talk about different ways to “stay connected” utilizing various video conferencing software.

**Reading Group:** Bob Maxfield will lead the discussion on May 18th at 3 PM of the book “Educated: A Memoir” by Tara Westover. Roger Timm will lead the June 3rd discussion of “1941: Fighting the Shadow War” by Marc Wortman at 10:30 AM.

**Special Events:** Mike Clement advised that ALL Club special events for 2020 have been cancelled, including the annual Holiday party.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

* Today’s speaker is Jim Burnstein, Professor and Director, U of M Screenwriting Program for Film, TV & Media Department. His topic will be - *“The Road from Birmingham Groves to 30 years as a Hollywood Screenwriter.”*
* Next week’s speaker will be US Congressman Andrew Levin, 9th District. His topic will be *“Congressional Update with Andy Levin.”* The meeting will begin at 10 AM.
* The June Reminder deadline is May 15.
* The next Executive Board meeting is Tuesday, June 9 at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

### PROGRAM: Larry Imerman, introduced our speaker Jim Burnstein. Jim was born in Detroit and his family moved to Beverly Hills during his junior year of high school and he resumed high school at Birmingham Groves. During his senior year he saw the movie The Graduate (seven times). It was then he fell in love with movies, and his future wife. After graduation, he attended U of M, and at 17 years old in his freshman year, took a Shakespeare class by professor Russell Frazier. That began a lasting love of Shakespeare. After graduation he attended Wisconsin University to pursue a law degree since “he wanted to be a lawyer since he was 10 years old.” Once he got there, he realized he no longer wanted to be a lawyer and left after the first semester. He returned to U of M and received his Masters in English. He then began writing for “just about anything” to become established. His main objective however, was to teach Shakespeare. He got his chance to teach soldiers at Selfridge Air National Guard base. That became part of the story line for his first feature film – *Renaissance Man*. It took 3 years, and 4 different drafts until the script was accepted. He decided to remain in Detroit and commute to Los Angeles for his work, which enabled him to “have a life.” He ultimately re-wrote the screen play 3 more times. He was subsequently asked to write *Mighty Ducks 3*. In 1995, he was contacted by U of M to teach a screen writing class. He was able to “build” the department into what it has become today – one of the top Screen Writing Programs in the US. He then answered several questions relative to his experiences.

### Zoom Meeting PARTICIPANTS: 134

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kovceses

Recording Secretary

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