

# **SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER**

## **SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH**

**November 2017**

### ***GREETINGS, NEW ENGLAND SABR-ITES!***

Once again the baseball season ended in November – the third year in a row, I wouldn’t be surprised if some year we have to postpone our late-in-the-month meeting so we can watch Game Seven. But not this year: Safe and secure, the fall meeting of the Lajoie-Start (Southern New England) SABR chapter will be held on Saturday, November 25, at St. Philip’s Parish Center on Route 44 in Greenville, Rhode Island. As usual, we will begin at 11 a.m. and finish at 4 p.m. We will have not one but two guest speakers: **Lenny DiNardo**, former pitcher for the Red Sox and Oakland A’s, and **Kevin O’Connor**, an umpire evaluator for Major League Baseball.

The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. All your favorite features will be on the schedule: research presentations, **Father Gerry Beirne’s** trivia contest, baseball book raffle, lunch and refreshments served by the St. Philip’s ladies. And because the Hall of Fame election will take place soon after our meeting, we will hold our mock election with **Mike Darowski** in charge.

Our guest speakers will both be at St. Philip’s in the afternoon, so research presentations and book talks will be scheduled for before lunch. (I’ll send you the list of those in an email closer to the meeting.)

As always, an RSVP is essential. Please let me know if you’re coming, so we can give the lunch/snack preparers an accurate count. (Nonmembers, as always, are welcome.) Directions to St. Philip’s are at the end of this newsletter. As usual, if you could come a little early to help set up and stay a bit at the end to put chairs and tables away, it would be appreciated. And contributions to the book raffle are always welcome.

#### **Our guest speakers**

Lenny DiNardo pitched for the Red Sox for three seasons, 2004-2006, and for the Oakland A’s (2007-2008) and Kansas City Royals (2009). He recently moved back to Southern New England (he and his family live in Rhode Island), and this past season spent quite a bit of time on the Red Sox’ pregame and postgame shows on NESN, as well as filling in at times for Jerry Remy.

Kevin O’Connor spends much of the season at Fenway Park and McCoy Stadium observing and evaluating major-league and minor-league umpires. His recommendations play a role in determining which minor-league arbiters are brought up to the majors.

## **The mock election**

From various websites the word is that the favorites for election are Chipper Jones, Jim Thome, Vladimir Guerrero, and Trevor Hoffman. What do you think? Do Barry and Roger have a chance this time?

## **Between-Season Reading**

Here, from the newsletter's literary editor **John Vorperian**, is a look at some new are some new baseball books you might want to check out for offseason reading.

**JACKIE ROBINSON: A Spiritual Biography**, by Michael G. Long and **Chris Lamb\*** (Westminster John Knox Press). "God Is With Us in This, Jackie": Branch Rickey to JR, Dodgers Office, 215 Montague St, Brooklyn, New York, August 28, 1945. Robinson believed in a God who sides with the oppressed and who call us to see one another as sisters and brothers. And in learning of his strong faith, taught by his mother by her word and actions, we get a fuller understanding of how Jackie could combat the trials and tribulations of the "Great Experiment." More than a ballplayer, he broke MLB's color line. But Robinson's courage and fortitude ingrained from his religious tenets was first learned at home in Cairo, Georgia, and Pasadena, California. Surprising different angle to view Number 42. Kudos to Long and Lamb!

**THE YEAR OF THE PITCHER: Bob Gibson, Denny McLain, and the End of Baseball's Golden Age**, by **Sridhar Pappu\*** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). *New York Times* "The Male Animal" columnist Sridhar Pappu takes us back to the Incredible Year – 1968. On the Hill are two MLB aces. Gibson, the angry black athlete and McLain, the egoist free soul. But Pappu provides an informative revisionist slant as to who each pitcher truly represents to himself, his teammates, and management. For instance, Pappu leaves no doubt for the reader that Johnny Sain is the pitching guru of the era. And without him, McLain rather than being a Tigers 31-game winner and AL MVP might have been languishing somewhere in the White Sox organization. Gibson's athletic path might have been tossing a basketball or, if on the diamond but not a Cardinal ... an outfielder. My, my, what we all can learn about the back stories from a half-century ago.

**MAKING MY PITCH: A Woman's Baseball Odyssey** by Ila Jane Borders with **Jean Hastings Ardell\*** (University of Nebraska Press). Signed by Veeck as in Wreck 2.0, Mike Veeck (Bill Jr.'s son) Borders pitched for the Indy League St. Paul Saints in 1997 and 1998. She became the first woman since the Negro Leagues era to play men's pro ball. A frank and honest journal as to the challenges and struggles Borders faced on the field, in the clubhouse, and on the bus with her male teammates. A civil-rights pioneer whose life's story deserves its own ESPN 30 for 30 television episode.

**THE COOPERSTOWN CASEBOOK: Who's in the Baseball Hall of Fame, Who Should Be In, and Who Should Pack Their Plaques**, by **Jay Jaffe\*** (St. Martin's Press). Always a fun or hot topic: Who's in and who's out in Baseball's Valhalla. The Dean of the New York Sports Press the late Phil Pepe took issue with my belief that Bill Mazeroski is properly in the Hall. That was a fun give-and-take, as I reminded Phil of Bill going yard on the Yankees in 1960. A hot topic – Alan Trammell. Last month my guest was Sparky Anderson's favorite pitcher – John Doherty. John D

firmly and strongly feels his bud should be enshrined in Cooperstown. Jay Jaffe has a chapter on that particular player and gives a quantitative analysis. I hope JD doesn't see it but you should. Jaffe does a good job with who should get a pat on the back and who should get a backpack.

\*=SABR member

*John Vorperian hosts and produces **BEYOND THE GAME**, a community syndicated sports and entertainment television program cablecast in New York, various parts of the U.S.A. and at [wpcommunitymedia.org](http://wpcommunitymedia.org).*

## Trivia

**Streaker.** Who holds the record for the most consecutive starts at one position for the National League in the All-Star Game?

**Pitching and bashing.** What Hall of Famer is the only pitcher to bat over .400 in a season in which he won 20 games?

**Way low down.** Who is the lowest-drafted player to be elected to the Hall of Fame?

**Victims.** What four Hall of Fame pitchers did Joe DiMaggio face during his 56-game winning streak in 1941?

**Walk-offs.** This past July 14 the Red Sox defeated the Yankees on a walk-off walk to Andrew Benintendi. Before that, what Hall of Famer was the last Red Sox player to beat the Yankees on a walk-off walk?

**Young MVP's.** Six players have won two MVP awards before their age-25 season. How many can you name?

**Surprise!** Who was the last Indians pitcher before Corey Kluber to throw back-to-back complete games with 10-plus strikeouts?

**Big winners.** Who are the four managers who have won 1,000 or more games for the Yankees?

**Not Judge.** What two Hall of Famers are the only players to hit 40 or more home runs in their age-21 (or less) season?

**Champs.** In case you haven't noticed, Miguel Cabrera and Jose Altuve have won the last seven American League batting championships. Who was the last person other than these two to lead the AL in batting?

**Young stars.** Who are the only major leaguers to hit home runs in the postseason as teenagers? (One is still active.)

## Trivia answers

**Streaker.** Willie Mays, who had 16 straight starts in center field (1957-1966, including two per year from 1959 to 1962).

**Pitching and bashing.** Walter Johnson. With the Washington Senators in 1925, he went 20-7 and batted .433 (42-for-97).

**Way low down.** Mike Piazza. He was drafted by the Dodgers in the 62nd round, 1390th overall, in 1988.

**Victims.** Bob Feller, Lefty Grove, Ted Lyons, and Hal Newhouser.

**Walk-offs.** Ted Williams, on August 7, 1956.

**Young MVP's.** Johnny Bench, Jimmie Foxx, Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Hal Newhouser and Mike Trout.

**Surprise!** John Farrell, in 1989.

**Big winners.** Joe McCarthy (1,460 wins), Joe Torre (1,173), Casey Stengel (1,149), Miller Huggins (1,067).

**Not Judge.** Mel Ott, born March 2, 1909, hit 42 home runs in 1929; and Eddie Mathews, born October 13, 1931, hit 47 home runs in 1953.

**Champs.** Josh Hamilton (.359 in 2010).

**Young stars.** Andruw Jones, twice (19 years, 177 days old in the 1999 NLCS and 19 years, 180 days old in the '99 World Series) and Bryce Harper (19 years, 362 days old in the 2012 NLDS).

## R.I.P.

Don Baylor (Orioles 1979-75, Athletics '76, Angels '77-82, Yankees '83-85, Red Sox '86-87, Twins '87, Athletics '88; manager Rockies '93-98, Cubs 2000-02); Lillian "Pete" Campbell (Springfield Sallies, AAGPBL, 1949); Paul Casanova (Washington Senators 1965-71, Atlanta Braves '72-74); Chuck Churn (Pirates 1957, Indians '58, Dodgers '59); Gene Conley (Boston Braves 1952, Milwaukee Braves '54-58, Phillies '59-60, Red Sox '61-63. Also, Boston Celtics and New York Knicks); Darren Daulton (Phillies 1983, '85-97, Marlins '97); Jim Donohue (Tigers 1961, Angels '61-62, Twins '63); Edna Frank (Minneapolis Millerettes, Racine Belles, AAGPBL, 1944); Don Gross (Pirates 1955-57, Cubs '58-60); Mickey Harrington (1963 Phillies); Roy Hawes (Washington Senators 1951); Solly Hemus (Cardinals 1949-56, Phillies '56-58, Cardinals '59, manager Cardinals '59-61); John Herrnstein (Phillies 1962-66, Cubs '66, Braves '66); Garry Hill (1969 Braves); Dave Hilton (Padres 1972-75); Ken Kaiser (American League umpire 1977-99); Jim Landis (White Sox 1957-64, KC Athletics '65, Indians '66, Astros '67, Tigers '67, Red Sox '67); Don Lock (Washington Senators 1962-66, Phillies '67-69, Red Sox '69); Lee May (Reds 1965-71, Astros '72-74, Orioles '75-80, Royals '81-82); Dave McDonald (Yankees 1969, Expos '71); Mike McQueen (Braves 1969-72, Reds '74); Gene Michael (Pirates 1966, Dodgers '67, Yankees '68-75; manager Yankees '81-82, Cubs '86-87); Betty Jane Moczynski (Rockford Peaches, AAGPBL, 1943); Bob Motley (Negro Leagues umpire); Bob Perry (Angels 1963-64); Ed Phillips (Red Sox 1970); Jimmy Piersall (Red Sox 1950, '52-58, Indians '59-61, Washington Senators '62-63, Mets '63, Angels '63-67); Ross Powell (Reds 1993, Astros '94-95, Pirates '95); LaFerne Price (Milwaukee Chicks, AAGPBL, 1944); John Rheinecker (Rangers 2006-07); Allen Richter (Red Sox, 1951, '53); Pat Roy (Fort Wayne Daisies, AAGPBL, 1954); Louise Sauer (Racine Belles, AAGPCL, 1948, Rockford Peaches '49-50); Paul Schaal (Angels 1964-68, Royals '69-74, Angels '74); Herm Starrette (Orioles 1963-65, coach, Red Sox, '95-97); Stan Swanson (Expos 1971); **David Vincent (SABR)**; Hector Wagner (Royals 1990-91); Danny Walton (Astros 1968, Seattle Pilots '69, Brewers '70-71, Yankees '71, Twins '73, Dodgers '76, Astros '77, Rangers '80); Steve Waterbury (Cardinals 1976); Daniel Webb (White Sox 2013-16); Tom Wright (Red Sox 1948-51, Browns '52, White Sox '52-54, Senators '54-56); Anthony Young (Mets 1991-93, Cubs '94-95, Astros '96); Dom Zanni (Giants 1958-59, '61, White Sox '62-63, Reds '63, '65-66).

**L'envoi.** It's been a most interesting season and postseason. This meeting will help smooth the path to 2008 spring training. Can Opening Day be far behind? If you plan to come to St. Philip's, please make sure you RSVP. Bring along any unneeded books for the raffle. See you there.

**Len Levin**

# **SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND SABR REGIONAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2017: 11:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.**

**ST. PHILIP'S PARISH CENTER, ROUTE 44, GREENVILLE, R.I.**

## ***THE PROGRAM***

### **1. Guest speakers:**

**LENNY DiNARDO, former Red Sox pitcher, NESN broadcaster**

**KEVIN O'CONNOR, MLB umpire evaluator**

### **2. Research/book presentations**

### **3. Mock Hall of Fame election**

### **4. Trivia contest**

### **5. Baseball book raffle**

### **6. Ballpark lunch, refreshments, lots of good baseball talk**

## **HOW TO GET TO ST. PHILIP'S**

From the north: Driving south on Route 95 or Route 146, take Route 295 south. On 295 you will leave Massachusetts and enter Rhode Island. Take Exit 12B off 295 onto Rhode Island Route 44 westbound. St. Philip's is about 2.5 miles from the exit, on your left after you pass through "downtown" Greenville (lots of fast-food places). Use the driveway between the school and the church. Park in the parish center parking lot; plenty of room if you get there early. (Note: The Rhode Island DOT is renumbering on- and off-ramps on Interstates. Exit 12B used to be Exit 7B, and it may still be if the renumbering program hasn't reached it yet.)

From the south: In Rhode Island, take Route 95 north to Route 295 north. On 295, take Exit 12B and follow directions above.

West from Providence: Route 10 and Route 6 to northbound Route 295. Take Exit 12B as above. The entrance to Route 10 is just above downtown Providence, near the Providence Place mall. The Rhode Island State House will be to your right.

From the east: Route 195 westbound to Route 95 northbound in Providence. Near downtown Providence, follow the sign that says Hartford. Follow Route 10 to Route 6 to northbound Route 295 and proceed as above.

From northeastern Connecticut: On Route 44 eastbound, St. Philip's is about 14 miles from the state line; On Route 6 a couple of turns are involved. From Route 6 turn left onto Route 116 northbound, then turn left onto Route 44 west. St. Philip's is just a few hundred feet west of the intersection of Routes 116 and 44.

**\$7.00 donation to cover expenses. \$1.00 for children under 12.**

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Please RSVP to Len Levin at 401-351-3278 or [LenLevin5@hotmail.com](mailto:LenLevin5@hotmail.com)