

The Frederick Torch *Bulletin*

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fredtorch.org

The Torch Club of Frederick, Maryland



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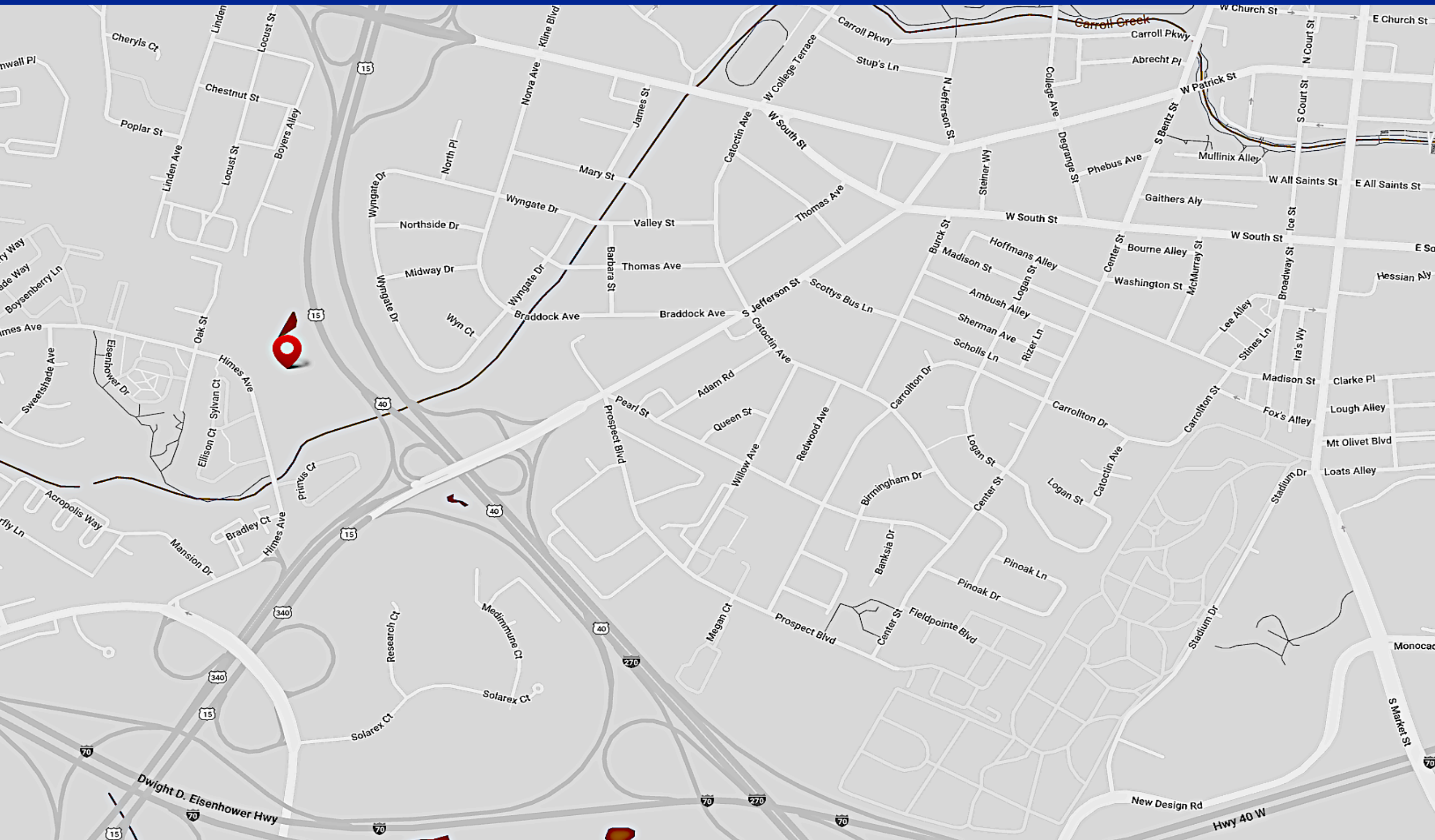


Frederick Torch Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

As expected consideration of others, lunch attendees must be fully vaccinated and boosted, which also applies to guests and new members. Zoom meetings may be required when county or state pandemic warnings limit in-person attendance.

Dutch's Daughter

581 Himes Avenue, Frederick, Maryland
301 | 668 | 9500



Next Presentation

Monday, December 18, 2023

Mark Gaffigan on "What is the U.S. Government Accountability Office?"

What? There is accountability in government? Yes, and there there has been for over a century. Established in 1921, the US Government Accountability Office serves as an independent, non-partisan agency overseeing how well the federal government operates and spends its money, pointing out where it is doing well and where it can improve. Over the years, GAO has made thousands of recommendations based on facts to improve services and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

Formerly known as the General Accounting Office, the agency is a trusted, non-partisan advisor to Congress, proud defender of public interest, and leading advocate for better government. From cybersecurity to social security, missiles to Medicaid, and energy to the environment, GAO works to hold government programs accountable to all Americans.

This Month's Presenter

Mark Gaffigan

Mr. Gaffigan is Managing Director of the GAO's Natural Resources and Environment Division, responsible for federal oversight of the nation's land and water resources, tribal and Native American issues, environmental protection, food safety, agricultural programs, national energy supply, and US and international nuclear security and cleanup.



A Certified Public Accountant, Mark Gaffigan joined GAO in 1987 and is assigned to its Washington, DC, office. He holds a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Illinois. He lives near Woodsboro with his wife Hannah and family, and is the son of Frederick Torch member Angie Gaffigan and son-in-law of Torch members John and Toni Clarke.

Lunch Sign-up

Attending or not, please let Reservations Chair John Hewetson know and, if you plan to attend, your seating requests and the names of your guests. Please respond to John at torchreservations@gmail.com or call him at 301.663.8130.

Sign-up Deadline— Preferably one week before the lunch but later OK

Cost— \$30 per person (also payable if a signed-up no-show)

Cancellations— Email the address above before the day of the lunch.

Most Recent Presentation

Ron Young on "Reimagining Frederick Then and Now"

No one tells this revival story better than Ron Young which he did for us last month.

Frederick and Frederick County have their pantheon of heroes and heroines—explorers, a president, governors, Members of Congress, fashion designers and more—but no one has made his mark on the City of Frederick as has Ron Young. When he entered local politics in the 1960s, Frederick was a sleepy faded vestige of the regional hub that it had been since its founding in 1745. Downtown needed fresh paint, phone poles removed, and new tenants where malls had sucked the life out of the commercial district.

But where others in the 1980s saw the city's 18th and 19th century architecture as decay, Young, by then Mayor Young, saw charm that just needed polishing. The vibrant, dressed-up, period-piece, foodie haven of today's Frederick came largely from Ron Young's vision.

Need a Lift?

Transportation Chair Frank Sledge invites you to get in touch with him and he will do his best to arrange your transportation to and from club lunches. Reach Frank [here](#) or at 301.980.2019.

New Members



At our next lunch, be sure to welcome new club members **Avis Anderson, Alexandra Stone, Gail Osburn, Margaret and Michael Procaro, Fanny Johnson, RoseAnn Lester, Jean Thompson, Peg Denton, Jim Gordon, Sharron Smith, Lois Jarman and Phil Hoagland.**

As one of the largest of the 60+ Torch clubs, our success relies on strong recruiting. Our membership slipped 24% during Covid and has now rebuilt to nearly our pre-Covid size. Please invite your friends who enjoy stimulating company and fascinating presentations to attend a fine club lunch or two and then join.

Club Membership Chair Toni Clarke is here to help. Reach Toni at toniclarke101@gmail.com or at 301.606.2694.

For more information and to download the club membership application, visit the website at fredtorch.org.

2023-24 Presentations

September - December

Many thanks to last year's Program Chair Norine Haas for lining up the following presentations for the 2023-24 Torch year.

September 25— John Fieseler on "From Dilapidated Cannery Warehouse to Visitor Center"

October 23— Jo Butler on "Trenton Makes, The World Takes"

November 27— Former State Senator Ron Young on "Reimagining Frederick Then and Now"

December 18— Mark Gaffigan on "What is the U.S. Government Accountability Office?"

2023-24 Presentations

January - May

January 22– Peter Michael on "Back from the Brink: The Encouraging Comeback of the American Indian"

February 26– Margaret Procaro on "What You Don't Know About Arguments Could Fool You"

March 25– John George on "Hans Christian Andersen: His Life and Legacy"

April 22– Lynn Bernard on "Surprises and Coincidences: A Survey of Religious Architecture"

May 27– Claire Kondig on "Eisenhower, the Boy From Kansas"

2023-24 Board of Directors

Welcome

President Marguerite Wilson and the club's board of directors hope you enjoy this year's interesting programs. The following members are serving as your 2023-24 directors and committee chairs.

Elected Officers

President	Marguerite Wilson
Vice President	John Hewetson
Secretary	Peter Michael
Treasurer	Claire Kondig

Committee Chairs

Assistant Treasurer	John Kondig
Program Chair	Norine Haas
Reservations Chair	John Hewetson
Membership Chair	Toni Clarke
Transportation Chair	Frank Sledge
Webmaster	Ed Seidewitz
Presentation Support	Jeff Wilson

Club Archives

Torch Club of Frederick *Bulletin*

Past issues beginning with October 2017 are archived and may be viewed, downloaded or printed [here](#).



2023-24 Program and Member Roster

The *2023-24 Program* and the club's *Member Roster* are updated regularly. View, download or print [here](#).



The Club Website

Board meeting minutes, past presentations and more may be reached at the club website [here](#).



Member Survey

Survey results may be viewed, downloaded or printed [here](#).