

The Frederick Torch *Bulletin*

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January, 2024

fredtorch.org

The Torch Club of Frederick, Maryland



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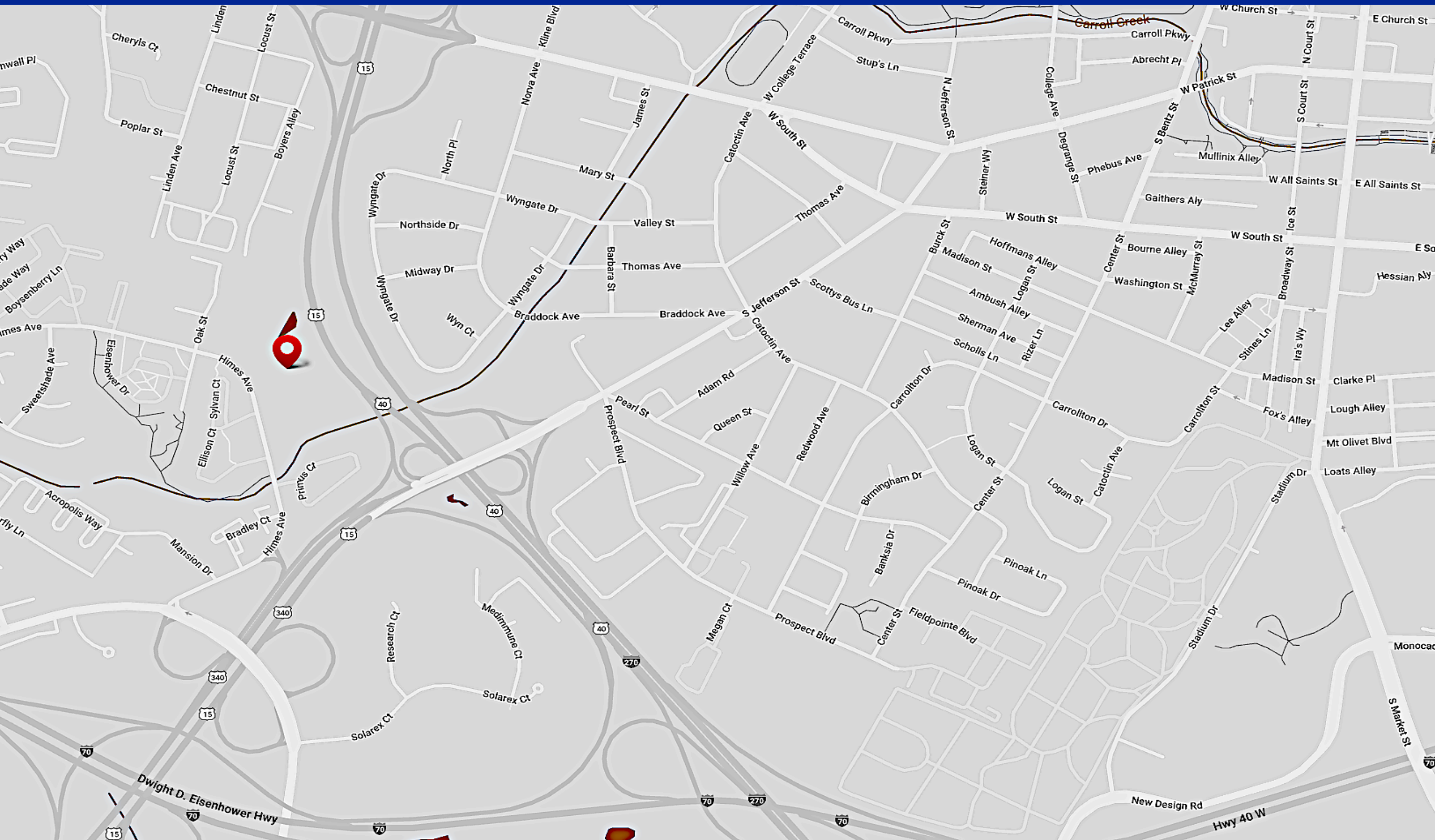


Frederick Torch Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

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, January 22, 2024

John Menke on "Now you see it, now you don't: the upcoming solar eclipse April 8, 2024"

The moon just happens to be at a magic distance from Earth so that it can almost exactly block light from the sun over a small part of Earth. During a total solar eclipse, the light of the sun is blocked so that planets and some stars are visible, and portions of the sun's atmosphere can be observed. The next full solar eclipse will occur April 8 across a swath including Paducah, Kentucky.

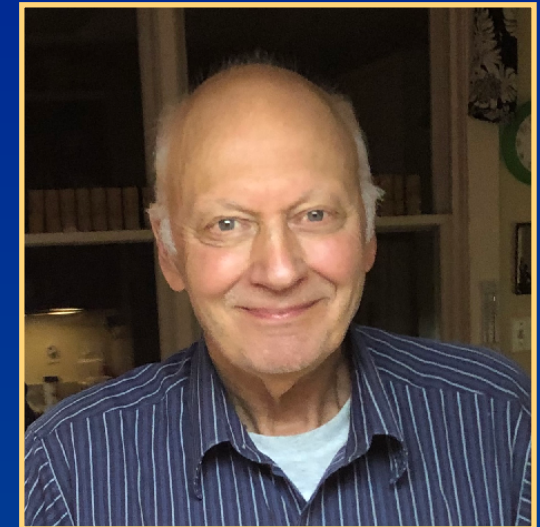
John says that if you have never seen an eclipse, you should. But this is far more than a cool celestial event, as dozens of key scientific observations can only be made during the two to seven minutes of the eclipse. On April 8, he and Meg will be in Paducah ... where will you be?



This Month's Presenter

John Menke

John took his bachelor's in physics at Rensselaer and did his graduate work at the University of Maryland but his true love was "doing", not ever more schooling. He worked at the Bureau of Standards in nuclear research for 12 years but then, bitten by the public interest bug, was elected to the Montgomery County Council in 1974 where he served four years.



After working at Mitre Corporation on destruction of nerve gas on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific, he returned to Montgomery County government as Director of Environmental Protection.

In 1990, John married Meg and they began an astronomy observatory manufacturing business. After 12 successful years, they sold the firm and retired. John has delivered several Torch presentations including on instruments, waves, gravity, and spectroscopy.

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

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

Guest speaker Mark Gaffigan, son-in-law of club members Toni and John Clarke, enlightened his audience on the United States Government Accountability Office, formerly the the General Accounting Office. An independent, non-partisan agency overseeing how well the federal government operates and spends its money, the GAO points out where the government is doing well and where it can improve.

The agency is the trusted, non-partisan advisor to Congress, defender of public interest, and leading advocate for better government, holding government programs accountable to all Americans. We learned that, over the years, the GAO has made thousands of fact-based recommendations to improve services and save taxpayers billions.

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, Fanny Johnson, RoseAnn Lester, Jean Thompson, Peg Denton, Jim Gordon, Sharron Smith, Lois Jarman, Annette Breiling, Richard Jones, Rita Molleur, Steve Stoyke** 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— John Menke on "Now you see it, now you don't: the upcoming solar eclipse April 8, 2024"

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](#).