

The Bulletin

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The Torch Club of Frederick, Maryland

fredtorch.org



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The International Association of Torch Clubs

The Torch Club of Frederick is one of nearly 50 in the United States and Canada. IATC was founded in 1924 in Minneapolis as a highly interactive organization in which members discuss stimulating presentations given by members and guest speakers.

Torch members are intellectually inquisitive with a broad range of experience in creating knowledge that respects diverse viewpoints.

Torch membership includes outstanding atmospheres in which to freely exchange ideas, enjoy comfortable club dining venues, and, most of all, experience close fellowship.

Learn more at the Torch International website.

<https://www.torch.org/>



Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

As expected consideration of others, lunch attendees must be fully vaccinated and boosted against Covid, 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

dutchs-daughter.website

301 | 668 | 9500



Next Presentation

Monday, April 27, 2026

Annette Breiling on "Adding Friends Education to our Community"

Frederick Torch member Annette Breiling's talk will focus on the process and product of bringing Friends education to Frederick County. (Quaker is the colloquial name for the Friends religion.)

We will hear what it takes to found private Quaker-oriented schools including Friends Meeting School in Frederick County which Annette founded. She will explain why Friends schools create learning environments focusing on peace and honoring all people locally and internationally and why foreign language classes and a diverse inclusive culture are fixtures at all grade levels in Friends teaching.

Annette will also tell us of her post-retirement promotion of Martin Luther King's vision for Beloved Community and will address his triple giant evils of racism, materialism, and militarism.

This Month's Presenter

Annette Breiling

Club member Annette has had a long and very distinguished career as a Quaker educator. She taught in public schools until 1985 when she founded the first of three Quaker schools in Maryland, most recently the Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville, Frederick County, a non-profit, independent, college preparatory school for grades through high school. When Annette retired as Head of School, the campus's largest building was renamed Breiling Hall.



In retirement, Annette has kept very busy with Quaker organizations, civic clubs, County commissions and task forces, and local politics. By various local entities she has been named Woman of the Year, Person of the Year, Rotarian of the Year, and Peace Crafter among other honors.

Annette has three daughters and three grandchildren. She took her bachelor's degree in sociology at Earlham College, a Quaker school, and her master's at the University of Iowa in child development.

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

Roseann Lester on "Challenges and Rewards of Life as a Violinist"

Thrills, skills, strings, broken strings, bows, resins, callouses, injuries, a special accompanist, even a tryout on a Stradivarius — club member RoseAnn vividly related the many challenges and rewards of her life-long romance with the special instrument called the violin.

RoseAnn told us of her growth from grade school beginner to highly polished professional playing in lead roles in three symphony orchestras in the state and her teaching violin in a 30-year career at Hood College.

This was a very well organized and illustrated presentation introduced by RoseAnn's daughter and with technical assistance by Michael Procaro.

New Members



At our next lunch, be sure to welcome new club members **Mary Kippen** and her sister **Sara George**, **Pat** and **Tom Dorsz**, **Melanie Galloway**, **Diane Kantner**, **Deborah Ross**, **Ellen West**, **Stephen** and **Bobbie** Rideout, and our newest, **Karen Kapust**. As the second-largest of the 49 Torch clubs, our success relies on strong recruiting. 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 Karl Bickel is here to help. You can get in touch with Karl at KarlBickel@comcast.net or 301.639.9665.

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

2025-26 Presentations

September - December

Many thanks to 2024-25 Program Committee co-chairs Norine Haas and Marguerite Wilson for arranging the 2025-26 program line-up.



September 22- Marguerite Wilson on "Camp Ritchie During WWII: A Secret Training Camp for Intelligence Soldiers"

October 27- John George on "Charles Lutwidge Dodgson" popularly known by his pen name "Lewis Carroll"

November 24- Ellen West on "A Visit with Cosmonauts"

December 15- Major J. B. Blevins on "The History of the Salvation Army"

2025-26 Presentations

January - May

January 26- Dorothy Bonnett on "Circles of Women: A Discussion of Chinese Women's Lives"

February 23- Lois Jarman on "Art and the Brain"

March 23- Roseann Lester on "Challenges and Rewards of Life as a Violinist"

April 27- Annette Breiling on "Adding Friends Education to our Community"

May 18- Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater on "The Role of the County Executive"

June 22- Annual Frederick Torch picnic

2025-26 Board of Directors

President Margaret Procario and the club's board of directors hope you enjoy this year's interesting programs. The following members are serving as your 2025-26 directors and committee chairs.

Elected Directors

President	Margaret Procario
Vice President	John Hewetson
Secretary	Peter Michael
Treasurer	Claire Kondig

Appointed Committee Chairs

Assistant Treasurer	John Kondig
Program Chair	Marguerite Wilson
Reservations Chair	John Hewetson
Membership Chair	Kark Bickel
Publications Chair	Peter Michael
Co-webmaster	Ed Seidewitz
Co-webmaster	Michael Procario
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](#).



2025-26 Program and Member Roster

The *2025-26 Program* and the club's *Member Roster* are updated regularly. View, download or print [here](#).



The Club Website

Upcoming and past presentations and more may be reached at the club website [here](#).



Member Survey

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