

The Frederick Torch *Bulletin*

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November 2024

fredtorch.org

The Torch Club
of Frederick, Maryland



Scroll



Go to Page Number for . . .

1. Face Page
2. This Page
3. Torch International
4. Dutch's Daughter
5. Map to Dutch's Daughter
6. Next Presentation
7. Presenter
8. Lunch Reservations
9. Most Recent Presentation
10. New Members
11. Fall Programs
12. Winter & Spring Programs
13. Club Leadership
14. Club Archives

The International Association of Torch Clubs

The Torch Club of Frederick is one of over 60 in the United States and Canada. IATC was founded in 1924 in Minneapolis as a highly interactive organization in which members discuss stimulating presentations by members and guest speakers.

Torch members are professionals with a broad range of experience in creating knowledge involving diverse viewpoints.

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

Learn more at the Torch International website.

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

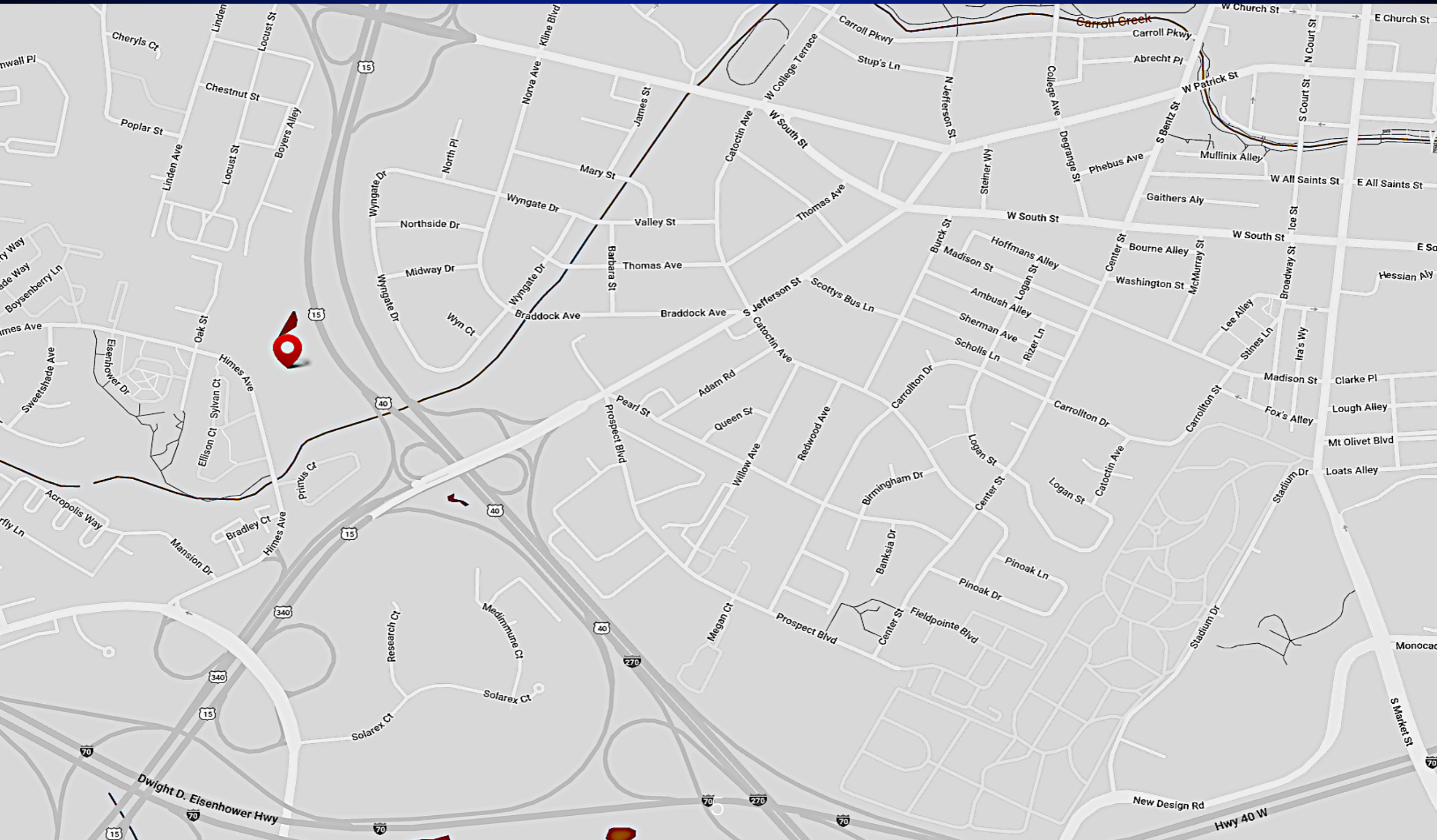


Frederick Torch Club Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

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
301 | 668 | 9500



Next Presentation

Monday, November 25, 2024

Claire Kondig on "Eisenhower, the Boy From Kansas"

Club Treasurer Claire will tell the story of how Dwight David Eisenhower grew from boyhood in Abilene, Kansas to manhood at West Point. Her presentation will include a survey of how he rose through the ranks between World War I and World War II to become the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe and, in 1952, the President of the United States. Claire says that her talk is not a hagiography but, rather, will focus on Eisenhower's background, interests, lessons learned, people and forces that shaped him, and how, throughout his life, he remained at heart "the boy from Abilene."

This Month's Presenter

Claire Kondig

Long-serving Club Treasurer Claire Ward Kondig moved to Frederick in 1965 following graduation from Mount Union College, Ohio, where she majored in History and English. Claire took her Master's Degree from Hood College and studied educational administration at the University of Maryland.



During her 40-year career with Frederick County Public Schools, she taught English at West Frederick Junior High School and Brunswick Middle School, then climbed the ranks as Administrative Intern at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, Assistant Principal at Thurmont Middle School, Principal there for 17 years, then as Secondary Coordinator of Hood College's Professional Development School Program.

Claire is a member of the Frederick Art Club, League of Women Voters, Torch Club of Frederick and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick. An avid reader, she is active in three book clubs. She and her husband John have been married for 57 years and have one son.

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

Peter Michael on "Finding John Hanson: The Recent Rediscovery of the Grave of the Nation's Only Lost President"

As many of you knew, Frederick's own John Hanson served as the nation's actual first president during our brief original government under the Articles of Confederation. Until Peter's presentation, we may not have been aware that Hanson's gravesite became unknown, the lone such fate among United States presidents.

Peter told of how in January this year, after his 16-year search and a chance email from John Hanson researcher Mark Kennedy, the two found and conclusively identified John Hanson's grave.

We also learned why the first government was just that, how the early presidents were fully vested as heads of state, and of plans now underway for the federal government to reintroduce the only lost president.

New Members



At our next lunch, be sure to welcome new club members **Avis Anderson, Jan and John Gardner, Mary Kippen, Sharron Smith, Steve Stoyke, Jean Thompson** and, most recently, former Maryland House of Delegates member **Delgate Sue Hecht**.

As one of the largest of the 60+ Torch clubs, our success relies on strong recruiting. Our membership has now been 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 at club expense 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.

2024-25 Presentations

September - December

*Many thanks to 2023-24 Program Chair Norine Haas
for the interesting speakers and topics in Torch year 2024-25*



September 23- Former Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner on "Government Is Difficult As It Is and Then Along Comes Covid"

October 28- Peter Michael on "Finding John Hanson: The Recent Rediscovery of the Grave of the Nation's Only Lost President"

November 25- Claire Kondig on "Eisenhower, the Boy From Kansas"

December 16- Frederick Torch 30th and Torch International 100th Anniversary Celebration

2024-25 Presentations

January - May

January 27- Geordie Wilson, Publisher of *The Frederick News-Post*, on "The Joys and Woes of Publishing a Local Newspaper"

February 24- Lois Jarman on "The Wonderful Brain: You *Can* Teach an Old Dog New Tricks!"

March 24- Adam Miller, Homewood's dietitian, on "Better Eating to Attain Optimum Health"

April 28- Double Paxton Award Winner Lee Robinson on "Quanah Parker: War Leader, Civil Leader, Religious Leader"

May 19- Joanne McCoy on "Walking the Camino Santiago: Lessons from Europe's Oldest Pilgrimage Route"

June 23- Annual Frederick Torch picnic

2024-25 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 2024-25 directors and committee chairs.

Elected Directors

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

Appointed Committee Chairs

Assistant Treasurer	John Kondig
Program Chair	Norine Haas
Reservations Chair	John Hewetson
Membership Co-chair	Toni Clarke
Membership Co-chair	Mary Ann Simmons
Publications Chair	Peter Michael
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](#).



2024-25 Program and Member Roster

The *2024-25 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](#).