

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 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 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, September 22, 2025

Past President Marguerite Wilson on

"Camp Ritchie During WWII: A Secret Training Camp for Intelligence Soldiers"

When the US was plunged into World War II, military intelligence was seriously lacking. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall ordered the development of intelligence training centers and a coordinated intelligence program. During the war, 20,000 intelligence enlisted and officer personnel from 70 countries were trained at Camp Ritchie, Maryland. The science of military intelligence and training was quickly developed and implemented. The Camp Ritchie curriculum was considered by many to be the gold standard for military intelligence training, especially interrogation techniques. It is estimated that 40 percent of actionable intelligence procured in the field in Europe was obtained by Camp Ritchie soldiers. Much evidence used in the Nurnberg and other trials was procured by Ritchie soldiers. This talk will discuss the rapid development of Camp Ritchie, its interaction with surrounding communities, the curriculum, and a few stories of its remarkable cadre and graduates.

This Month's Presenter

Marguerite Wilson

Immediate Past Preident Marguerite Fabert Wilson was born to an intelligence corps Air Force father and an English war-bride mother who had served as an emergency evacuation nurse in England. They were stationed in Washington, DC, Okinawa, Italy, Germany, North Carolina, and New Jersey.



Marguerite graduated from the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill with a BS in Nursing. She later received her Master's in Nursing from The Catholic University of America and worked as a psychiatric nurse most of her career. She served in the Army Reserves, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After retirement, she and her husband, Frederick Torch member Jeff Wilson, served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, which was cut short by the birth of their grandson for whom they then provided child care. Marguerite's interests include music, bird watching, local history, cooking, traveling, hiking, swimming, and spy and mystery stories.

Lunch Sign-up

Atending 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

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

Frederick resident and guest presenter Joanne McCoy shared her fascinating personal experience of trekking solo Spain's ancient, storied, 500-mile Camino de Santiago in 2017.

Since the Middle Ages, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have walked the Camino de Santiago—the "Way of St. James"—to its destination, the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where the bones of Saint James the Apostle are said to rest.

We learned that while some walk focused on reaching the cathedral, many others walk for the sake of the journey itself, which they find to be a source of blessings, clarity, and deepened spiritual understanding.

New Members



At our next lunch, be sure to welcome new club members **Annette Breiling, Mary Kippen** and her sister **Sara George, Pat** and **Tom Dorsz, Melanie Galloway, Diane Kantner, Deborah Ross, Ellen West**, and **Stephen** and **Bobbi Rideout**.

As the second-largest of the 59 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 Co-chairs Toni Clarke and Karl Bickel are here to help. You can get in touch with Toni at toniclarke101@gmail.com or at 301.606.2694, or 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- Annette Breiling on "Adding Friends Education to our Community"

April 27- Roseann Lester on "Challenges and Rewards of Life as a Violinist"

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 Co-chair	Norine Haas
Program Co-chair	Marguerite Wilson
Reservations Chair	John Hewetson
Membership Co-chair	Toni Clarke
Membership Co-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](#).