

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

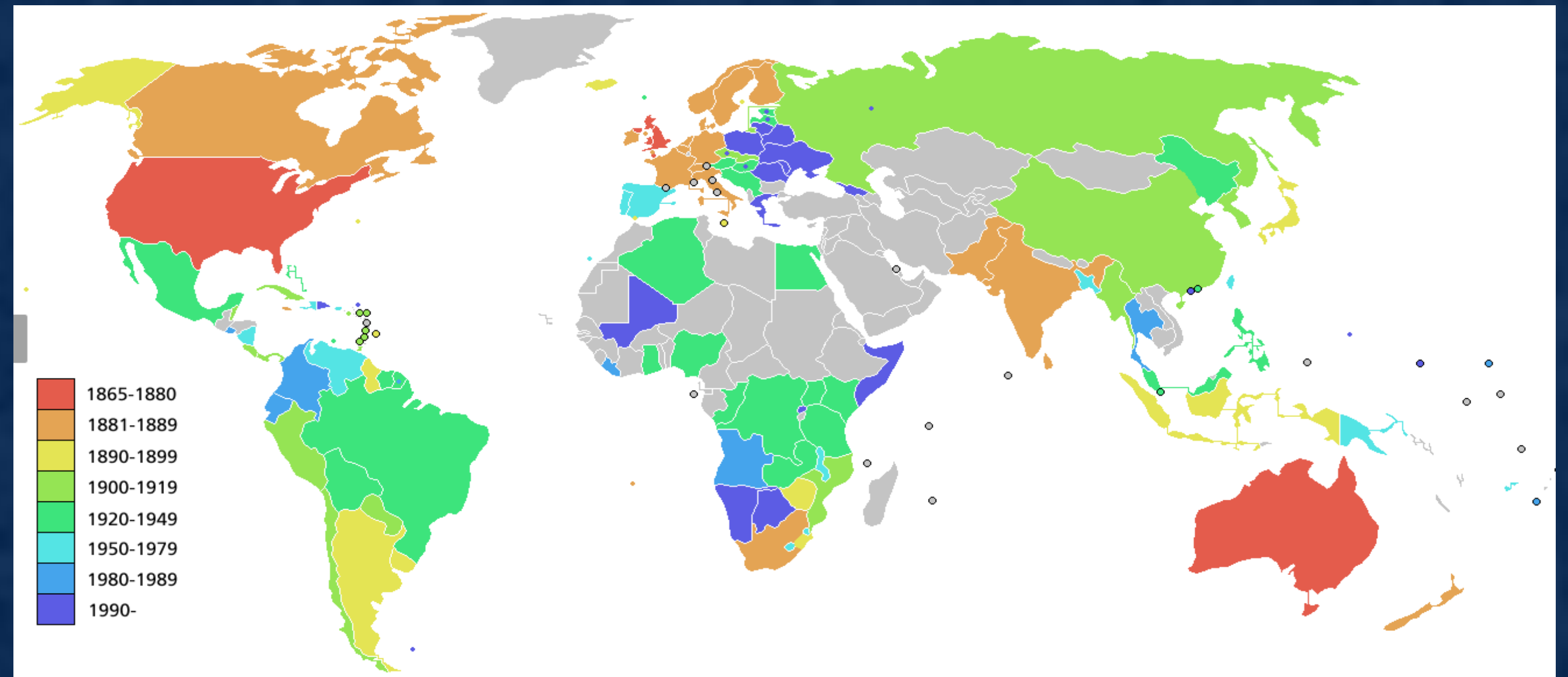
Monday, December 15, 2025

Major John Blevins on "The History of the Salvation Army"

The Salvation Army was founded by Methodist minister William Booth and his wife and Catherine in London in 1865. By 1880, it had made its way to the United States. In 1885 came to Frederick and has been here ever since.

The Salvation Army is a Protestant Christian denomination that operates as a charitable organization. The Salvation Army today has 1.65 million members in more than 15,000

congregations worldwide. The Salvation Army consists of soldiers, uniformed offices with ranks, and adherents who are collectively known as salvationists. The Salvation Army is the largest non-government provider of social services in the United States and one of the largest in the world.



This Month's Presenter

John Blevins

Major John Blevins, Jr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and raised throughout West Virginia and Virginia as the son of Salvation Army officers. He is a 2006 graduate of Radford University and in 2014 took his master's degree at Trevecca Nazarene University.

In 2007, John and his wife Stephanie entered The Salvation Army's seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. They were commissioned as Salvation Army officers in 2009 and have since served together in several communities across Virginia and North Carolina including Waynesboro, Portsmouth, Harrisonburg, Goldsboro, and Winchester.

In June 2025, John and Stephanie were appointed to lead The Salvation Army in Frederick, where they oversee local programs, fundraising efforts, and ministry to the community.



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

Ellen West on "A Visit with Cosmonauts"

In 1988, the Young Astronaut Chapter that Ellen worked with and two other chapters were selected from among nation-wide applicants to travel on a goodwill mission with United States Astronaut David Walker to the Soviet Union to meet with officials, students, and Cosmonauts.

The visit took place in the context of expanding relations between the United States and the Soviet Union led at the time by United States President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In a well illustrated presentation, Ellen told us of arrival in Moscow as guests of the Soviet Union, spending a week seeing the sights in Moscow, then visiting the Soviet space program's mission control center where she and others in her party sent messages to Russian Cosmonauts aboard the MIR space station.

Ellen was very ably assisted in her presentation by her long-time protege Dr. Vanessa Liu.

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 **Bobbie 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 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](#).