

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, February 23, 2026

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

Since a large amount of Westerners first came into contact with China in the nineteenth century, there has been a special interest in the lives of Chinese women. Stereotypes ranging from 'dragon lady' to 'tiger mom' abound, as well as images of concubines, discarded daughters and, of course, bound feet.

In recent years, the lens of feminism has focused on this alien and ancient culture and popular novels like Lisa See's *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* explore the lives of those who 'transcended' what is seen as millennia of oppression.

But how accurate is this view? In her talk, Dorothy Trench Bonett will discuss what recent research tells about women in China pre-1911, often from their own writings, searching for a more nuanced view of complex human beings with differing experiences at different time periods in a society that was never static or uniform.

This Month's Presenter

Dorothy Bonnett

Dorothy Trench Bonett has given many talks for Torch over the years. She is a prize-winning poet and translator, with a long-standing interest in women's writing. She is fluent in French and Chinese. Dorothy studied both at Yale University where she received her B.A. and M.A., at Universite de Paris, and at Taipei Language Institute.

Dorothy taught at Mount Saint Mary's University for many years, as well as at Hood College. She has presented numerous papers at academic conferences such as the Villanova Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference and International Conference on Medieval Studies, published translations as well as original poetry, and served as a judge for PenAmerica.

Her translation of Xu Zhimo's poetry, *Broad Sea and Empty Sky*, was short-listed for the Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize. Her books are available on Amazon.



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

There was no presentation in January due to the weather.
The most recent was on the Salvation Army in December.

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

In uniform, Major Blevins told of the Salvation Army being founded by Methodist minister William Booth and his wife and Catherine in London in 1865, and how by 1880 it had made its way to the United States and in 1885 to Frederick. It has been here ever since.

We heard that this Protestant Christian denomination operating as a charitable organization has 1.65 million members in more than 15,000 congregations across the globe and is the largest non-government provider of social services in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

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,** 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](#).