

The Bulletin

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fredtorch.org

The Torch Club of Frederick, Maryland



Scroll



Next Presentation

November 21, 2022

Captain Dana French on "Vietnam Boat People Rescue"

For more than two decades after the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands Vietnamese escaped their country as refugees from the new communist government. Many, the Boat People, escaped by sea. Very hazardous, many died. The lucky ones who were rescued or made it to another country started new lives. Some eventually emigrated to the United States.



This is the story of one such boat of 300 people who in December of 1980 were rescued from death by the crew of USS Robison. This is a talk is about the refugees, Captain French's ship and crew, immigration, and of some reuniting 30 years later to share their stories.

September's Presenter

Dana French

Captain French graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a bachelor of science degree and earned a master of science degree in personnel management at the Naval Postgraduate School.

As a surface warfare officer, he first commanded an auxiliary ocean tug as the youngest commanding officer in the Pacific Fleet, then served in a riverine assault division in combat in the Delta of South Vietnam, and finally on a guided missile destroyer. He earned two Bronze Star Medals, a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, and a Purple Heart. While commanding officer of USS Robison, he led his crew in the rescue of 262 Vietnamese boat people who were near death adrift in the Gulf of Thailand. Many of the refugees immigrated to the United States and have become productive Americans citizens.

After his Navy retirement, Captain French served as a self-employed organization development consultant and trainer based in Frederick.

Dinner 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 with “Torch” in the subject line of your email, or call him at 301.663.8130.

Sign-up Deadline— Preferably five days before the dinner but later OK

Cost— \$35 per person (also payable if a signed-up no-show)

Cancellations— Email the address above before the day of the dinner.

Frederick Torch Dinner Meetings

Welcome back to in-person meetings when permitted. Zoom meetings may be required when county or state pandemic restrictions limit in-person attendance.

After careful consideration, your club board decided to continue in-person meetings for the 2022-23 Torch year while keeping a close watch on national and local Covid situations. The board feels that Ceresville Mansion's pandemic policies and practices are sufficient.

As ordinary consideration of others, dinner attendees must be fully vaccinated and boosted, which also applies to guests and new members.

Need a Lift?



Transportation Chair Frank Sledge invites you to get in touch with him and he will do his best to arrange your transportation to and from club dinners.

Reach Frank at f.sledge@comcast.net or at 301.980.2019.

New Members



At our next dinner, be sure to welcome new club members **Tes Kifle, Angeline Gaffigan, Gail Osburn** and **Margaret** and **Michael Procaro**.

As one of the largest of the 60+ Torch clubs, our success relies on strong recruiting. Our membership slipped 24% during Covid but is now rebuilding so please do invite your acquaintances who enjoy stimulating company and fascinating presentations to attend a fine club dinner or two and then to 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.

2022-23 Presentations

September - December

Many thanks to last year's Program Chair Angeline Gaffigan for lining up the following presentations for the 2022-23 Torch year.

September 26, 2022- John Clarke on "An Absurdly Short History on the 'Art' of Solving Equations"

October 24, 2022- Bob Ladner on "Molecular Recognition and Why It Matters"

November 21, 2022- Captain Dana French on "Vietnam Boat People Rescue"

December 19, 2022- John Menke on "The Secret Lives of a Physicist as Told by His Bookshelves"

2022-23 Presentations

January - May

January 23, 2023- Ed Seidewitz on "Wake Up and Smell the Coffee!"

February 27, 2023- Archer O'Brien on "A Political, Philosophical and Cultural Study of the American Left"

March 27, 2023- Karl Bickel on "Pros, Cons and Feasibility of a County Police Department for Frederick County"

April 24, 2023- Frank Sledge on "The Key to a Harmonious Pitch for a Uniform Musical Scale"

May 22, 2023- Margaret Procaro on "You Really Need This: How TV Commercials Persuade Us to Buy Products"

2022-23 Board of Directors

Welcome

President Norine Haas and the club's board of directors trust that you will enjoy this Torch year's interesting programs. The following members are serving as your 2022-23 board of directors.

President	Norine Haas
Vice President	John Hewetson
Secretary	Peter Michael
Treasurer	Claire Kondig
Assistant Treasurer	John Kondig
Program Chairs	Norine Haas and Toni Clarke
Presentation Support	John Menke
Reservations Chair	John Hewetson
Membership Chair	Toni Clarke
Transportation Chair	Frank Sledge
Website Editor	Meg Menke

Club Archives

Torch Club of Frederick *Bulletin*

Past issues beginning with October 2017 are archived and may be viewed, downloaded or printed [here](#).



2022-23 Program and Member Roster

The *2022-23 Program* and the club's *Member Roster* are updated regularly. View, download or print [here](#).



The Newly Updated 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](#).