

The Frederick Torch *Bulletin*

— Volume 31, Number 2 —

October 2024

fredtorch.org

The Torch Club
of Frederick, Maryland



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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/>

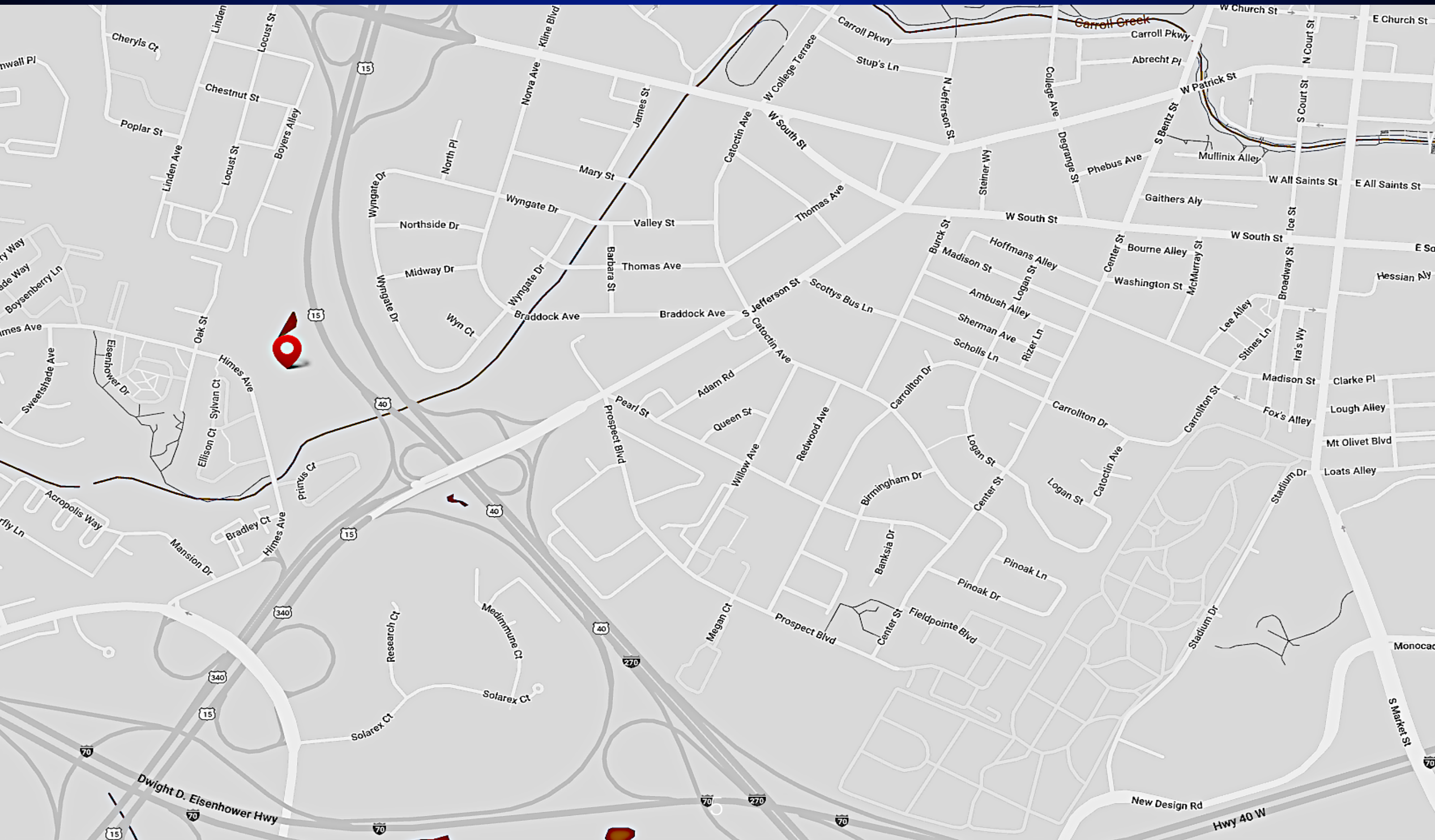


Frederick Torch Club Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

As expected consideration of others, lunch attendees must be fully vaccinated and boosted, 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, October 28, 2024

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

As many of you know, Frederick's own John Hanson served as the nation's actual first president during our brief original government under the Articles of Confederation. You may not know that his gravesite became unknown, the lone fate among the presidents.

In January of this year, after a 16-year search and a chance email, Peter Michael and Mark Kennedy found and conclusively identified John Hanson's grave.

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

This Month's Presenter

Peter Michael

Club Secretary Peter Michael is a Hanson descendant who grew up steeped in family history. Inheriting his grandfather's library and having family history drummed into his head, he was primed to become the point man in carrying the family history.



After Pete reread three writers' 1930s Hanson biographies, he began to hope that someone would write the definitive biography of John Hanson but 75 years later there was nothing. In 2008, he concluded that it was up to him and, over the next four years, wrote *Remembering John Hanson*, which won two national book prizes. The book ended with John Hanson's grave site having been long lost. The new second edition just published tells how the John Hanson grave was found.

In 2009, Pete co-founded the John Hanson Memorial Association which donated the John Hanson National Memorial to the County of Frederick.

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

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

This was a stirring presentation of resolute leadership under fire.

Former County Executive Jan Gardner spelled out how Covid ignited in herself and the county uncertainty, fear, sadness, action, hope, resilience, opportunity, and the county's collective feelings during the Covid pandemic.

She told of how decisions were often made during the pandemic without adequate knowledge or data, and how local leaders successfully did their best under the circumstances to protect public health, support the economy, and help people in need.

Hers was a story of hope, resilience and how well how the community came together to take care of each other.

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, and Jean Thompson.** 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.

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 *2023-24 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](#).