

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, October 27, 2025

John George on "Charles Lutwidge Dodson, Popularly Known by his Pen Name, Lewis Carroll"

Club member and Hood College Professor Emeritus John George will deliver Frederick Torch a presentation on the Victorian author who remains famous today by writing under a pseudonym.

Charles Dodgson led a quiet, but interesting life. A much-published mathematics scholar and Christ's Church College, Oxford lecturer, Dodgson was a pioneer photographer, and author of literature under the *nom de plume* of "Lewis Carroll." His two most popular books, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass," were based on a leisurely picnic jaunt in early July 1862 up the Thames River (locally called the "Isis") where he spun a tale that his childhood audience urged him to write. His poem, "The Hunting of the Snark," has also received acclaim.

This Month's Presenter

Professor John George

John George was raised on the 140-acre “Wonderland Farm” near Libertytown, named after his favorite childhood book. The farm a flock of Suffolk sheep to round up (always getting out), trees to climb, and a pond for swimming and for fishing blue gill and big mouthed bass. He shared this small heaven with his parents and sisters, Mary and Sara, who have returned to Frederick and are both recent members of Frederick Torch.



John graduated from Frederick High School, and earned degrees at Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, and American Universities. He taught and administered for 47 years in both public and private schools, retiring from Hood College where he chaired its Department of Education. John enjoys walking his Baker Park neighborhood, reading, and tending his fine garden.

John George is probably Frederick Torch's all-time leader in the number of presentations given.

Lunch Sign-up

 ttending 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.

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 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](#).