

The Bulletin

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fredtorch.org

The Torch Club of Frederick, Maryland



Scroll



Next Presentation

September 26, 2022

John Clarke on "An Absurdly Short History on the 'Art' of Solving Equations"

John previews his presentation by asking, though mathematics today is ubiquitous, generally out of sight, buried in computers, and taken for granted, where did it all come from? He says that its truths are universal, not political, but not welcomed by many and have been a cause of violent setbacks to scholarly progress. Like Ed Seidewitz last April, John points out that his presentation is not mathematical but historical, starting with 4500-year-old clay tablets from Mesopotamia.



September's Presenter

John Clarke

After graduating from Prince of Wales High School in Nairobi, Kenya, the adventurous John set out on a solo journey by motor scooter to England where he took his mechanical engineering degree at the University of Bristol.

After completing a five-year apprenticeship on jet engines with Rolls Royce, John performed jet engine research for the government of the United Kingdom.

Upon moving to the United States, John worked for Caterpillar where he invented rotary piston and hydrogen-powered engines. His current interest in retirement is an extension to solving equations.

Next year, John and past club president Toni Clarke will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Most Recent Presentation

Ed Seidewitz on “Einstein’s Greatest Equation (No, not $E = mc^2$!)”

Ed skillfully escorted us through an intellectual excursion on how Albert Einstein was able to deploy centuries of mathematical development through his superior gift of extrapolating from context to generalize his earlier theory and explain the role of gravity.

We heard how Einstein struggled personally and intellectually to generalize his theory to include gravity, resulting in an equation that melded centuries of mathematical development with the brilliant physical insight of Einstein.

Ed used this example to show how, in his words, "From a critical period in the early twentieth century on, the dense injection of distilled human intellect that is advanced mathematics has, for better and worse, become so important for theoretical physics."

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,** 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 so please 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- Amy Leput Strahl on "Blackie: A Memoir of a Year with a Crow"

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](#).