

# The Frederick Torch *Bulletin*

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September 2024

[fredtorch.org](http://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/>

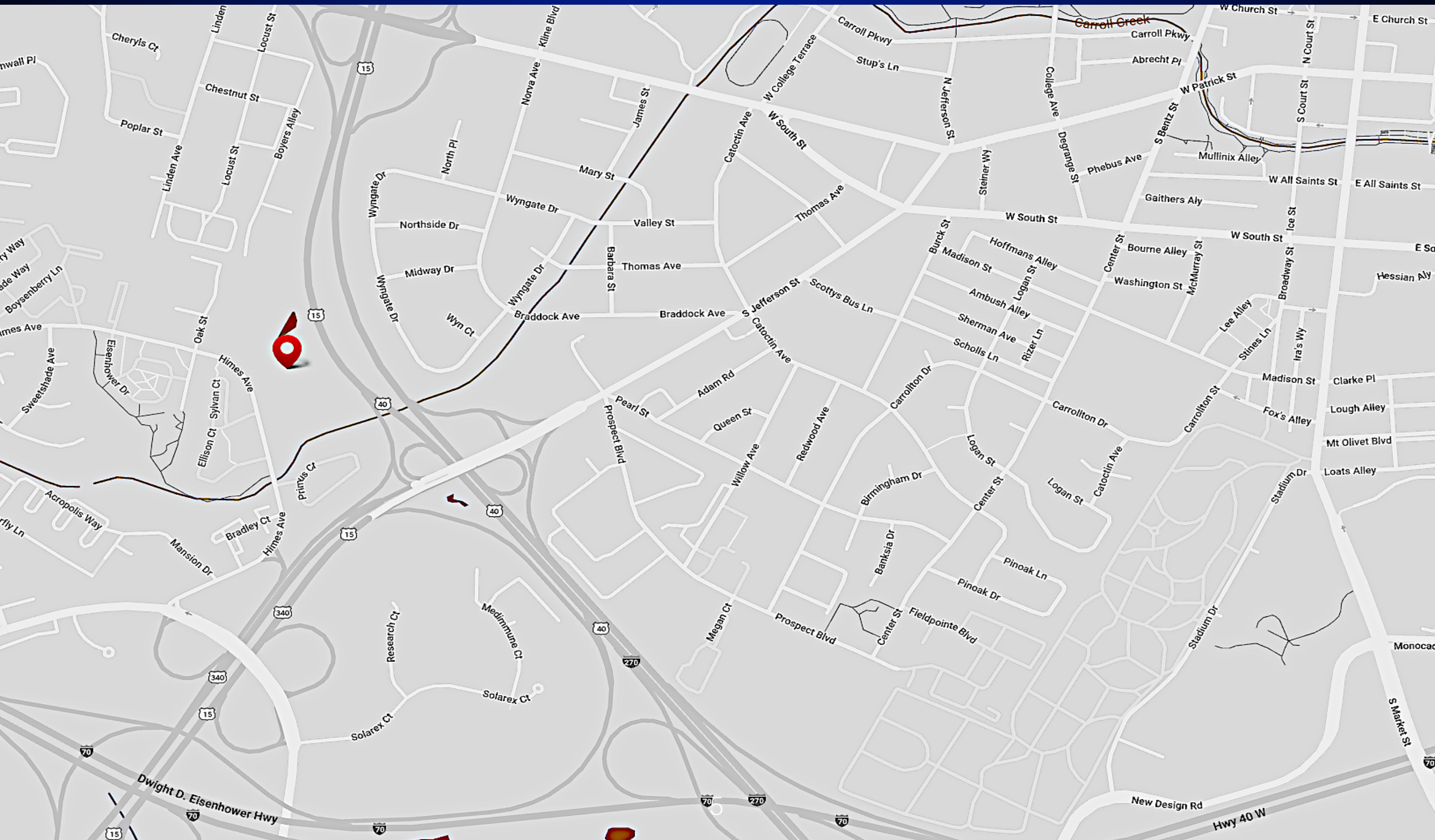


# Frederick Torch Club Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

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, September 23, 2024

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

Newest Torch member Jan Gardner has this to say on leading during Covid.

Uncertainty, fear, sadness, action, hope, resilience, and opportunity - all words that describe our collective feelings during the Covid pandemic. Many decisions were made throughout the months of the Covid pandemic, often without adequate knowledge or data, to do our best as local leaders to protect public health, support our economy, and help people in need. It is a story of hope and resilience but most important a story of our community coming together to take care of each other. While we all have "pandemic stories" to share, I will share my unique experiences, observations and perspectives from a position of leadership.

# This Month's Presenter

## Jan Gardner

Jan Gardner was elected in 2014 as Frederick County's first County Executive in the shift from commissioner-led government to charter government with an executive and County Council. After serving the maximum two terms, she retired from public life in 2022.



She previously served for 12 years as a county commissioner and was a member of three statewide school construction commissions, including the 21st Century School Facilities Commission. She also served on government boards and commissions in Frederick and Washington counties and other regional bodies, including serving as president of the Maryland Association of Counties and of the Washington Council of Governments.

# 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](mailto: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

## **John Clarke on "My 1956 Solo Journey from Kenya to England by Motor-Scooter via the Nile"**

John Clarke grew up in Kenya where his father worked as a British civil servant before Kenyan independence in 1963. After graduating from Prince of Wales High School in Nairobi with a Cambridge Overseas Higher School Certificate, it was time to enroll at the University of Bristol in England where he would take his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with first class honors.

This led to John's enthralling presentation on how he chose to get from Nairobi to Bristol. As we heard, the young John steered clear of airplanes or ships and instead, *as a teen*, drove his motorcycle all the way, an adventure which he described as "highly educational."

Indeed. This was quite a Torch presentation.

# 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](mailto:toniclarke101@gmail.com) or at 301.606.2694.

For more information and to download the club membership application, visit the website at [fredtorch.org](http://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 Chair     | Toni Clarke   |
| 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](#).