

The Frederick Torch *Bulletin*

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The Torch Club of Frederick, Maryland

Tap Here for New Club Website



Scroll



The image shows the interior of a restaurant with a rustic, Dutch-themed decor. The ceiling features a complex wooden beam structure with several large, spherical, patterned pendant lights. The walls are a mix of white and stone, with a stone fireplace in the background. The floor is dark wood. In the foreground, a round table is set with a white tablecloth, a glass of water, and a small owl figurine. In the background, there are more tables and chairs, and a bar area with a stone wall.

Lunch Meetings at Dutch's Daughter

Frederick Torch meets on fourth Mondays at noon.

581 Himes Avenue, Frederick, Maryland

<https://www.dutchsdaughter.com>

301 | 668 | 9500

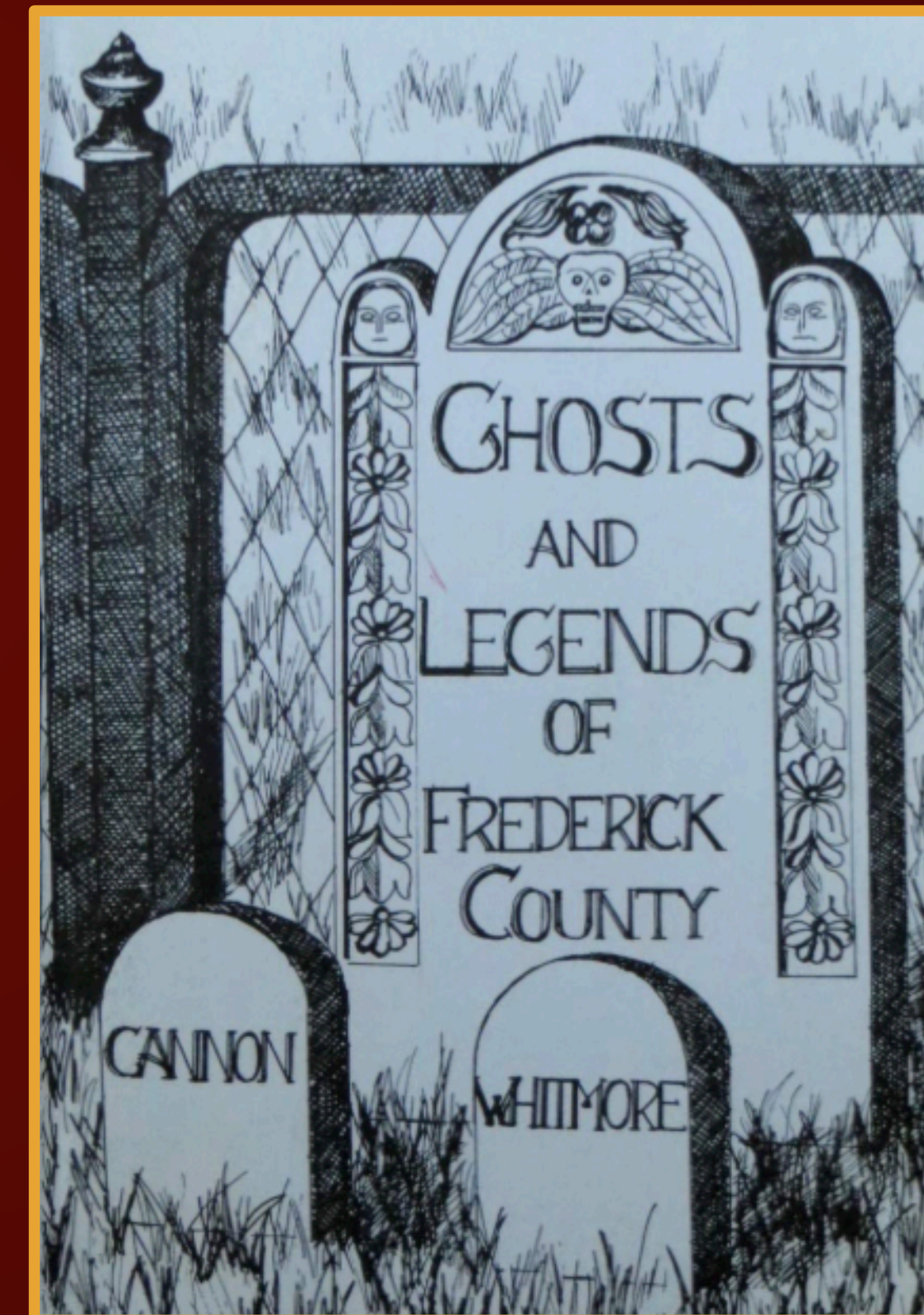
Next Presentation

Monday, October 26, 2026

Nancy Whitmore on "Ghosts and Legends of Frederick"

Nancy Whitmore authored *Ghosts and Legends of Frederick County* in 1979, which she co-authored with Timothy Cannon. She tells us, "For the talk I will describe how we decided to write the book, our efforts to get information from local individuals, as well as print sources. I will talk about some of our adventures and also talk about how we published the book."

The paperback may be ordered from Amazon [here](#).



This Month's Presenter

Nancy Whitmore

Nancy Whitmore grew up in Watertown, Massachusetts and graduated from the Chandler School for Women in Boston. While working for the Air Force, she met Frederick native Mark Whitmore, who would become her husband of 62 years. The two soon moved to Frederick, and Nancy, always a history buff, immediately fell in love with the area.

She managed the Waldenbooks store in Fredericktown Mall, then opened Waldenbooks in Francis Scott Key Mall. There she met Tim Cannon and Darby Panier, with whom she produced *Ghosts and Legends of Frederick County*.

One of Nancy's duties as store manager at Waldenbooks was to order local-interest books, and soon a publisher promoting books about Maryland asked her, along with co-author Tim Cannon, to write *Frederick, a Pictorial History*. Nancy and Tim retained the rights to the book, which has since been revised twice. Order [here](#).



Lunch Sign-up

 Please let us know if you plan to attend the lunch, your seating requests, and the names of your guests. Please respond to reservations@fredtorch.org.

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

Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor on "The State of the City"

Mayor O'Conner gave a well-received presentation on the health and challenges being experienced by Frederick, the county seat of Frederick County. Perhaps the best news was that Moody's recently raised its grade on Frederick's municipal bonds to AAA, the highest rating.

Mayor O'Connor placed considerable emphasis on Frederick's housing shortage and what his administration is doing to alleviate it and make it affordable for people with modest incomes. Several large new apartment buildings along West South Street and West Patrick Street will soon be ready for occupancy.

Much of the Mayor's presentation and the questions that followed it dealt with the threat of a large data center which is trying to pry its way in within the city limits.

All in all, the polish of the Mayor's presentation made it easy to see why he was easily elected to a third term.

2026-27 Presentations

September - December

*Many thanks to 2025-26 Program Committee Co-chairs
Marguerite Wilson and Toni Clarke for arranging the 2026-27 program line-up.*



September 28- Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor on "The State of the City"

October 26- Nancy Whitmore on "Ghosts and Legends of Frederick"

November 23- Ed McMahon on "Frederick Growth by Fault or Design"

December 14- Ed Seidewitz on "Edwin Albert Seidewitz (1866-1918): A Family Legacy in Maryland"

2026-27 Presentations

January - June

January 25- John Gardner on "Peaceful Beekeeping: 50 Years with Honeybees"

February 22- Dorothy Bonnett on "Circles of Women: A Discussion of Chinese Women's Lives"

March 22- Karl Bickel on "The Feasibility of a County Police Department"

April 26- Peter Michael on "Other Humans: The Revelations of Ancient DNA"

May 24- Lois Jarman on "Art and the Brain"

June 28- Annual Frederick Torch picnic

New Members



At our next lunch, be sure to welcome new club members **Pat and Tom Dorsz, Stephen and Bobbie Rideout, Karen Kapust and Christina Lund.**

As the second-largest of nearly 50 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 Chair Karl Bickel is here to help. You can get in touch with Karl at KarlBickel@comcast.net or 301.639.9665.

For more information and to download the club membership application, visit the new club website, fredericktorch.com.

2026-27 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 2026-27 directors and committee chairs.

Elected Directors

President	Margaret Procario
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Peter Michael
Treasurer	Jeff Wilson

Appointed Committee Chairs

Program Co-chair	Marguerite Wilson
Program Co-chair	Toni Clarke
Reservations Chair	Vacant
Membership Chair	Kark Bickel
Publications Chair	Peter Michael
Presentation Support	Michael Procario
Co-webmaster	Ed Seidewitz
Co-webmaster	Michael Procario

The International Association of Torch Clubs

IATC was founded in 1924 in Minneapolis as a social organization in which clubs discuss stimulating presentations by members and guest speakers. The Torch Club of Frederick is one of nearly 50 in the United States and Canada.

Torch members are intellectually inquisitive and comfortable in the world of ideas. Torch membership offers an outstanding environment in which to freely exchange topics of interest, enjoy comfortable dining venues, and, most of all, benefit from close fellowship.

Members benefit from *The Torch* magazine published three times a year. Each issue features the four or five best member-authored articles delivered to clubs as talks.

The Torch Foundation accepts donations and bequests which are used to defray operating costs, keep annual dues modest, support club attendance at annual Torch conventions, and fund the Paxton Prize awarded to the best *Torch* article each year.

Learn more at the Torch International website.

<https://www.torch.org/>

Club Archives

In the future, club archives will be referred to as Resources.

Club Website

The club is in the process of transitioning club archives to the new website for easier member access in one place. This is nearly complete. Visit the website [here](#).

2026-27 Program and Member Roster

The *2026-27 Program and Member Roster* now permanently reside at the website. Use password FredTorch1994 for access.

Torch Club of Frederick *Bulletin*

Bulletin archives from 2022-23 forward are now at the website. Older issues may still be viewed, downloaded or printed [here](#) for the time being.



Member Survey

Survey results may be viewed, downloaded or printed [here](#).