

Blue Ridge Torch Club of Leesburg
November 5, 2015
Volume IX, No. 3



**International
Torch Clubs**

Presentation for November 17, 2015

“Genealogy” by Nancy Downey

According to *USA Today*, genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the United States. Why do we pursue it? How can we use it in our own lives? Nancy Downey will share her ideas about the importance of genealogy. Ms. Downey believes that we do genealogy to learn where we came from and to discover and be inspired by the extraordinary lives of the ordinary people who came before us. Nancy has been doing genealogy research since 1974 and has compiled a family tree of over 23,000 people dating way back before the Middle Ages. She owned and ran a genealogy business for about ten years called Minnesota Ancestors.

President’s Notes

I hope that you are all planning to attend our wonderful November program (11/17) on genealogy, presented by Nancy Downey. Nancy has been involved in genealogy for many years and will help us understand why we should be interested, if not fascinated, as well.

In December we are having our traditional holiday party, again at Riverbend, but on a different day of the week than our usual Tuesday. Our party this year is **Thursday, December 17** at 6:00. As always, it will be a potluck, and will feature our amazing book exchange. So bring a book that you like and are prepared to describe to the rest of us, and enjoy the exchange rituals.

I would like especially to call your attention to *The Torch* this month (Fall, 2015). The recent winner of the Paxton award (given to the best paper presented at Torch club meetings) is published there, and it's really worth the read. As a four-page essay, "The Singularity: Technology and the Future of Humanism" by Roger A. Hughes, is quite a tour-de-force. We are invited to think seriously about what it means to be human in the 21st century and whether you accept Hughes's conclusion or not, the topic is well worth thinking about.

Our distinguished regional director, Anne Thomas, reminds us to donate your Torch magazines to the LW library in the Wilson room. The library volunteer staff will take them - just put them on the main desk.

See you on the 17th of November.

Mike

Book Exchange

Don't forget the book exchange! Torch Club members have wide interests and read many books. Are you ready to part with one of them? Bring a book with you to the next Torch Club meeting and put it on the table at the rear of the room. Feel free to take home a book with an intriguing title that someone else brought in. If the book you brought is not taken, take it home with you or leave it to be given to a library.

Upcoming Talks and Events

With the exception of the holiday party Thursday, December 17, everyone is welcome at Torch Club meetings. Guests, as well as members, must let Anne Miller know you plan to come because she has to inform both Crossroads Restaurant and clubhouse staff how many are coming to the dinner and lecture by the Friday before each meeting. She can be reached at 703-858-3917 or millerda52@gmail.com

Blue Ridge Torch Club Officers for 2015-2016

President, Mike Leavitt, michael.leavitt@gmail.com

Vice President, Bert Schlabach, bertschlabach@gmail.com

Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Beth Schlabach,
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Treasurer, Dave Thomas, datmatdat@gmail.com

Reservations chair, Anne Miller, millerda52@gmail.com

Blue Ridge Torch Club Members

Rose-Joan Barron, Ray Beery, Murray & Page Bradley, Joe Comtois, Joan & Lou D'Arienzo, Marge DeSimone, Nancy Downey, Audrey Emley, Ann & Doug Foard, Dolores Heck, Shirley Laing, Gini Laughlin, Mike & Eva Leavitt, Dianne Lebonville, Jackie Meeks, Anne & Jack Miller, Louis Moses, Bill & Kathy Muncy, Peg Neustadt, Memory Porter, Ann Robinson, Dolores Rothwell, Don Satsky, Bert &

Beth Schlabach, Gail Stanley, Janet Taliaferro, Anne & Dave Thomas, George Viener, Britt Wilford, Dona Wolf, and Anita Zatz

Greetings to Torch of Region 3

The Century Project is well under way celebrating 100 years of Torch clubs. Invite your friends to a meeting. Got any ideas of a nearby area which could use a club?

All regional meetings are open to members. The Region 3 meeting is Monday, April 11, 2016, Chambersburg, PA. Come! It is lots of fun. This month Dave and I are visiting the Torch Club in Winchester, VA and our brand new club in Fredericksburg, VA.

Upcoming events:

Annual Convention June, 2016, Columbus, Ohio

Cuba Trip, Road Scholar, special Torch tour, Feb 12-21, 2016

Anne Thomas, IATC, Director Region