

Blue Ridge Torch Club of Leesburg
April 10, 2016
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**International
Torch Clubs**

**Presentation for April 19, 2016, by Anne & Dave Thomas
“Cuba’s Fifty-year Marriage to Communism – For Better or Worse?”**

In February, several members of our Torch Club traveled to Cuba as part of a group of Torch Club members from all over North America (sponsored by the Road Scholar program). Dave and Anne Thomas will present a report on the status of Cuba today at a most exciting time for Cuban-American relations. While the report is not a travelogue, it will be accompanied by many of Dave’s wonderful photographs. This program should not be missed by anyone interested in the history, politics and economics of one of our closest neighbors.



President's Notes

As the Torch Club year moves towards its end, we have an interesting opportunity. Usually in June, we have some kind of members-only activity, such as a picnic or a lunch outside the clubhouse. We usually do it on our regular "third Tuesday" which will be June 21 this year. So far, however, no one has come forward to take charge of the event, so we might need an alternative that requires less time to plan, such as the following:

- A regular dinner meeting with either a speaker or something different
- A casual (no speaker) dinner either at Lansdowne Woods or elsewhere
- A pot-luck or catered dinner at a party room somewhere (but will require a volunteer to run)
- Nothing—no meeting until regular September meeting

Let's try to make a decision at our April meeting (see above), but in the meantime, if anyone would like to volunteer, or has any alternatives not mentioned, please let me know at michael.leavitt@gmail.com.

Reservations and Cancellations

Gini Laughlin receives reservations by phone or email: 703-729-2647 or gininix.laughlin@gmail.com

If you need a change in the listed entrée, you should let Gini know when you make your reservation. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call Gini at least a day in advance of the scheduled event. Please do not call the restaurant to cancel.

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,
bethkschlabach@gmail.com

Treasurer, Dave Thomas, datmatdat@gmail.com

Reservations Chair, Gini Laughlin, gininix.laughlin@gmail.com

Blue Ridge Torch Club Members

Rose-Joan Barron, Ray Beery, Murray & Page Bradley, Joe Comtois, Lou D'Arienzo, Marge DeSimone, Nancy Downey, Audrey Emley, Dolores Heck, Shirley Laing, Gini Laughlin, Mike & Eva Leavitt, Dianne Lebonville, Jackie Meeks, Anne & Jack Miller, Bill Muncy, Peg Neustadt, Memory Porter, Ann Robinson, Dolores Rothwell, Bert & Beth Schlabach, Marilyn Schwing, Gail Stanley, Janet Taliaferro, Anne & Dave Thomas, George & Sue Viener, Ursula Wagman, Britt Wilford, Dona Wolf, and Anita Zatz

Region 3 News

IATC National Convention: June 23-27, 2016, Columbus, Ohio.

Torch Conventions are a lot of fun and very stimulating. Details are in the recent *Torch* magazine or on line torch.org.

Anne Thomas, IATC, Director Region 3