

Blue Ridge – Leesburg Torch Club of Leesburg
February 2021
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International
Torch Clubs

Torch Club Tuesday, February 16, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
zoom.us/join --Meeting ID: 874 9070 7037 Passcode: 441448

Topic: **Nagorno-Karabakh**

Speaker: John Porter



Nagorno-Karabakh, a small, disputed region in the South Caucasus controlled by ethnic Armenians but inside the internationally recognized boundaries of Azerbaijan has been in worldwide headlines recently as fighting has once again broken out in a more than three-decade conflict. Although limited to a relatively small area, this conflict has significant international ramifications as it involves competing strategic interests of the United States, Russia, Turkey and Iran in the region, including the huge oil resources of the Caspian Sea.

John Porter, a resident of Blue Ridge, retired from the private practice of law in 2000 and began working with the American Bar Association (ABA) on international rule of law projects. Accompanied by his wife, Rose Ann, he worked and resided for more than ten years in Baku, Azerbaijan; Istanbul, Turkey; the Persian Gulf Kingdom of Bahrain, and Kosovo. Through work with lawyers, judges, prosecutors and government officials he had the opportunity to observe the ongoing effects of the “frozen conflict” in Nagorno-Karabakh and become personally acquainted with the personal and often-conflicting viewpoints of parties from Azerbaijan, Turkey and Armenia. John is a graduate of Stanford University with an AB in Philosophy and a Juris Doctor in law.

Blue Ridge Torch Club Officers for 2019-2021

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Welcome new members: Charlotte Fedders, John Porter, and Rose Ann Porter