

Blue Ridge Torch Club of Leesburg  
January 5, 2016  
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### **Presentation for January 19, 2016 by Page Bradley**

Last spring, Page Bradley visited the old mission in San Diego – high atop a hill east of the bustling city and port. The place is peaceful and quiet, but there is other busy activity going on there all the time, right under the noses of visitors. For some reason, the *alligator lizards* have made their home on the mission grounds. Maybe it's because the mission was founded by the Franciscans, who follow the teachings of St. Francis, patron saint of animals. Even though they are small and mostly hidden, there are stories to be told and lessons learned about these lizards. At this meeting, we will spend some time with Page in the beautiful garden of St. Francis and learn some of the history of the mission and the story of Luis the lizard.

### **President's Notes**

A quick note this month about two items. As we discussed at the November meeting, one of the purposes of Torch is providing an opportunity to socialize with other interesting people. This purpose is defeated when we come to the meeting; buy a glass of wine and immediately save your seat. Consider living dangerously and sitting with people you haven't met before! Other members! You might want to consider sharing the Torch experience with your friends and neighbors. We have access to a grant that will reimburse us for the cost of dinner when a guest becomes a member, so bring a guest and talk to me or one of the officers about how the grant works. See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Leavitt

### **Treasurer's Note**

You will receive an individual e-mail billing for the January-May dinners. Payment by mail is encouraged to simplify checking in at the January 19 meeting. Write your check to Blue Ridge Torch Club. Mail to my address: 19375 Cypress Ridge Ter #601, Leesburg, VA 20176.

Dave Thomas

## **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](mailto:gininix.laughlin@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, Bert & Beth Schlabach, Marilyn Schwing, Gail Stanley, Janet Taliaferro, Anne & Dave Thomas, George Viener, Britt Wilford, Dona Wolf, and Anita Zatz

## **Region 3 News:**

You are invited to the Region 3 spring meeting that is scheduled Monday, April 11, hosted by the Chambersburg, PA Club. Come meet Jim Coppinger, Executive Secretary of IATC (International Association of Torch Clubs) and Norine Haas, President, IATC, and fellow Torchers. It will be a great meeting. We will carpool.

Our Torch is hosting a Lansdowne Woods open house, Monday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Clubhouse Wilson Library. Come, bring a friend from both within LW and outside, enjoy refreshments, good talk, and learn more about Torch.

Four of our Torch members are traveling to Cuba with a Road Scholar Tour February 12 - 21. They are Jackie Meeks, Dolores Rothwell, Dave and Anne Thomas.

Anne Thomas, IATC, Director Region 3