

Blue Ridge Torch Club of Leesburg
January 10, 2017
Volume X, No. 5



Presentation for January 17, 2017

Speaker: Anne Thomas (Potomac Ridge): “Charleston and the Low Country – Then and Now”

Charleston, SC, has long been a jewel of the South situated between the Ashley and Cooper Rivers. It is a must-see city rich in antebellum architecture and exciting cultural events. Their premier event is the two-week Spoleto Festival which happens each year starting on the Memorial Day weekend. But you are also in the “low country,” home to marshes and rivers, an amazing array of wildlife and, of course, the beaches.

President’s Notes

Thanks to all attendees at our annual holiday party. The food was most tasty and the entertainment (the book exchange) was great fun--thanks to Nancy Downey for being the MC.

Our Torch Club seems, in so many ways, to be just the kind of club it needs to be. Members and guests enjoy the talks, the food, and especially, the company. We are having new presenters as well as old hands giving talks. We're getting out of our seats to socialize before dinner! And the dinner conversation appears to be free-wheeling, intelligent, and fun. What more could we want? Well, that's what I'm asking. Next year we'll have a new slate of officers, and I'd like to start them off with a list of possible improvements. That's where you come in. Please email me your suggestions (no deadline, but you might want to do it while you're thinking about it), and I'll compile them for the incoming administration. (I'll just remind them, whoever they may be, that we only have one President at a time!) See you at our next meeting January 17. Mike Leavitt

Vice President's Notes

Our program for this year is as follows. (It is, of course, subject to change.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Title</u>
February 21, 2017	Susan Merk	A Walk in Loudoun County
March 21, 2017	Tehmi Jamaspian	Spring Equinox Celebrations
April 18, 2017	George Viener	The Art of Cigar Store Figures
May 16, 2017	Irene Kelner	The Voice of America
June 20, 2017	Summer Party	

Reservations and Cancellations

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

Reservations for this month should be made not later than Friday, January 13.

Treasurer's Note

Your treasurer, Dave Thomas, aims to email the Spring dinner billings soon (taking account of carryover from the Fall). However, he may be late because of a family trip to Seattle, returning the day before the January 17 meeting. Please come with a check to pay for the individual meeting or, hopefully, for the five Spring dinners, January - May.

Blue Ridge Torch Club Officers for 2016-2017

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

Vice President, Eva Leavitt, eml@rocketmail.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, Brenda Brohard, Joe Comtois, Kay Curley, Marge DeSimone, Nancy Downey, Audrey Emley, Helen Falkenmeyer, Ann Gratz, Dolores Heck, Shirley Laing,

Gini Laughlin, Mike & Eva Leavitt, Dianne Lebonville, Dan Lyons, Jackie Meeks, Susan Merk, Anne Miller, Jack Miller, Bill Muncy, Peg Neustadt, Bonnie & Stan Olenn, Memory Porter, Ann Robinson, Bert & Beth Schlabach, Marilyn Schwing, Marbeth Spreyer, Gail Stanley, Janet Taliaferro, Anne A. Thomas, Anne H. & Dave Thomas, George Viener, Ursula Wagman, Britt Wilford, Bonnie Wohlford, Dona Wolf, and Anita Zatz

Region 3 New Opportunities - SAVE THE DATES:

Come meet your fellow Torchers! All Welcome!

Monday, April 24, Ceresville Mansion, Frederick, MD

3:00 - leadership workshop, all invited. Jim Coppinger, Executive Secretary, IATC, special guest. We did this last year in Chambersburg, and we learned a lot from each other.

6:00 cocktails, delicious buffet dinner

7:30 speaker - "Cuba" by Anne and Dave Thomas - sorry if you have heard this before, but we will bring the saga up to date.

9:00 adjourn

Reservation details TBA

International Association of Torch Clubs Convention, June 16-18, Kalamazoo, MI

A great time and great opportunity to see this fabulous country of ours and meet interesting people. Page and Murray Bradley will be delegates from our club. All welcome. More details TBA.

"Rainforest to Canal" March 9-21, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

This is an exclusive travel and learning experience for Torch members, family and friends.

Anne H. Thomas, IATC, Director Region 3