

Blue Ridge Torch Club of Leesburg
March 4, 2017
Volume X, No. 7



Presentation for March 21, 2017

“The First Day of Spring is the Vernal Equinox”

Speaker: Tehmi Jamaspian

Many countries around the world celebrate Spring as New Year, especially all the countries in the path of the "Silk Road." This celebration has gained UN recognition in 2010 and declared as an International Day of NowRuz (Persian for New Year). Pre- and post-celebrations will be presented, such as welcoming Spring 50 days before it arrives! Ending the festivities after 13 days...!

Like decking the hall during Christmas, traditionally a table is set with significant items. Come and see it for yourself and there are some surprises too as we welcome the light and happiness that Spring brings after dark days and nights of winter. You will be welcomed at the door in a "traditional NowRuz" way with rose water and a mirror.

President's Notes:

Welcome to Spring. My sympathy goes out to Northern Virginia newcomers who don't quite understand the meteorological volatility of this region (we had 4 inches of snow in mid-March just three years ago). I think our local weather volatility would make a fascinating Torch presentation.

This month I would like to preview our slate of officers for next year so that we all know who's doing what. Great thanks to past president Jack Miller who put together this slate:

President: George Viener
Vice President (Program Chair): Nancy Downey
Secretary (Newsletter): Anne A. Thomas
Treasurer: Janet Taliaferro (pronounced "Tolliver")
Immediate Past President: Mike Leavitt
Reservations Chair: Gini Laughlin

We will have our annual meeting in May to formally conduct the year's business and elect our officers. Many thanks to all those who have agreed to help our Torch Club be the wonderful group that it is.

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>
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, March 17.

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, Cosima Stankaitis, Gail Stanley, Janet Taliaferro, Anne A. Thomas, Anne H. & Dave Thomas, George Viener, Ursula Wagman, Bonnie Wohlford, Britt Wilford, 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.

Anne H. Thomas, IATC, Director Region 3