

MEMBERS

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Barry Berger	Peggy Hamaker	Andrew Norton
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Murray Bradley	Wes Henderson	Jeannie Raddatz
Page Bradley	Kathleen Hughes	Michael Raddatz
Brenda Brohard	Fran Hurley	Travis Sample
Steve Creskoff	Wayne Kaiser	Ann Schmitt
Kay Curley	Peggy King	Catherine Shepard
John Downey	Ken Konwin	Hugh Socke
Nancy Downey	Judith Kory	Dennis Spriggs
Hosny El-Khordagui	Eva Leavitt	Janet Taliaferro
Jerry Frola	Michael Leavitt	Anne A Thomas
Joe Gibson	Barbara Leone	Anne H Thomas
Rosa Gibson	Joline Matheson	Bill Thomas
Jim Grefer	Doug McCollum	Dave Thomas
Steve Gross	Sue McCollum	George Viener
Trudy Gross	Sue Merk	Britt Wilford
Carol Hall-Veit	Joyce Mitchell	Terry Wilford
	Pat Monahan	Dona Wolf

Blue Ridge Torch Club Officers 2023-2025

President: Dona Wolf

Vice President: Anne Thomas

Secretary: Jim Grefer

Treasurers: Kent Hamaker and Judy Kory



International Association of Torch Clubs

Blue Ridge Torch Club of Leesburg, Virginia

February 11, 2025

The local Torch club is the heart and soul of the International Association of Torch Clubs, with over seventy clubs in the U.S. and Canada. It is the place where ideas flow together, sometimes clash, and often explode into new patterns of thought. It is a meeting ground where members share their individual perspectives in an atmosphere of free thought and expression. The local Torch club provides an opportunity for persons of disparate backgrounds and varied experiences to meet face-to-face and share social and intellectual adventures in a relaxed atmosphere. In short, Torch offers its members a place where active minds become more active and where personal growth emerges for those who participate.

<http://www.torch.org/>

February 11, 2025

PROGRAM

5:30 Social Time
6:00 p.m. Call to Order – Dona Wolf
6:10 p.m. Dinner
7:15 p.m. Program



Speaker: Steve Creskoff

Topic: “Our Man in Moscow”

Steve spent his career as an international trade lawyer in more than 50 countries. He worked in private law practice, for US Government, and for international organizations such as U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and the United Nations. Between September 2004 and February 2006, he was Chief of Party for a World Bank consulting project in Moscow. This project was designed to help Russia change its laws to conform with requirements of the World Trade Organization and the World Customs Organization agreements.

His talk, illustrated with photos, will cover some of the revealing and amusing experiences he had working in Russia and discuss where we are today in US-Russia relations.

8:15p.m. Adjourn

Next month’s program – March 11, 2025

Speaker: Mike Leavitt

Topic:

History of Zionism



The history of Zionism spans thousands of years, from its roots in ancient biblical texts through its continuous appearance in Jewish prayer books to its modern manifestation as a political movement in the late 19th century and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. This talk will trace the development of Zionist ideas and aspirations from biblical times through key historical periods, culminating in the creation of Israel and ongoing debates surrounding Zionism today.

