



BLUE RIDGE TORCH CLUB OF LEESBURG VIRGINIA

Celebrating 19 Years in Lansdowne

November 2025

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Treasurer's Report

On October 27, 2025, the Blue Ridge Torch Club had an account balance of \$6,325.

Remember what Thanksgiving Day used to be.



**Coming December 9:
Blue Ridge Torch Club
Holiday Party**

BLUE RIDGE TORCH CLUB Dinner, Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Ambiance Banquet Restaurant (Cash Bar opens 5:30) Dinner at 6:00

“What Can We Expect From the Administration’s U.S. Tariff Policies?” by Steve Creskoff and Jim Grefer

Jim will discuss the economics of tariffs and tariff policies. He will describe how tariff taxes work, who pays the taxes, and how the tax-costs filter through the economy. He will describe the effects of tariffs on the economies of the countries that charge the tariff and the countries on which the tariff is charged. Along the way, he will explore why economists do not like tariffs and why politicians do like them.

Steve will discuss the administration’s tariff policies and their potential effects on international trade and trade relations with its allies and adversaries. He will explore the complexities of measuring imports, especially with respect to intermediate goods, and the difficulty of forecasting responses, and perhaps retaliation, by U.S. trading partners.

Steve spent his career as an international trade lawyer in more than fifty countries. He worked in private law practice, US Government, and for international organizations such as USAID, World Bank and United Nations. Steve and his partner Kathleen Hughes live in Magnolia North.

Jim is a U.S. Navy veteran and a retired economist, who spent most of his career doing economic research for the Navy as a defense contractor. Since retiring, he has pursued his interest in U.S. economic history and economic policy. Jim and his wife Helena live in Potomac Ridge.

Menu for November dinner. We begin with a Greek salad, along with Khachapuri, a Georgian puff pastry. For entrees, we offer a choice of Pork Chops with Garlic Butter Sauce and Thyme, or Chicken Piccata with Lemon Butter Sauce, Capers, and Shallots. We will offer a vegetarian dish. For dessert, cheese cakes or puff pastry delight, coffee & tea.

Prices are \$45 for members and \$50 for guests. Please pay with check with your building representative or pay with check or cash at the door. For reservations go to blueridgetorchclub.org. Click on the red icon “Register for the November 11 Meeting.” The deadline for RSVP or cancellation is Thursday, November 6. Those who cancel after the deadline will be responsible for payment.

October Torch Meeting

Last month the Blue Ridge Torch Club inducted four new members: Bill and Janet Walker and Beckham and Tina Dickerson.

Of course, Joline Matheson gave her famous talk on *Hypnosis and Power of Suggestion*. She says, that we are surrounded by suggestions every day but many are not explicit and our response doesn't have to be conscious.



Beckham Dickerson, Bill and Janet Walker, Joline Matheson and Wayne Kaiser

Direct suggestions are straight forward statements that lead to an action. Indirect suggestions can sometimes implant an idea without your thinking about it. For example, advertising can imply that using their product will make your whole life better by showing happy healthy people even when the rapid voiceovers warn of potential problems.



Hypnosis is a state of consciousness involving focused attention and increased response to suggestion. While hypnotized a person is awake and aware but they are relaxed and the hypnotist can guide their focus and make suggestions for changes in attitude or behavior. It has many uses including reducing pain, changing bad habits, reducing anxiety, or building ego strength and coping skills.

Stage hypnosis can involve real hypnosis but also relies on selecting the right subjects and often uses deception. Hypnosis is not scary or weird, and it is

President's Column

Our October dinner featured speaker Joline Matheson's *Hypnosis and the Power of Suggestion*. Joline was busy that night. Not only did she grace us with a very interesting and informative topic, but she and Judy Kory collected dinner and dues payments at the door. During the business portion of the meeting, Joline inducted four new Torch members: Bill and Janet Walker and Beckham and Tina Dickerson.

Joline's talk attracted 68 attendees, including 20 guests, a very large fan club, indeed. While we always welcome guests to attending our meetings, we also hope our guests will consider becoming Torch members.

The Torch Club will hold its next dinner meeting on Tuesday, November 11, at Ambiance Banquet Restaurant and Event Hall, where Steve Creskoff and Jim Grefer will discuss the President's new tariffs. Steve will talk about the international politics of tariff policies, and Jim will cover the economics of tariff taxes for both U.S. consumers and international businesses and governments.

We still need Torch speakers for late Spring and Fall this year. If you are interested in giving a Torch Talk, please write two or three paragraphs about your topic and which months you will be available to give the talk, and send it to any Torch officer.

Similarly, additional information about membership applications can be requested of any Torch officer.

Wayne

Authors in Our Midst Part 2

By Dona Wolf

As a follow-up to our first article about authors in our Torch Club beginning with our club founder, George du Bois, this piece will recognize two other Charter members who were well known for their literary expertise.

The first was Noel Grove, a freelance writer who lived on the Blue Ridge near Paris, VA. He was a staff writer for the National Geographic Society for 25 years, authored 28 by-lined articles for the magazine, contributed chapters to five National Geographic books, and was the Society's first environmental specialist. He authored *Wild Lands for Wildlife: America's National Refuges and Preserving Eden* before leaving NGS in 1994.

Afterward, he wrote seven more books including *The Lure of Loudoun: Centuries of Change in Virginia's Emerald County*, a beautiful coffee table book with more than 200 pages of text and photos illustrating Loudoun County's past and present.

Noel's ninth book, *Anyone but Duane*, was a true story about the "nicest young man" who was a farm-raised, church-going high school and college athlete, president of his senior class, blonde, good looking and sought after by many coeds. In 1965 at age 22, he walked into a Kansas bank and robbed it, killing three bank employees in the process. The enigma of how a such a thing could happen to a young man known for his exemplary behavior and gentle manner was such a mystery to everyone who knew him, and nagged at Noel who spent several years researching and writing this book to discover the answers.

The second author was my late husband, Dwight Ink, also a Charter Member of our Blue Ridge Torch Club whom many of you knew. Known more for his managerial effectiveness serving in policy positions under seven presidents (Eisenhower to George W. Bush), Dwight nonetheless authored dozens of professional articles and two books on improving government management.

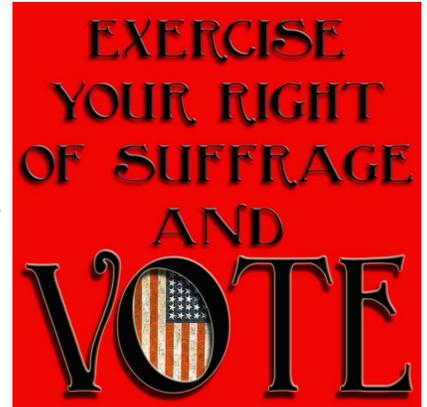
The first book was *The Nixon Presidency*, published by the Center for the Study of the Presidency, which included articles by both practitioners and academics. Dwight, who served as the Assistant Director for Management at OMB and later as Administrator of the General Services Administration, often referred to Richard Nixon's Administration as the Jekyll and Hyde presidency.

His second book, *Getting Things Done with Courage and Conviction*, is a series of case studies regarding challenges Dwight faced as Assistant General Manager of the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1950's, Assistant Secretary at HUD during the Watts riots in Los Angeles in 1966), overseeing the reconstruction of Alaska after the 1964 earthquake, and dealing with El Salvador Sandinistas and Panama Dictator Manuel Noriega as Assistant Secretary for Latin America as USAID in the 1980's. Dwight's book is a standard textbook for graduate courses in public administration programs around the country.

Coming Next: Authors in Our Midst Part 3.

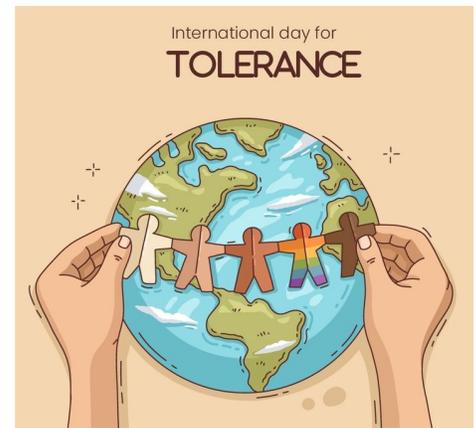
November Holidays and Celebrations

Election Day, the Tuesday after the first Monday of November. This year, in Virginia, it is November 4: Because it comes on a Tuesday, voters often have to work on election day. Many states, including Virginia, have made election day a State Holiday. Some have even mandated employers to allow voters a couple of hours off with pay. Virginia has its election in odd years instead of even years like most states (46 other states to be exact). This came about after the Civil War. Virginia was required to write a new constitution, in which it allowed Black men to vote. If Virginia had just done that, elections would be on even years. Instead, it procrastinated, and had its first election in 1869. After that, it was 1873, 1877, and so on until today, its election is 2025.



Veteran's Day, Nov 11: Originally called Armistice Day, it celebrated our victory of World War 1 in 1918. To quote President Woodrow Wilson, "Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly..." Armistice Day was renamed Veteran's Day in 1954, in order to commemorate all U.S. war veterans. Each year, Lansdowne Woods has a Veterans Day celebration, with speakers, music, and patriotism. It is held each year at 11 am in our auditorium.

International Day for Tolerance, Nov 16: This holiday came after the adoption of a *Declaration of Principles Tolerance and Non-Violence* in 1995 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Among other things, the Declaration declares that tolerance is "neither indulgence nor indifference. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, forms of expression, and ways of being human." At its core, the holiday symbolizes respect, empathy, and open-mindedness. In the U.S., with its many races, religions, and traditions, tolerance becomes a vital component of social cohesion



Blue Ridge Torch Officers wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving Day

- Wayne Kaiser, President: wkaiser2367@gmail.com
- Ken "Crash" Konwin, Vice President: kkonwin@aol.com
- Jim Grefer, Secretary/Newsletter Editor: greferjames@gmail.com
- Fred Bishopp, Co-Treasurer: fredbishopp@hotmail.com
- Joline Matheson, Co-Treasurer: jjmat@gmail.com
- Dona Wolf, Past President: donawolf@aol.com

Current Members

Charlene Ahmed	Peggy Hamaker	Bill Phillips
Syed Ahmed	Kenton Hamaker	Pat Phillips
Barry Berger	Neelam Henderson	Memory Porter
Fred Bishopp, Jr	Wes Henderson	Jeannie Raddatz
Murray Bradley	Kathleen Hughes	Michael Raddatz
Page Bradley	Fran Hurley	Travis Sample
Brenda Brohard	Wayne Kaiser	Ann Schmitt
Sheila Cramer	Maria Kelly	Catherine Shepard
Steve Creskoff	Peggy King	Hugh Sockett
Kay Curley	Ken "Crash" Konwin	Dennis Spriggs
Tom Devaney	Judith Kory	Janet Taliaferro
Beckham Dickerson	Eva Leavitt	Anne A Thomas
Tina Dickerson	Michael Leavitt	Anne H Thomas
Nancy Downey	Barbara Leone	Bill Thomas
Madelon Eisenberg	Joline Matheson	Dave Thomas
Hosny El-Khordagui	Doug McCollum	George Viener
Jerry Frola	Sue McCollum	Janet Walker
Joe Gibson	Sue Merk	William Walker
Rosa Gibson	Joyce Mitchell	Britt Wilford
Jim Grefer	Pat Monahan	Terry Wilford
Carol Hall-Veit	Elsa Moustafa	Dona Wolf
	Andrew Norton	

**Peace is not only the absence of war,
but the presence of justice, equality,
and human rights**

Widad Akreyi, Global Health Expert and founder
of "Defend International" a human rights NGO

