

# THE TORCH CLUB OF FREDERICK, MARYLAND

[fredtorch.org](http://fredtorch.org)



## Monthly Bulletin

Volume 26, Number 2

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# YOUR 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Welcome Back

President John Menke and the other members of the Torch Club of Frederick's board of directors welcome you back for this Torch year's interesting programs and dinners. We look forward to seeing you.

President	John Menke
Vice President	John Hewetson
Secretary	Peter Michael
Treasurer	Claire Kondig
Assistant Treasurer	John Kondig
Program Chairs	Pat Allen & Roy Greene
Membership Chair	Frank Sledge
Reservations Chair	John Hewetson

# NEED A LIFT TO DINNER?



Membership Chair Frank Sledge invites you to get in touch with him and he will do his best to arrange your transportation to and from club dinners. You can reach Frank at [f.sledge@comcast.net](mailto:f.sledge@comcast.net) or at 301.980.2019.

# NEXT PRESENTATION

OCTOBER 28, 2019

## **Jack Topchik on "The Effects of the Espionage Spy Trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on the American Jewish Community"**

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, avowed communists from New York City, were arrested in the summer of 1950, tried for conspiracy to commit espionage, found guilty by a jury in 1951, condemned to death, and executed in 1953. They left two orphaned sons, aged 10 and 7 at the time of the executions. The effect on America's Jewish community, still moving gradually into the mainstream of American life, was numbing.



# DINNER SIGN-UP

Attending or not, please let Vice President John Hewetson know and, if you plan to attend, your seating requests and the names of your guests. Please respond to John soon at [torchreservations@gmail.com](mailto:torchreservations@gmail.com) (preferably) with “Torch” in the subject line of your email, or call him at 301.663.8130.

~ No click-through? Paste the email address into the “To” line of an email.~

**Sign-up Deadline**— No later than five days before the dinner

**Cost**— \$30 per person (also payable if a signed-up no-show)

**Cancellations**— Email the address above before the day of the dinner.

**Book Exchange**— To enjoy this pleasant club offering, put books you bring on the book table. You may take the same number as you brought. Before leaving, you may take any remaining books and must take yours.

# THIS MONTH'S PRESENTER

**Jack Topchik** knew by the age of 10 that he would work for a newspaper someday. He still considers his newspaper delivery route from ages 11 to 14 to be the best job he ever had. After completing his route he sat down with a cold soda and devoured every page of his New Jersey hometown newspaper to observe and study what he still refers to as the daily miracle of print journalism.



Jack graduated from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville in June 1967 and four months later started what would begin a 40-year career at *The New York Times* News Service, the wire service arm of the newspaper, serving, at various times, as European editor, Latin American editor, Special Sections editor, photo editor and, yes, fashion editor. At its height, the News Service division was serving nearly 600 news publications and governments throughout the world.

# MOST RECENT PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

## **Syl Schieber on "Healthcare USA: A Threat to Future Prosperity"**

Syl's well argued presentation looked behind the current political discourse to show why health care spending is a threat to future prosperity and cost control is imperative to correct the situation.

Drug and insurance costs were cited as causing public angst, soaring insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses, and medical bankruptcies.

Syl brought out that with drug and insurance costs and personal spending on health accounting for less than a third of national medical spending—the lowest share in the past 60 years—it is structural inefficiencies in the US health care system that balloon overall costs, the highest of any nation as a proportion of GNP.





# 2019-2020 PRESENTATIONS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

Many thanks to last year's Program Chair Jack Topchik for lining up the following presentations for the 2019-2020 year.

- **September 23, 2019**

Syl Schieber on "Healthcare USA: A Threat to Future Prosperity"

- **October 28, 2019**

Jack Topchik on "The Effects of the Espionage Spy Trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on the American Jewish Community"

- **November 18, 2019**

Jeff Wilson with John Menke on "Technological Developments Related to Climate Change"

- **December 16, 2019**

Amy McDougal on "Medical Marijuana"

The speaker is the daughter of club member Penny McDougal.



# 2019-2020 PRESENTATIONS

JANUARY - MAY

- **January 27, 2020**

Toni Clarke on "Foster Care in Maryland"

- **February 24, 2020**

John Menke on an intriguing astronomy-related topic

- **March 23, 2020**

John George on "Three Maryland Gardens—Hampton, Ladew, and Paca"

- **April 27, 2020**

Marguerite Wilson on "Two 19<sup>th</sup> Century Court Cases Involving Maryland Slave Owners"

- **May 18, 2020**

Clare Kondig on "The Impact of *The McGuffie Reader* on American Education"

# NEW MEMBERS

Our newest member is retired Secret Service official **Larry Cunningham** who was inducted at the September meeting. Please be sure to welcome Larry at the October dinner. His contact information has been entered into the club roster (link on the following slide).



Do you have acquaintances who would enjoy stimulating company, lively conversation, and interesting exchanges of ideas over excellent dinners, all followed by fascinating presentations? Invite them to a Torch Club dinner or two and then to join Torch.

For additional information and the club membership application, visit the club website at [fredtorch.org](http://fredtorch.org) or contact Membership Chair Frank Sledge at [f.sledge@comcast.net](mailto:f.sledge@comcast.net).

# CLUB ARCHIVES

Be sure to bookmark the following links in your web browser.

## **Torch Club of Frederick *Bulletin***

Past issues of the Torch Club of Frederick *Bulletin* beginning with the October 2017 issue have been archived and may be viewed, downloaded or printed [here](#).



## **2019-20 Program and Member Roster**

The *2019-2020 Program and Member Roster* are now available and updated regularly. View, download or print [here](#).



## **Club Website, Board Meeting Minutes and More**

Minutes of meetings of the board of directors of the Torch Club of Frederick may be reached at the club website [here](#).