

THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB
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Dawn Elardo, Club Manager

December 2015

Winter Break: The Club will be closed December 24 through January 1 for Winter Break.

At this special time of year, we express our gratitude to the hard-working Club staff with a generous gift to the Staff Appreciation Fund. You may mail in your check or make a pledge that will be billed in December. Your gifts will convey to Dawn, our indefatigable manager, Chuck, our imaginative cook, and Cindy, our ever-pleasant server, just how much we thank them for their efforts on our behalf throughout the year. Your thoughtful gift should be sent in or pledged by Wednesday, December 16. Thank you!

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Thursday, December 3. Luncheon with Guest Speaker. Upstairs at noon: Lunch at 12:15. We welcome **Ann G. Giroux** for a presentation of her new book, *Guilford: Image of America*. Ann is a historian, garden enthusiast and former consultant for historic projects for the State of Maryland. Her book is a well-researched history of one of Baltimore's most prominent neighborhoods that today remains a showcase example of the American garden city movement.

Thursday, December 10. HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: Noon. 'Tis the season, so please join us for the Club's traditional holiday gathering. Following a buffet luncheon, Marilyn Tabb will play the piano upstairs for caroling or listening. Guests are most welcome. And, if you should arrive a bit early, the Upstairs Lounge will be open as usual for wine and soft drinks.

Monday, December 14. French Table: 12:00-1:00. Join other Club members for an hour of conversation and lunch, *en français* with a little English, but mostly French. You don't have to be fluent to enjoy the hour -- come listen and speak when you wish. Please sign up in advance.

Wednesday, December 16. Book Swap: Lunch at noon; Book Swap to follow. Get yourself a special Holiday gift or a last minute present for your granddaughter's friend who is unexpectedly visiting and all for no money. How? It is simple. Come to our Book Swap on Dec. 16 and bring a book you enjoyed. After explaining to other attendees the book's plot, history, characters, we will enjoy exchanging books. Then, everyone leaves with a new book that she can't wait to begin reading.

Thursday, December 17. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at Noon, Lunch at 12:15 Baltimore based food alchemist, **Meaghan Carpenter**, will demystify the concept of probiotics and fermentation in our diets. She is the co-owner of HEX Ferments at Belvedere Square. We know that once you taste what fermented foods can do to enhance your plate and palate, you'll be hungry for more (and so will your mind and body). Feed your microbiome and go with your gut during the upcoming holiday season! We will be sampling her products.

Monday, December 21. Current Events Discussion: Lunch and Discussion at noon.

Please join us as we contemplate and try to understand the issues of the day with the help of articles by respected thinkers. Come and bring your informed views and your sense of humor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 13. Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:30. Watch for your invitation to **Lunch by Chance**, an occasional opportunity to join members you may not see regularly and their guests. Because we are a cohort of remarkable women, this is a wonderful chance to become better acquainted with members who are not always at the Club when we are. It's always encouraging to hear the responses of others who have attended in the past. Words like 'What fun' and 'Pleasantly surprising' and 'So glad I went!' are often the reaction. If you are not on the January list, sit tight -- your turn for a *chance meeting* is in the future.

Thursday, January 14. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. **Bridget Cavaiola**, the Education Director for the Baltimore Improv Group, will welcome us to the wonderful world of Improv comedy and acting. Learn how to create a 2 minute comedy scene or a two act unscripted play from a one word suggestion from the audience. Explore Improv games that tweek your imagination. Bridget has been performing and teaching improv to adults and children since 2005. She is a Teaching Artist with Young Audiences of Maryland, a Maryland State Certified Educator and a former high school English and Theater teacher. Bridget also is a professor at CCBC teaching in the Communications Department.

Monday, January 25. French Table: 12:00-1:00. Join other Club members for an hour of conversation and lunch, *en français* with a little English, but mostly French. You don't have to be fluent to enjoy the hour -- come listen and speak when you wish. Please sign up in advance.

Monday, January 25. Current Events Discussion: Lunch and Discussion at noon. Please join us as we contemplate and try to understand the issues of the day with the help of articles by respected thinkers. Come and bring your informed views and your sense of humor.

AROUND THE CLUB

We are pleased to welcome **Carrie Cass** as a new member. She is a lady with many interests including music, opera, gardening, volunteering at the Rawlings Conservatory and attending classes at the Renaissance Institute. Carrie lives in Bolton Hill and has already participated in the Bridge Group on several occasions. We look forward to seeing her at more events at the Club.

Mah Jong: Is anyone interested in playing *Mah Jong*? Rosemary Eck has generously donated a beautiful mah jong set to The Club, so we would like to start a weekly game. The plan is to play in the morning and then stay for lunch. Please let Dawn know if you are interested and what day(s) you could play. If you have not played before but are interested in learning, please let Dawn know. The Friday bridge game has been quite a success, so we are hoping to follow that model for a successful *mah jong* group.