

THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB
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Dawn Elardo, Club Manager

The Club will be closed Monday, February 20th for Presidents' Day

FEBRUARY 2017

It is official! Carla Hayden has been granted an Honorary Life Membership by the Board and by a quorum of members of the Hamilton Street Club. The secretary of the club will send a letter to Carla Hayden informing her of her new status.

Also, I had a productive lunch with Jim Ulmer, the chair of 14 West Hamilton Street Club, our brother institution. It is possible that the two clubs will share ideas and events in the future. At least the doors are open to further communications, always a positive approach.

Finally, I remind you that our club's web site, www.hamiltonstclub.com, *The Hamilton Street Club: An Exceptional Club for Women in Baltimore* provides up-to-date information about the club's history, its programs, and its bylaws and house rules. In order to access the list of current members, members of committees and members of the Board, you will need a password which you can obtain by calling Dawn and requesting it.

Our New Year has begun with a host of fabulous programs. So come join your fellow members for informative talks accompanied by delicious lunches and lively conversation. Better yet, bring a friend and introduce her to all the benefits of being a member of our club.

Joan

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Thursday, February 9. Book Discussion: Lunch at noon. Want help finishing the NY Times crossword puzzle? Know your Shakespeare! Or, at least, a current up-date. One place to look is Ann Tyler's new novel *Vinegar Girl*. This is a quick-paced modern screwball set (where else?) in Baltimore. We meet Kate Battista, a 29-year-old pre-school teacher, who doesn't want to marry. Or, so she says. Naturally, her brilliant Hopkins scientist father, who is on the breakthrough of a major scientific project to which he has devoted his life, needs the assistance of Pyotr, his young male lab assistant, who is about to lose his visa. And now the plot thickens. We have seen the skeleton of the plot and the fun is in reading its fleshing out. Just remember that you can catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than a barrel of vinegar. Let's have fun discussing all this silliness on Feb. 9, **Ellen O'Brien** will lead this discussion.

Thursday, February 16. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon. Lunch at 12:15. Come learn about a very popular specialized literary genre when Baltimore-based science fiction writer **Sarah Pinsker** tells about her burgeoning career. "I like to explore the edges," she said in a recently published interview, "technologies that are useful but can lead to unexpected problems." Her novelette, "Our Lady of the Open Road", won the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association's Nebula Award in 2016. Her fiction has been published in magazines including *Asimov's*, *Strange Horizons*, *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Lightspeed*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Fireside*, and *Uncanny* and in anthologies including *Long Hidden*, *Fierce Family*, *Accessing the Future*, and numerous "year's best"

compilations. Her stories have been translated into Chinese, Spanish, French, and Italian, among other languages. Sarah is also a singer/songwriter with three albums on various independent labels (the third with her rock band, *the Stalking Horses*) and a fourth forthcoming.

Wednesday, February 22. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. **John Tapscott**, Manager of Public Programs & Naturalist at the Irvine Nature Center, will present a program about oysters and their role in a healthy Chesapeake Bay. He will discuss the biology of the oyster, its habitat in the Bay, how water pollution and sediment adversely affect the oyster population, oyster farming and harvesting, and how the oyster restoration efforts are helping water quality in the Bay.

Monday, February 27. 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, your sense of humor, and perhaps a guest or two.

Monday, February 27. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 20. 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, your sense of humor, and perhaps a guest or two.

Thursday, March 23. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; lunch at 12:15. The newly-opened Baltimore Immigration Museum covers the story of the 1.5 million immigrants who landed in Baltimore (America's third port of entry) during 1830-1914 as part of a global and international immigration movement of 60 million people. The Museum is located in an actual boarding house in Locust Point where immigrants stayed temporarily, waiting for job and housing opportunities in Baltimore, just a few blocks from the Immigration Pier where their ships landed. The discussion will cover America's immigration policies in the 1920s ("closing the gates") and the immigration liberalization of the 1960s. **Dr. Nicholas Fessenden** is the historian/treasurer of the Baltimore Immigration Museum. He taught history at Friends School during 1972-2010 and as also taught as an adjunct at Towson University, Maryland Institute of Art, and Community College of Baltimore County.

Monday, March 27. 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.

WAIT LIST ONLY: Wednesday, March 29. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. Architect **Diane Cho**, a principal of the Baltimore firm Cho Benn Holback, will discuss her work renovating and redesigning the Chesapeake Shakespeare Theater, Everyman Theater, and, most recently, Center Stage. As theatergoers will attest, her work has changed the nature of experiencing theater in Baltimore. Come learn more about her philosophy of theater design and the challenges inherent in renovating an historic building into a viable modern theater.

Tuesday, April 4. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. **Phoebe Hayes**, Director of Horseman's Relations at Laurel and Pimlico Race courses, will discuss her work at these two horse racetracks, the plans of the current owners, the Stronach Group, for the facilities, and the outlook for the 2017 Triple Crown races. The history of Pimlico Racetrack is tightly tied to the history of Maryland and the annual Preakness Stakes is one of the premier sporting events

in the nation. Ms. Hayes will take us 'behind the scenes' to find out how the many people involved--horse owners, trainers, jockeys, racetrack owners, stablehands, etc--coordinate this event.

Monday, April 17. 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, your sense of humor, and perhaps a guest or two.

Thursday, April 20. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon. Lunch at 12:15. **Ralph Webster**, in his first book, *A Smile in One Eye: A Tear in the Other*, tells the story of the Wobsers, prosperous, churchgoing and good Germans, living in a small East Prussian town. With the rise of Nazism, they are told they are Jews and are persecuted, even though they have been Baptized and confirmed as Lutherans. The author reports on how his family's life is destroyed as they flee their heretofore comfortable lives. Ralph Webster's father is the central figure in this remarkable story. The book raises the question: What does it mean to be Jewish: Is it a religion, a race, an ethnicity?

Monday, April 24. 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.

AROUND THE CLUB

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Jackie Noller

Jackie, a retired financial advisor/brokerage executive, has been board secretary for the Alzheimer Association of Md, Growth Committee chair for the Md Film Festival, and Finance Committee chair for the Lovely Lane United Methodist Church. Her interests include healthy aging, arts and literature, local community revitalization, international development/affairs, and women's advocacy/projects. She is fluent in French, 'mediocre' in bridge. Thank you to Barbara Francis and Cathy Dryden for proposing Jackie.