

**THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB
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Dawn Elardo, Club Manager

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The Club will be closed on Friday March 25.

MARCH PROGRAMS

Thursday, March 3, Book Discussion: Lunch at noon, Discussion to follow. Joan Feldman will lead a discussion of *My Brilliant Friend* by acclaimed Italian author Elena Ferrante. *My Brilliant Friend* is the first volume in Ferrante's compelling Neapolitan Quartet and begins the story of the lifelong friendship between two women born in 1944 in a poor neighborhood in Naples. Elena, the narrator of the story, meets Lila in first grade and is immediately taken with her because "she was very bad". Though both girls excel in school, Elena's parents manage to provide funds necessary to continue her education, while Lila's refuse. Thus Elena embodies "those who leave" and Lila "those who stay". Yet Lila remains the volatile, creative force – both cherished and envied – that motivates Elena's progress. This volume ends with the girls, who are now sixteen, at Lila's marriage to a fellow from the neighborhood, while Elena dreams of future publications and the thrill of seeing her name in print. The story of Elena and Lila is enhanced by the author's skill at bringing to life the turbulent times of the post WWII period in a poverty stricken area of Naples.

Wednesday, March 9. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at Noon, lunch at 12:15. A. Anokwale Anansesemfo, National Park Ranger/Historian/Events Coordinator at Hampton National Historic Site, will discuss ***Forced Servitude at Hampton: In Black and White***. Her talk will focus on how many Americans, whether white or black, shared similar experiences in early America. In the earliest days of our history, slavery was not strictly synonymous with the bondage of people of African descent. Hampton is an example of an American plantation where various forms of forced servitude were employed, and our speaker will discuss how people of diverse ethnic groups were subjugated and the different futures they might experience.

Thursday, March 10. Dinner and Peabody Opera. Pre-Opera Dinner at 6:00 p.m. prompt: Introductory talk; performance of *Così fan Tutte* at Peabody at 7:30 p.m. Following dinner, we will enjoy a brief introduction to this well-known comic opera by Mozart. Often translated as *Women Are Like That*, the title sets the stage for this tale of intrigue and mistaken identity. Tickets for the opera will be \$15.00 per person and will be charged to your club account, along with the dinner charge. Parking is available in the Peabody Garage for \$5.00 per car for the evening. We are pleased to introduce our members to **JoAnn Kulesza**, Interim Chair and Music Director of the Opera Department at Peabody Conservatory, who will be our pre-opera speaker. Through her life-long love and involvement in opera, Ms. Kulesza has developed a repertoire of at least fifty operas. At Peabody, she teaches classes in repertoire and works with students to prepare the department's numerous performances. In addition, she is in demand around the country as conductor, clinician and educator. Please reserve no later than Monday, March 7th. No cancellations or reservations will be taken after this date.

WAIT LIST ONLY: Tuesday, March 15. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. We are very fortunate to welcome **Josh Sharfstein**, MD, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Training at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Previously, he served as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, as the Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as Commissioner of Health for Baltimore City, and as health policy advisor for Congressman Henry A. Waxman. He will speak to us about ***Changing Times in Health and Healthcare***, a topic that has been at the forefront of discussion and debate for the last several years and is sure to affect us, our families, and our pocket books. Dr. Sharfstein is eminently qualified to read the tea leaves and let us know what's in store in the near and distant future.

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

Tuesday, March 22. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. The oldest continuously operating blacksmith shop in the United States, G. Krug & Son, has been and is dedicated to providing the Baltimore-Washington area with ornamental metalwork. From front-step railings to cemetery gates, to restoring historic pieces like the ironwork at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon, to everything metal related in between, Krug has a history of decorating, protecting, and preserving its community. Join us to learn that history, its influence on some of America's greatest cities, and what you can do to help preserve that history as well. **Patrick Cutter**, Krug Museum Coordinator, will be joined by colleagues **Holly Wendler**, the main fabricator and shop manager, and **Joanne Shephard**, Vice President.

Monday, March 28. 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: Thursday, March 31. Luncheon and Tour: Lunch at noon: Following lunch at the Hamilton Street Club, members and guests will make a quick walk to the Enoch Pratt Free Library for a tour and talk at the wonderful Mencken room in the modern annex at Pratt. Usually open to the public only on Mencken day, the Mencken Room houses one of the most important Mencken collections in the world, including the books in Mencken's personal library, typescripts and proofs of Mencken articles and books, correspondence, and other Mencken artifacts. Special Collections Manager **Michael Johnson** will discuss Mencken lore and some of the many artifacts in the Pratt Collection with us. Mr. Johnson has been at the Pratt for almost seven years, but before deciding he'd head for the library world, he received an MA in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. He loves philosophy, of course, and poetry, comic books, and traveling.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 7. Book Discussion: Lunch at noon, Discussion to follow. If your New Year's Resolution was to read more, come to discuss the books of Alexandra Fuller: *Don't Let's Go to The Dogs Tonight* or *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness* or her latest *Leaving before the Rains Come*. Shortly after her birth in 1969, her family moved to Rhodesia in 1972 and tried to farm, right in the midst of a civil war that was tearing the country apart. All the books detail Ms. Fuller's young life with humor, but they are really a love letter to her mother, a hard drinking woman whose madness was fueled by the death of three of her children. Despite tragedy, Ms. Fuller's books brim with laughter as she recounts her unique African upbringing. Whether you have read one of her

wonderful books or not, join us on April 7th to learn more about her amazing life. **Ellen O'Brien** will lead the discussion.

Tuesday, April 12. New Members Luncheon: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:30.

Invitations to new members and their proposers have been sent, but this is also an occasion for others to sign up to meet our new members. This will be an opportunity to learn about some commonalities members share, as well as hear about unique experiences that make our members so interesting.

Monday, April 18. 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, April 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.

Tuesday, April 26. Oval Table: Lunch at noon. Behind the Scenes on Walnut Hill. Soon we'll be thinking about gardening, so to "get in the mood", please join garden owner, **Penney Hubbard**, and writer, **Kathy Hudson**, for a behind-the-scenes look at ***On Walnut Hill: The Evolution of a Garden***. Since its publication in October, this elegant coffee table book has taken Baltimore by storm. The garden, developed by A.C. and Penney Hubbard over 46 years, was transformed by the late and renowned plantsman and designer Kurt Bluemel. Hudson chronicles the story of the garden and the story of the family in their garden, while breathtaking photographs by award-winning Roger Foley capture one year of the life in the garden. As Anne Raver, former *New York Times* garden columnist, says, "Any great garden changes with the seasons, and every hour of the day, but this one has changed the Hubbards and become their world."

AROUND THE CLUB

Welcome New Member: Evelyn J. Chatmon: Evelyn is a retired Baltimore County Public School Area Superintendent. Her interests, in addition to education, include photography (Certified Photographer, MICA), cultural arts, and Rotary. Thanks to Mellasenah Morris and Marilyn Tabb for sponsoring her HSC membership.

Many thanks to members who proposed new members during the last year. Thanks to Jane Daniels, Mimi Cooper, Barbara Francis, Cathy Dryden, Diane Stillman, Patricia Schultheis, Anne Gossett, Genya Hopkins, Mary Park, and Mellasenah Morris.