

## THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB

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### OCTOBER PROGRAMS

**Wednesday, October 5. Oval Table, Lunch at noon.** New club member **Peggy Sparr** will present *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Medicare Enrollment But Were Afraid to Ask*, and then feel free to ask her some more! This is your opportunity - - whether you are enrolled in Medicare already, about to enroll for the first time, or are years away from taking the big leap — to learn what options are best for you. The system can seem complicated, but Peggy will break it down for you. October 15 through December 7, all people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for next year to better meet their needs.

Peggy's professional career spanned 40-years in the healthcare sector, the last 30 of which were in Federal service at the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration), from where she recently retired. Amongst several senior administrator positions at CMS, Peggy was the Director of the Beneficiary Rights and Protection Group, managing: the policy development and business operations for the nation's enrollment of seniors and others into Medicare; Provider and Beneficiary Appeals within Medicare's fee-for-service and managed care programs; and other significant beneficiary rights and protection policy.

**WAIT LIST ONLY: Thursday, October 13. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15.** **Dr. Peter Beilenson** served as the Baltimore City Health Commissioner for 13 years under Mayors Kurt Schmoke and Martin O'Malley. He focused his efforts on improving child health outcomes (reducing lead poisoning, infant mortality and teen pregnancy); reforming drug policy (implementing a needle exchange program, starting an overdose prevention program, and increasing and enhancing drug treatment), and violence prevention (implementing Operation Safe Kids). He then served as Howard County Health Officer under County Executive Ken Ulman for six years. Among many initiatives, the most significant was the Healthy Howard Access Plan---one of only two comprehensive local health plans in the country providing a full range of clinical services to the uninsured. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Beilenson led the effort to implement a nonprofit health insurance co-op enabled by the ACA. He is currently CEO and President of the co-op: Evergreen Health. Beilenson has a bachelor's degree from Harvard College, a medical degree from Emory University, and a master's degree from then Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He is married to Chris, a social worker, and has five children. He will be talking about the benefits and challenges of the Affordable Care Act in its third year of full operation and will provide some thought on the impact of the election on Obamacare.

**Monday, October 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.

**Tuesday, October 18. Book Discussion: Lunch at noon.** *My Name is Lucy Barton*, by Elizabeth Strout. A daughter's prolonged stay in the hospital and an unexpected visit from her mother set the stage for remembrance, anguish, and a moving mother–daughter relationship in *My Name is*

*Lucy Barton*, Pulitzer Prize-winning Elizabeth Strout's latest novel. Elizabeth Strout is best known for Olive Kitteridge's complex character, and in *Lucy Barton*, the author again runs the gamut from suffering to joy. After weeks in the hospital, Lucy recalls that she awakened to see her mother at the foot of her hospital bed. Although the two had not spoken for years, her mother sat at her bedside for weeks and told her stories of poverty, suffering, tension, and raw emotion in the small Illinois town where Lucy was raised. Later, Strout reveals to her readers Lucy's present life as a wife, mother, and writer, and how Lucy confronts her present life in the context of her past. Join **Betty Kansler** as we uncover in *My Name is Lucy Barton* the beauty and power of the prose that make Elizabeth Strout one of the best observers and writers of human relationships.

**Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Annual Meeting.** Our meeting will again be held at **The Maryland Club**. Join us for a festive, informative lunch at the Maryland Club, One East Eager Street (free parking at the Club -- enter the gated parking lot from Charles, just south of Eager). Come to enjoy the company of fellow members, catch up on their news, and savor a delicious lunch. Baby Spinach, Romaine, Watercress Salad with Sheep Cheese, Olive Bread Crostini, Sun-Dried Tomato Vinaigrette

Maryland Crab Cake with Tomato Relish, Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Oven-roasted Pear over Vanilla Ice Cream, with Chocolate Sauce, Toasted Almonds, Chantilly Served with Freshly Baked Rolls and Coffee or Tea. \$35.00 per member. Vegetarian Lunches are available upon request. Bar: (Open at 11:15), Wine: \$6.75; Liquors: \$6.25; Soft Drinks: \$2.00; Beer: \$6.00.

Accessories' Sale Begins at 11:00, Luncheon: 12:30. **Please make reservation with Dawn no later than Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. ANNUAL MEETING ENCORE!!** By popular demand we are planning our **Second Accessories Sale** to benefit the Club's coffers. So, please go through your closets and drawers and donate nearly new scarves, belts, handbags and jewelry for our members' only sale! **In addition, we will have a silent auction for those special donated items that will have a minimum bid. This will allow members, who have requested it, to have any unsold items returned to them. Deadline for donations is October 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be accepting cash, check or charge to your club account for the Accessories Sale at the Annual Meeting.**

The sale will be held from 11-12:30 at the Maryland Club prior to our Annual Meeting there on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Members will remember having great fun as we try on our fellow members' contributions. Please bring your donated items to the Club in September or early October where they will be stored before our committee sorts and prices each item. Please label your bag "For Annual Meeting." New members are urged to join our sales committee, which will meet again on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at the Club. Please contact Marsha Ramsay if you want to help ([ramsaymarsha@gmail.com](mailto:ramsaymarsha@gmail.com)) or have questions.

**Monday, October 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.

**Thursday, October 27. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at Noon; Lunch at 12:15.** SACRED AND STOLEN: Confessions of a Museum Director. In his just published memoir, former Walters' Director **Dr. Gary Vikan** reveals what goes on behind the scenes. The book lays bare the messy part of museums: looted antiquities, crooked dealers, deluded collectors, duplicitous public officials, fakes, inside thefts, bribery, and failed exhibitions. Join us as one of the Club's favorite raconteurs shares some of these back stories, at once shocking and comical, but true! Gary will highlight some of the challenges of directing an art museum. Following his talk, Vikan will be available to sign his book.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, November 3, 2016. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon, Lunch at 12:15.** Kathleen Barry, PhD, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Baltimore County ([www.hsobc.org](http://www.hsobc.org)), will discuss the history of the women long known as “stewardesses.” While admired as gracious hostesses of the air with a cosmopolitan lifestyle, female flight attendants were also subject to rules that required them to leave when they turned 32 or got married and, by the late 1960s, skimpy uniforms and slogans like “Hi, I’m Cheryl – Fly Me.” Wanting more than glamour, activist stewardesses battled airlines for better working conditions and more dignity, and in the process served as high-profile participants in the historic remaking of women’s employment over the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Barry is the author of *Femininity in Flight: A History of Flight Attendants* (Duke University Press, 2007)

**Monday, November 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, November 22, 2016. Book Discussion: Lunch at noon.** *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel will be discussed by psychoanalyst and psychiatrist **Tom Allen** who will give us a psychoanalytic perspective on trauma (PTSD) as it applies to the story of Pi (short for Piscine), an unusual boy brought up on a private zoo in India. Pi’s father decides to move the family to live in Canada and sell the animals to the great zoos of America. The ship taking them across the Pacific sinks and Pi finds himself on a lifeboat with a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra with a broken leg and a Bengal tiger called Richard Parker. *Life of Pi* was the 2002 Mann Booker prize winner. Dr. Allen will give a second book and author discussion on January 26, 2017 on J.D. Salinger and *Catcher in the Rye* and PTSD.

**Monday, November 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, December 8. Luncheon with Guest Speaker. Upstairs at Noon, Lunch at 12:15.** Popular Baltimore lecturer, **Judy Pittenger**, will present **Charles Dickens: “The Man Who Invented Christmas.”** Our image of Christmas—the snowy landscape, the festive gathering and family feast, the yuletide spirit of generous giving—was largely established by England’s most beloved novelist Charles Dickens. Although he celebrated the festival of Christmas in many of his works, it was primarily his beloved story *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, that revived and preserved Christmas customs of Olde England and made them central to our own American celebration. In this program we will consider the development of Christmas from a relatively minor holiday to a major festival celebration which reflects the enduring influence of Charles Dickens. We will discover why London’s Sunday Telegraph proclaimed him in 1988 as “The Man Who Invented Christmas.”

**Tuesday, December 13. Luncheon with guest speaker. Upstairs at noon. Lunch at 12:15.** Historian **Mary C. Jeske** will speak about *A Tale of Two Families: Charles Carroll of Carrollton and his Relationship with his Granddaughters*. Carroll, a leader of the American Revolutionary movement in Maryland, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the wealthiest men in Maryland, was the patriarch of a large extended family. Dr. Jeske will focus on his unique relationship with his three Caton granddaughters—the *Three American Graces*—in comparison and sharp contrast to his comparative neglect of the daughters of his only son, Charles Carroll of Homewood. Jeske is an editor at the Charles Carroll of Carrollton Family Papers.

**Monday, December 19. 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, December 19. 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 to New Member: JoAnn Kulesza** JoAnn is a conservatory teacher and professional musician. In addition to classical music and jazz, she is also interested in theatre, literature, sailing, football, and baseball. She has previously been featured at the HSC as a pre-opera lecturer. Thank you to Mellasenah Morris and Marilyn Tabb for sponsoring her membership.