

THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB

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OCTOBER 2017

The club will be closed on Wed, October 18th for the Annual Meeting

If you haven't already done so, sign up for the **Annual Meeting at the Maryland Club on October 18**. Books, books, galore will tease your brain, delicious food will tickle your taste buds, and most importantly you will take part in stimulating conversation courtesy of our members. You will also vote on the slate of officers for the 2017-2018 term and a minor bylaw change. Hope to see you there!

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Thursday, October 5. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. **Ellen Silbergeld** will speak to us about, THE ISLANDS AND THE WHALES. To understand the history and drivers of traditions that impact the environment requires us to step into the shoes of other cultures and to accept the complexity of solutions that we take for granted. The Faeroe Islands present this challenge to us. This small society, descendants of Danish seafarers, has occupied islands of extraordinary beauty located between Scotland and Iceland. From this hard life, the Faeroese have made a culture dependent upon the sea and its wildlife including gannets, puffins, and pilot whales. These traditional patterns are now challenged by forces within and outside the Faeroes: first world environmentalists have publicized whale hunting practices and new information has revealed the hazards of consuming the traditional diet of the Faeroes. Against these complexities, the Faeroes is now in the midst of large deposits of oil and gas, which is disrupting traditional culture and politics. Ellen Silbergeld has been involved with the Faeroese for over 20 years and looks forward to sharing these experiences with you.

Thursday, October 12. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. **Dr. Jannette Dates**, Dean Emerita of the Howard University School of Communications, will speak to us about Why Diversity Matters Today. Focusing on her research, based on the wisdom of the nation's thought leaders, she will review the background of the drive to make U.S. media systems and enterprises more diverse -- and why that matters today. Dr. Dates served as president of the Broadcast Education Association, as well as the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. In 2017, Dr. Dates was appointed by FCC Chairman Amit Pai to serve on the Federal Communications Commission's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment. In 2013, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as one of the nine members of the Board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Monday, October 16. 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.

Wednesday, October 18. ANNUAL MEETING AND BOOK SALE! As you know, the Club is holding a Book Sale before the Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Maryland Club! Please bring 5 nearly new hard-back or paper-back: novels, classics, art, history or books with current subjects to

the Club. We have added audio books, "coffee table" books and teaching DVDs to our "accepted for sale" category. (Still NO reference or text books are acceptable.) If you cannot bring your books to the Club by October 13th, you may bring them to the Maryland Club on the morning of October 18th **before 10:30**. At 11:30, you are invited to buy great books at bargain prices!

WAIT LIST ONLY: Wednesday, October 25. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. "Trump and Russia: Red Alert or Red Herring?" **Scott Shane**, a New York Times reporter who with colleagues won a 2017 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of Russian hacking, will speak about Russia's intervention in the US election, the hunt for "collusion" with the Trump campaign, and where we may be headed. ***This event has been changed to a buffet lunch-format which means we can accommodate 60 members and guests.***

Thursday, October 26. Book Discussion: Lunch at Noon; Discussion to follow. Join **Nancy Cox** in discussing the beautifully written and tender, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Shortly after the Russian Revolution an elegant count is tried by the Soviets for writing a "counter-revolutionary" poem. On trial, he announces "it is not the business of a gentleman to have occupations." The upshot---spared the death squad, he is declared a "non-person" and is "exiled" to life imprisonment in a tiny garret in Moscow's Hotel Metropole. What ensues is a life that "by the smallest of one's actions one can restore some sense of order to the world."

Monday, October 30. 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

Wednesday, November 1. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. "Dark Athena: A Novel". Join us to welcome back author and raconteur **Arthur A. Houghton III**, who will introduce the background of his recently published book on nefarious doings at a 'fictional' American museum. "Dark Athena" centers on the sudden and mysterious appearance at the West Coast Gabriel museum of an ancient statue that raises concerns of Jason Connor, the museum's curator of antiquities. Jason cannot put his misgivings to rest. Without the knowledge of his director, Martin Pryce, he travels to Sicily, then Rome and London, to ferret out the statue's background. A thrilling novel with surprises at every turn, Dark Athena explores the meaning of authenticity, the similarities between art and human behavior, and the profound question of who should own mankind's cultural heritage. Arthur Houghton draws on his background as curator of antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Museum and his experience in the US Foreign Service to create an intricate, informed narrative. Houghton has served on the boards of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the Cyprus-American Archaeological Research Institute, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the American Numismatic Society, the Middle East Institute and American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), among others.

Wednesday, November 8. Lunch by Chance: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:30. Invitations will be going out for **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 reactions. If you are not on the November list, sit tight -- your turn for a *chance meeting* is in the future. **All members are welcome to sign up after the November 1st deadline.**

Thursday, November 9. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. **Alexandra Deutsch**, Director of Collections and Interpretation at the Maryland Historical

Museum. She will share the details of her curated exhibit featuring Baltimore's own Betsy Patterson Bonaparte. Her presentation is entitled "It's Complicated: The American Bonapartes and France."

Monday, November 13. 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, November 14. Book Discussion: Lunch at noon, discussion to follow. What do you do when your sophisticated, cosmopolitan city becomes besieged by militants who commit terrible atrocities. Somehow, you manage to survive despite being homeless due to bombings, destruction, suffering and death? But the time arrives when you must leave, knowing you may never return. What do you take? Who goes with you? Who stays behind? Come and discuss Saeed and Nadia, a young man and a woman who are the book's important characters. They have met at an evening class on corporate identity and product branding. Yet, they know their familiar world will not continue. It will soon be necessary to flee. The specter of Islamic fundamentalism is quickly approaching. But where can they go? How can they get there? What if that country doesn't accept refugees, or is a country that doesn't see you as human at all? Our novel is Exit West by Mohsin Hamid. It has just been named one of the 2017 finalist for the acclaimed Man Booker prize. Our discussion will be led by **Ellen O'Brien**. Please come even if you haven't read the novel.

Monday, November 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.

AROUND THE CLUB:

Please note: You must cancel by noon of the day prior to any event to avoid a house charge for the lunch.