

THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB

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****OUR NEW AND EXCITING WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING****

Dawn Elardo, Club Manager

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: manager@hamiltonstclub.com

The club will be closed on Monday, February 16, for Presidents' Day

February 2015

Lunch will be available to our members on Tuesdays at noon who would like to attend the ART SEMINAR LECTURE SERIES, scheduled for 1:30 in the auditorium at the Walters Art Museum, Tuesdays on February 3, 17 and 24. We hope you will take advantage of a delicious luncheon at Hamilton Street, followed by Aneta Shine's outstanding lectures for the Art Seminar Group. **Note: If your luncheon party is larger than two people, please make a reservation in advance.** You are encouraged to bring guests! (*If you have never attended ASG lectures, their guest fee for the art lectures is \$10 at their door.*) Adjunct professor Aneta Georgievsko-Shine, Art History Department at UMCP, will lecture on **Self Portraits: Truth and Fiction** series. The old saying, attributed to Leonardo, that every painter paints himself, addresses a fundamental aspect of any creation in the visual arts, literature, or music: beyond all cultural and social contexts, works of art express an individual sensibility. This idea gains particular significance in analyzing different ways in which artists have portrayed themselves throughout history: as humble craftsmen or as men of genius (often misunderstood by their contemporaries), as members of an elite or as social outcasts, or as philosophers or as jesters. In these lectures, we explore critical aspects of self-portraiture.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Thursday, February 5. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon, Lunch at 12:15. Please join **Marian Feldman, Professor of Art and Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins**, for a talk on *Cultural Heritage, Looting and Antiquities – A Discussion of the Current Situation in Iraq*. The protection and preservation of cultural heritage has always been a concern for archaeologists working in the Middle East, but with the breakdown of stable forms of government in many countries, the situation has become critical. In this presentation, she will review some of the recent events in Iraq, including the looting of the Iraq Museum in April, 2003, the subsequent systematic looting of archaeological sites, and the current iconoclastic actions of ISIS, and she will provide a big picture account of the role of cultural heritage in contemporary politics.

Thursday, February 19. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. Digging up History in Patterson Park - Patterson Park, known as Hampstead Hill in the early 1800s, was the site of Baltimore's major defensive position against a British land invasion in the War of 1812. With funding from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, Baltimore Heritage completed an archaeological investigation of Patterson Park in spring 2014. In just a few weeks of digging, the archeological team recovered a thousand artifacts from 1814-era musket balls to left-over animal bones, helping us learn more about the history of Patterson Park and the people of Baltimore. Baltimore Heritage also offered a unique hands-on learning opportunity to over 700 Baltimore City Public School students and over

500 visitors to Patterson Park who stopped by to learn more about the project. **Eli Pousson** is the Director of Preservation and Outreach for Baltimore Heritage and has worked with Baltimore Heritage since October, 2009. Baltimore Heritage is the city's historic preservation nonprofit with two staff and a community of volunteers working to preserve and promote Baltimore's historic buildings and neighborhoods. Prior to moving to Baltimore, Eli worked for the DC Office of Historic Preservation and completed graduate work in anthropology and historic preservation at the University of Maryland College Park. Eli continues to work with the Lakeland Community Heritage Project in Prince George's County and the Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes.

Monday, February 23. 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.

Monday, February 23. 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, February 26. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. Gil Sandler, a Baltimore native son whose storytelling expertise has most recently been showcased weekly on WYPR, attended city public schools, served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and came home to earn a bachelor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania. He then embarked on two remarkably long-lived parallel careers in Baltimore: operating his eponymous advertising and public relations firm, and writing freelance op-eds and columns for "The Sun," "The Evening Sun" and "The Sunday Sun". As one example of his prodigious productivity, his popular "Baltimore Glimpses" column ran weekly for 31 years in "The Evening Sun." After selling his company in 1988, he was named director of communication of The Abell Foundation, a position he still holds. He somehow found time during all this professional activity to write four books about Baltimore and contribute stories to other publications and earn a master's in liberal arts from Hopkins. He and his late wife of 52 years, Joan, raised three children, yielding seven grandchildren. We are in for a real treat when our distinguished guest Gil Sandler spins his lively tales about Baltimore's people, history—and quirks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 4. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon, Lunch at 12:15. Willa Banks, Educational Programs Administrator at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, will give an illustrated talk on the **Life and Times of Benjamin Banneker**, a free black man and native Marylander. His story begins in the late 1600s with the marriage of his grandmother, Molly Welch, an indentured English milk maiden, to his grandfather Bannaka, a Senegalese prince who had been enslaved prior to their marriage in Baltimore County. Their grandson, Benjamin Banneker, a third generation Bannaka, became one of the first African American men of science who made significant local and national achievements. Willa Banks will take us along his journey as she presents a virtual tour of his original farmstead, now a county park dedicated to his memory.

Tuesday, March 10. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. Baltimore author **Dan Fesperman's** travels as a writer have taken him to 30 counties and three war zones, beginning with the Persian Gulf War in 1991, as a journalist for the "Baltimore Sun". His understanding of the intricacies of the political situation of the Gulf War, his experiences in the Balkans during the years of the Yugoslav civil wars, and his stint in the Middle East after 9-11 imbue his political thrillers with authenticity. His 9 political thrillers, which draw upon his experiences as a journalist, have won numerous awards both here and abroad. His most recent, **Unmanned**, tells the

story of a former F-16 fighter pilot who is haunted by what he saw as a drone pilot. "...It is a thrilling tale of redemption, revenge, greed, and unlawful behavior," writes the "Kirkus Review".

Wednesday, March 11. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at Noon; Lunch at 12:15. Kurt L. Schmoke was appointed as the University of Baltimore's eighth president in July last year, bringing to the University a wealth of experience in public service, a lifelong concern for higher education, and a record of talented leadership. President Schmoke served as Baltimore's mayor from 1987-1999. After serving as dean of the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., (2003-2012) he was appointed general counsel for Howard and also served as the institution's interim provost. As Baltimore's mayor, Kurt Schmoke initiated innovative programs in housing, education, public health, and economic development, and in 1992, President George H. W. Bush awarded the National Literacy Award to President Schmoke for his efforts to promote adult literacy. A Yale graduate, a Rhodes Scholar, a public servant, and educational leader, Kurt Schmoke will talk with us about the goals, challenges, and opportunities he sees for the University of Baltimore.

Monday, March 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 and your sense of humor.

Hold the date for a special evening to sample **New Spring Wines**, followed by dinner at the Club! Bob Schindler of Pinehurst Gourmet on Bellona Avenue will host a wine tasting on **Wednesday, March 18, at 6:00** in the evening. Seating will be limited so sign up quickly!

Monday, March 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.

Wednesday, April 1. Oval Table; Lunch at noon. TRIBUTE TO THE KING(S). Upon the retirement of Dr. Gary Vikan from the Walters Art Museum, the docents decided to honor him with two of his favorite things...the Walters collection and Elvis! This somewhat irreverent presentation combines selected art works with appropriate Elvis recordings in homage to Gary's serious scholarship linking the devotion given an American idol (Elvis) and that given to Ancient and Medieval Saints. For the docents Gary made the profound personal and fun, so they decided to give him a dose of his own medicine. Join HSC member **Barbara Guarnieri** as she shares this lighthearted accolade with us. It's a great cure for a broken funny bone!

AROUND THE CLUB

Our wonderful new website is fully launched and functioning - please go and investigate it at www.hamiltonstclub.com - we hope you enjoy it! It is an elegant and informative representation of our club that gives you easy access to upcoming events data, to make reservations online, to learn about the club, to find phone numbers and addresses for club members or to propose new members. Most pages of the site are viewable by anyone, but the membership information is password protected for privacy - please call Dawn for the password, as it is not secure if sent by email. She will also mail a card with this information to all the members who receive paper invoices, and there are cards to pick up at the club as an "aide-memoire".

The content of the site was derived from the original website, existing brochures and some new material and photos, and was put together by the website committee, Carol Allen, Jane Meyer, Jo Marvan and Dawn. The website was designed by Julia Cole of JETweb studio. Now that it is

complete, Dawn will be updating and uploading the information. She has done a wonderful job at learning how to work with the new program supporting this website - many kudos to her.

A very helpful, interactive and informative session on the new website was given by Julia Cole at a lunch in January. We are happy to do this again if there is interest. Also Jo Marvan will be available to help anyone who wants to learn how to use or better navigate the website each Wednesday in February at 11:00 followed by lunch. Please let Dawn know if you are interested.

An Opportunity to be an Information Agent . . .

Four or five years after founding 'Rona's List' and running it single-handedly, Rona Rosenbaum is stepping down to pursue her interest in promoting support for those with Parkinson's disease. She is one of the organizers of the Maryland Association for Parkinson Support, for which she is now President and CEO.

'Rona's List' helps HSC members looking for unique, hard to find, or difficult-to-assess services across a wide spectrum of repair, upholstery, cleaning, painting, gardening, travel, you name it.

Those seeking advice or recommendations contact her with a query. She sends an e-blast to the membership, giving details of the quest. Responses are then shared with the member who initiated the search. It's a clearinghouse of suggestions and recommendations that are trustworthy and vetted by other members.

Rona looks forward to sharing the day-to-day operation of this wonderful service with those who may be interested. She assures us it is not a full-time job! Please contact Rona for more details at ronacrose@gmail.com if you are interested.