

THE HAMILTON STREET CLUB
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Dawn Elardo, Club Manager

February 2016

Winter is finally here. Welcome to normal weather . . .

There's another normal at the Hamilton Street Club. Thanks to many of you, our numbers are building again. Eleven new members have been welcomed since July. Our total now stands at 172. Thanks to the assessment, and several additional gifts, our balance sheet has also improved. In fact, you will soon see physical improvements within our cozy club. And our financial forecast is again positive.

Of course, I continue urging you to invite friends to luncheons, events, or programs they might enjoy: a neighbor or someone from your book club perhaps, or a fellow volunteer at a nearby organization like the Walters, Peabody, Center Stage, Pratt Library, or further afield? The members are wonderful and our collegial atmosphere is contagious! Remember the initiation fee has been suspended until October.

Watch for details about the Spring Cocktail Party to be held in the garden at 4 East Madison Street in May. Our neighbor and member, Betty Loafman, has volunteered to host this traditional harbinger of warm weather and continued friendships.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2016, Rosemary Eck, President

The Club will be closed on Monday, February 15.

Thursday, January 28. 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 January 28th to learn more about her amazing life. Ellen O'Brien will lead the discussion.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Lunch will be available to our members in February at noon who would like to attend the **ART SEMINAR LECTURE SERIES** on **Tuesdays in February**. If you have never attended ASG lectures, we hope you will take advantage of combining a lecture with lunch before at the club. Lectures start at 1:30 in the auditorium at the Walters Art Museum. The guest fee for the art lectures is \$15 at their

door. Please make a reservation in advance if you plan to have lunch at the club first. You are encouraged to bring guests, too!

Wednesday, February 3. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at Noon, Lunch at 12:15 Many of us are experiencing family changes as we look towards downsizing, moving parents or ourselves to a retirement community, and just plainly organizing and decluttering our homes. **Sally McCabe**, founder and CEO of Next Step Baltimore, talks about practical and emotional challenges involved in making a transition, sorting and disposing of possessions, staging a home to sell, moving logistics, and more. Simplify, organize, and live clutter free!

Wednesday, February 10. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at noon; Lunch at 12:15. Gone but not forgotten: a favorite columnist, **Susan Reimer**, will join us for reflections of her career and her segue into retirement. She will also have her book available which is a collection of her early columns. If there is time, we can get some gardening tips too.

Monday, February 22. 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.

Monday, February 22. 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 thought-provoking articles by respected thinkers. Come and bring your informed (or unformed) views and your sense of humor.

Wednesday, February 24. Luncheon with Guest Speaker: Upstairs at Noon; Lunch at 12:30. **Joanna Diamond**, Vice-President of External Relations at Planned Parenthood of Maryland, will speak about Planned Parenthood of Maryland's history, services, and mission. She will also cover the recent challenges to and attacks on Planned Parenthood nationwide and the organization's plans for the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 to the Peabody Garage for \$5.00 per car for the evening. Please reserve no later than Monday, March 7th. No cancellations or reservations will be taken after this date.

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.

AROUND THE CLUB

Welcome New Members:

Carlisle Hashim: Carlisle has produced and hosted local TV programs and audio podcasts which focus on the environment, Chesapeake Bay, history, nonprofits and culture. She is also a gardener and has created a popular website on garden history.

April Smith: April is a historical interpreter/tour guide who volunteers at the Mount Clare Museum House and on the Horse History Trail Committee. Her interests are historic preservation, horses, animal rescue and horse racing.

Robin Zoll: Robin, a lawyer, will soon retire from the Office of the Public Defender. Her interests include travel, art, wine and food, golf, mediation and bridge.

Maxine Hodge: Maxine is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins. She is active in Dickeyville as a member of the Garden Club, the Newsletter, and Welcome Committee. She also performs in senior dance companies.