



14 WEST HAMILTON STREET
CLUB

Founded in 1925

[Reservations](#)

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MEMBERSHIP

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

THINK SPRING AND VACCINE!

We are still in the middle of winter. Snow covers the ground. The trees' dark bark and bare branches stand out against the gray sky. Even on bright days, the air has a chilly bite. But Spring is closer than it was this time last month. More important than the weather is the availability of COVID vaccines. In due time and with enough vaccinations, our lives may return to their pre-pandemic routines. In the meantime, the 14 West Hamilton Street Club carries on.

February is a short month, but this won't be a short newsletter because there is a lot to cover. Even though Club members still can't meet in person the way we used to, we can meet virtually and converse more than ever before.

NOON ZOOM LUNCHES

We continue our 95-year traditional of in-person noontime lunches with a substitute that we call "Noon Zoom lunches with Hosts." The Friday and Monday emails to members contain the week's schedule for Noon Zooms. The Monday emails also contain the week's scheduled events as well as those as much as three months ahead. Noon Zoom lunches are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. You are more than welcome to eat lunch, but to participate you don't have to actually eat lunch.

ENHANCEMENTS TO NOON ZOOM LUNCHES WITH HOSTS

Before the Club closed to in-person gatherings, the occasional guest or guest speaker were the only enhancements to the daily lunches. With Zoom, the Club members are working to make "Special Guests" a regular weekly event. Feel free to recruit a special quest. E-mail or call [Sam Hopkins](#) (410-935-8540) with the name of your guest and a brief description. Also, please give Sam enough notice so he can properly announce your guest in the "Next Week" and "This Week" emails. If you want to plan further ahead, we can also announce your guest in the new "Future Special Guests" section of the Monday emails.

[Bill Reynolds](#)

Peter Bowe

Bob Locke

Jim Ulmer

NOON ZOOM

[Sam Hopkins](#)

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SPECIAL EVENTS

[Lois Schenck](#), *Co-Chair*

Mark Cammock

[Sam Hopkins](#), *Co-Chair*

CLUB USAGE

[Jack Rosholt](#)

Sam Hopkins

Bill Reynolds

Greg Cukor

Jim Ulmer

Peter Danchin

David Zoll

CLUB TELEPHONE

410-727-2518

WEBSITE

www.14whsc.com

On February 11, **Pope Barrow** was our Special Guest. Pope, a Capitol Hill staffer for 40 years, spoke about the January 6 Capitol Hill riot.

The Club also offers a more varied menu of monthly lunchtime events including:

- book discussion
- short story discussion
- current events discussion
- walking outdoor historic tour (except in winter weather)

That's not all. Club members can participate in the Women's Hamilton Street Club's offerings of special third-party organized Zoom events. There will be two in March. Please see your weekly emails from the 14 West Hamilton Street Club for details. Reservations are necessary.

MEET A MEMBER NOON ZOOM LUNCH

There is still more activity scheduled for lunchtime. Beginning next month, the Club will be offering a new feature that we are calling "Meet a Member." We will invite a willing member to be the focus of a Noon Zoom as if they were a prospective new member. We shall especially try to recruit members who we believe are still relatively unknown to most of the membership.

Al Berkeley, a member who has spoken at the club, will kick off the "Meet a Member" on March 2. Al is a very busy man, and many members have yet to meet him. The March 2 event will allow interested members to meet Al and learn about all the fascinating things that have kept him so busy. If you want to get a preview, read the [Wikipedia](#) article about Al.

LIMITED DINING NOW AVAILABLE AT CLUB

With the Baltimore City again allowing limited indoor dining, the Club is again open for in-person dining. For everyone's safety, the maximum allowed each day will be four persons. To reserve a spot, please call or email [Chef Charlotte](#) by the close of business Monday of the week in which you want to eat at the Club.

ENJOY CHEF CHARLOTTE'S FOOD AT HOME

Chef Charlotte is still busy in the kitchen making delectable meals. You can order a meal (which is designed to serve two) and a bottle of wine, if you

RESERVATIONS PLEASE

410.727.2518

14Hamilton@gmail.com

like, Wednesday through Friday. Beginning Tuesday of each week, the next day's menu is emailed to all members. If you are interested, place your order the day before so that Chef Charlotte can prepare the appropriate number of meals. Send your order to 14hamilton@gmail.com. You will receive a return email confirming your order.

UPCOMING BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Ann Tylers's **Accidental Tourist** (In place of **The Red and Black**)

March 4, 12:30 p.m.

Our protagonist is Macon O'Leary who himself travels through life accidentally. Things just happen to him; he doesn't seek them out. Which is why he is so singularly equipped to make his living as the author of a series of guidebooks called *Accidental Tourist* whose ideal reader is the businessman abroad who longs for a king-size Beautyrest in Madrid and Sweet'n'Low in Tokyo. Read this engaging book to discover the events that turn Macon's life upside down.

Host—**Lois Schenck**

David A. Kaplan, **The Most Dangerous Branch: Inside the Supreme Court in the Age of Trump.**

April 1, 12:30 p.m.

A Cornell and NYU Law grad, David Kaplan served as Newsweek's legal affairs editor and has at least two earlier books to his credit. He writes for a broad readership. Don't let the subtitle suggest that his work will lose heft after Biden's inauguration (his afterword of last year did suppose that RBG would survive until after it). His book examines the court Trump and the GOP have left us—and our children. Broadway Books/Random House, 2018, (paperback) \$18.

Host—**Bob Brugger**

James McBride, **The Color of Water**

May 6, 12:30 p.m.

As a boy in Brooklyn's Red Hook projects, James McBride knew his mother was different. When he asked her about it, she'd simply say, "I'm light-skinned." Later he wondered if he was different, too, and asked his mother if he was black or white. "You're a human being," she snapped. "Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody." Eventually McBride learns much of her story—a rabbi's daughter, born in

Poland, raised in the south USA, fled to Harlem, married two black men, and put 12 children through college and graduate learning. The Color of Water is an eloquent exploration of what family really means.

Host—**Bruce Barnett**

Sonia Purnell's **A Woman of No Importance**
June 3, 12:30 p.m.

This is a true World War II story about Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite, who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill's "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare." She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines. Despite her prosthetic leg, Ms. Hall helped to light the flame of the French Resistance and revolutionized secret warfare as we know it.

Against all odds and putting her life at risk every day, she fought against the tyranny and brutality of Germany and occupied France. In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent command across France: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her."

Host—**Mark Cammock**

If you go outside, remember to bundle up and wear a mask (two are even better).

Editor: [Brian Sullam](#)

14 West Hamilton Street Club

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[Visit Our Website](#)