

HAMPDEN HAPPENINGS

The latest news and updates from Hampden, Baltimore



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President's Message

by *Eli Lopatin*, HCC President (hccpresident@gmail.com)

Summer is coming, folks are getting vaccinated, and things are starting to feel a bit more normal around the neighborhood and city. We are so excited for a chance to get outside and see you all, feel that strong sense of community that we love, and enjoy the many assets that the neighborhood has to offer. Though we are optimistic for more of a return to normalcy and encourage everyone to support our local businesses, we do want to remind you that mask requirements remain in place in indoor spaces in Baltimore City, and are still encouraged outdoors for those who have not yet been vaccinated.

We have been told by local businesses that more and more customers are entering without masks, and we need to work together to ensure everyone stays safe. The warmer weather has also meant more small gatherings are occurring, and while we're glad to see it, we ask that folks please continue to respect their neighbors, avoid loud noise late at night, and please remember that fireworks are illegal and can be traumatizing to people and pets.



We hope more folks who have not yet done so will sign up for a vaccine - let us know if you need help finding an appointment, or sign up at <https://covax.baltimorecity.gov/>. We're also working with partners in hopes that we might find an appropriate space to host hybrid community meetings.

Stay tuned for more info, and hope to see you soon!

Eli

Notes from the Editor

Memorial Day Blues

Memorial Day recently passed. The first of the summer holidays was a sorry excuse for a holiday. Rainy for most of the weekend, Memorial Day itself was a nice day but it didn't bring the heat. The release we all needed; and it was a huge downer.

But then Memorial Day itself, is a huge downer. Originally named Decoration Day, it was a springtime tribute for honoring the dead of the Civil War. Parades were held and the gravestones of the fallen were decorated with wreaths and flowers. In 1971, the name was changed to Memorial Day. The date has changed multiple times, it was officially designated as the last Monday in May in the year 1968.

As for where the very first Memorial Day occurred, several places have laid claim to being the first place. Many cities and small towns claimed to have observed the holiday between 1866 and 1868. Waterloo, New York first celebrated Decoration Day in May of 1866. In 1966 Lyndon Johnson signed a declaration that Waterloo was the site of the first Memorial Day.

Recent developments now suggest that the very first Memorial Day was held in Charleston, SC in May of 1865. It was done to honor Union soldiers who died in a makeshift prison made from a converted racetrack. After Charleston fell in February of 1865, emancipated slaves exhumed the dead from a massive grave and gave each a proper burial. On May 1st of 1865, approximately 10,000 people, mostly freed slaves and a few white missionaries paraded around the racetrack. Children sang songs and laid bouquets of flowers on the graves of the union soldiers.

The Holocaust Museum in DC is harsh and brutal as well it should be. If you're lucky, as some people were, when you exit out into the atrium the sun will be streaming through the medallion in the ceiling. It's such an exhilarating and uplifting moment, so purifying. And it's not a gift that is given to everyone who exits.

Maybe our rainy days were the lesson for the last year. So much death and division, flags long put away have been angerly unfurled. And just when you thought the misery might continue, Memorial Day brought the gift of the atrium.



Thank you,

Kathy Krampien

Recent Updates from ACCE School

By Abby Baldwin

ACCE is proudly announcing their graduating class for 2021. We will be holding an in person graduation ceremony at Poly/Western on June 14th. After a challenging year, 60 graduating seniors will be collecting their diplomas.

Due to social distancing concerns, the students will be allowed a limited number tickets.

Details are still being finalized regarding a luncheon following the event.

Go Eagles!!
2021



Meet the Director

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021

*My Groceries to Go
Sign-Up*

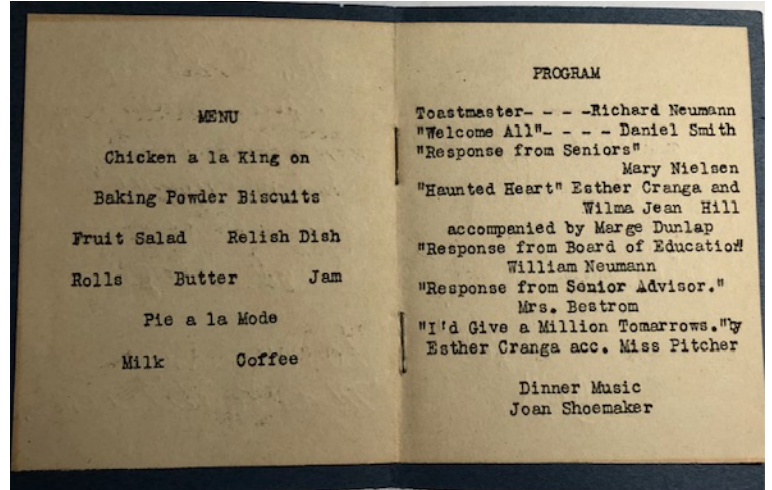


*Medicare Benefit
Information by CIGNA*

Come out and meet Veronica Jones our new Program Director and find out about our newest partnership with AIM and Keswick. GRAB-N-GO lunch provided.

**3900 ROLAND AVE.
11 AM TO 1 PM**

For all of the grads celebrating at Gertrude's last week. Posing for pictures between munching on high end eats and fancy desserts. Here's a senior class program and luncheon from 1939. Bon Appetite.



BINGO

Virtual Bingo took place on April 28th.

22 hopeful patrons marked their cards. Lucky winners included Burt

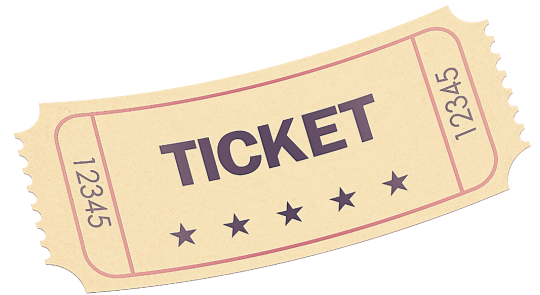
Stegman, HCC Treasurer's Matt Stegman's 4 year old son, a woman dialing in from Missouri and Theresa, sister to Sandy of Sandy's Bargain

Basement. Theresa was the big winner. All \$270 of the proceeds from Bingo goes to funding the Mayor's Christmas Parade.

Look for more bingo soon.

The Mayor's office recently announced that outdoor events can be held in the fall so the parade might yet be on.

Memorial Day Movie Trivia



The movie "Enemy of the State" is currently playing on tv. It was filmed in Baltimore and DC. In the scene where the Smith and Hackman characters are fleeing the bad guys, Hackman blows up his warehouse. That building was the old Dr. Pepper plant which was demolished for the movie.



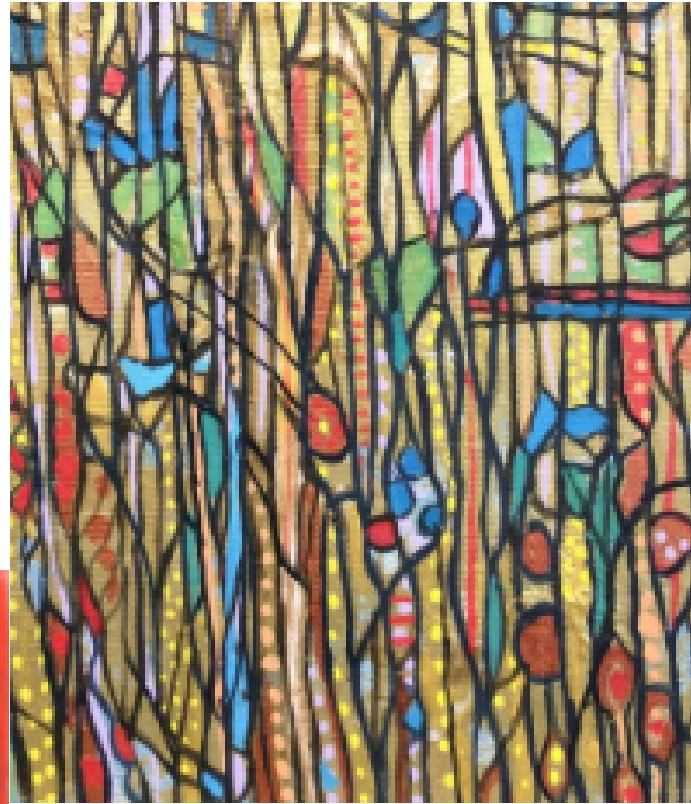
IT'S PRIDE

<p>JUNE 13 PRIDE FASHION SHOW 11-3PM (TICKETED EVENT) EVENT BRITE LINK</p>	<p>JUNE 17 MOVIE NIGHT (LOCATION AND TITLE FORTHCOMING)</p>
<p>JUNE 14 MOVIE SHOWCASE DARK CITY BENEATH THE BEAT BY TT THE ARTIST 7PM- PANEL FEATURING TT THE ARTIST</p>	<p>JUNE 18 WORKING ON A PRIDE MEET AND GREET AT 16TH ON THE PARK</p>
<p>JUNE 15 FREE STATE JUSTICE PRESENTS STRENGTHS OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY 6PM (ZOOM LINK)</p>	<p>JUNE 19 VIRTUAL PRIDE BROADCAST AND PARADE 1-4PM</p>
<p>JUNE 16 VIRTUAL LEGAL WORKSHOP (2) TRANS CUSTODY AND LEGAL ISSUES 6PM</p>	<p>JUNE 20 *ELDER PRIDE VIRTUAL CELEBRATION 3PM-4PM</p> <p>*JUST BRUNCHIN PRIDE DRAG SHOW (TICKETED EVENT) EVENT BRITE LINK 11AM-3PM</p>



The Baltimore Art Gallery: Current Offerings

William Wright is the featured artist for June. Self-taught, he mostly focuses on portraits of famous people or strangers but all seem tortured. He also expresses himself in colorful abstracts.



"Coronation" by William Wright, 12"



PAMELA WESOLEK



Currently showing at Fleckenstein Gallery are new works by Pamela Wesolek. Also the 20th Anniversary show is still running through 2021.

Fleckenstein
Gallery

3316 Keswick Road
t: 410-366-3669



Connecting Through Stories

Date: Tuesdays, June 8 & 22

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Join us as we explore four short works of literature that helps us realize how much we have in common with one another. Learn about the authors' background and make connections with the writer, the story, and other participants. You will receive the reading in advance as a PDF and an audio recording so that you are ready to participate during the session. You will have the option to participate virtually, by phone, or in person.



For more information and to register contact us at choosekeswick.org or call 410.662.4363



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M-F 8am-6pm ♣ SAT 8am-5pm

2021 was an amazing spring for gardens. Cool temps, lots of sun and a decent amount of rain. It was a good year for roses and just about every other growing thing. I started my garden 20 years this spring and this was the year that I received the most compliments. I don't take this well but I try to be gracious. I think my yard is a hot mess and I'm always embarrassed by it. I don't get enough sunshine; it's filled with weeds and nothing grows in the middle.

After 20 years, I've learned a few things. I depend on the two P's. Petunias and perennials. Perennials live up to their names. Coming back year after year, providing color and heft. For the all-important pop of color, I depend on petunias. They come in a multitude of colors and styles.

The larger varieties have velvety rich petals while the smaller "Bells" show a cheeky youthfulness as envisioned in the cover photo. I filled in with heirloom plants such as marigolds, geraniums, snap dragons and zinnias.

My perennials bloomed like clockwork this year. As soon as one faded away, another took its place. The roses and irises have faded but now come the lilies and the lavender. I bought a packet of seeds in Amsterdam in 2019. The cover picture had cute little pink flowers. Almost nothing of what I brought back from Amsterdam survived except for the pink flowers. They happen to be over 3 feet tall and are strange willowy plants with little pink flowers. They gave my yard a certain wistfulness as they swayed in the wind.

Most of my plants are in containers that encroach upon the sidewalk leading to my house. That fence line gets the most sun and it forms an artificial bed. Besides the color are herbs of various sorts. Basils and sage, cilantro, oregano and catnip. Sage is special, it has naturally calming attributes. Breathing fresh sage relieves anxiety, it got me through many a rough day with a former cubemate.

Rose's Garden



by Kathy Krampien

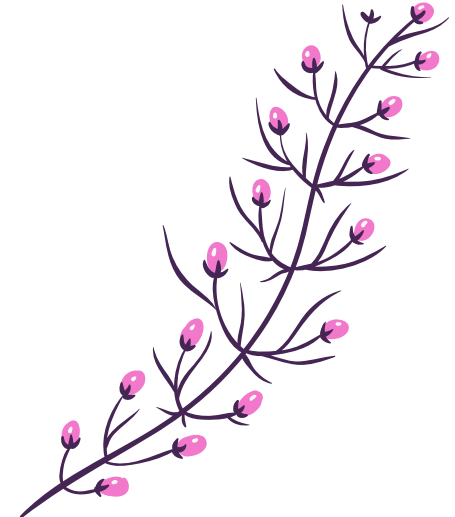


My gift for gardening comes from my people. They were hands in the dirt people. My parents had a garden that was a half an acre. Lively cosmos stood guard over rows of beans and corn, squash and eggplants. Beautiful rose bushes and scarlet peonies surrounded our house and clematis climbed the wrought iron railings in the front.



It was my neighbor Rose with her beautiful flower beds that was the real gardener. She had numerous beds surrounding her home. One particularly beautiful bed grew along a brick wall. I would look out my bedroom window in the morning and the morning sun would cast a beautiful pink glow on that section of Rose's garden. She was out there constantly working the many flower beds. And when she wasn't planting and weeding, she was baking cookies and giving hugs. It wasn't until years later that I thought about the bruises on her arms when she handed you that warm cookie. I vaguely remember the faint smell of booze on her breath when she hugged you. Her garden was beautiful; and it kept the weeds well hidden.

Voltaire claimed that "One should tend to one's own garden." It's implied that you should be dealing with your own mess before meddling with others. I tend to think of gardening as more as a practical application and a form of a meditation. It an activity that takes you out of yourself as you try to craft nature into an artform. The planning and the moving of plants from one place to another. Which will thrive and where? It's a skill to be mastered and failure is inevitable. When I bought my house 21 years ago, I knew I could never have my parent's garden; but I could have Rose's. I achieved Rose's garden awhile back.



Many people took up gardening in the past year as a release from Covid. Gardening doesn't solve any problems, but it provides a certain clarity. It brings you back to nature and to the very roots of our civilization. Rose tended to her gardens and found healing for her soul in much the same way many of us did during this past year.



Hampden Family Center

Join us as we travel back in time to a fun and stylish 1950s Baltimore-inspired night out to celebrate our safe return to in-person events – and at what better place than the Drive-In Movie Theatre!

Thursday, June 17 at 7pm
Bengies Drive-In Theatre
America's largest drive-in screen!

Festivities include:

- Sing-a-long screening of GREASE!
- Full BBQ, Beer, Wine & Sodas
- Annual Hat Contest & Silent Auction
- The Sons of Pirates Beach Band
- Exclusive Movie Trailer for Rocket to Venus



Invite friends to join your Car Pod (6-10 people in 2-5 cars) for a prime location together, food and bar, popcorn, entertainment, and the film! Individual tickets are also available at www.hampdenfamilycenter.org/hats2021. Hats Off directly supports the Center's critical programs and services that strengthen our Hampden community. We hope to see you there!



It's Official
The Hampden/Medfield
Mayor's Christmas Parade
is back!!

December 5th



*You're
Invited!*

HCC Sponsors

Thank you to our 2021 sponsors that make this newsletter possible. If you are an organization or individual, please consider donating today. We appreciate your support!



Bruce and Helen Phillips

Print Schedule for Hampden Happenings 2021:

Jul/Aug.: closing 7/24, release Aug 3

Sep/Oct.: closing 9/25, release Oct 5

November: closing 10/23, release Nov 2

December: closing 11/27, release Dec 7