

The 14 West Hamilton Street Club
Celebrating its 100th Year of Great Conversations!

**HSC Schedule of
Speaker and Special Events
for September, 2022, through June, 2024**

This is, of course, updated & corrected, both for future events and events that have already occurred.

Date of this update is 03-09-24 (D16)

Note: All regular Speaker Events dates have speakers through June, 2024, except for May 8. The 4-5 monthly Hybrid Lunch Discussion Events have been entered through May, 2024. You can assume they will continue to occur in 2024, even if the date needs to sometimes not be the regular date (e.g., the 3rd Friday).

If the Short Story Discussion is moved from 2nd Tuesday to 3rd Thursday, beginning in March, then the Current Events Discussion will be moved from the 3rd to the 2nd Friday. The final decision has not yet been made on this as of Feb. 10, the date of this update. But I have made the proposed change in on page 2 in Note 1 about “Types of Events in this Schedule.”

There is a link to this schedule at the top of the club website’s Calendar page.

The 3 ways the club alerts you to and gives you descriptions of club events:

This schedule serves to give an overview of the full year both for advance notice and for an archival record of the year and now further back in time. But usually the descriptions of events are short. The Calendar, in contrast, usually contains more detailed descriptions. But the Calendar does not give access to them, if they occurred more than one month ago. The weekly Friday “NEXT Week” emails contain only future events for about the next month. But this Schedule and the Calendar go much further into the future.

The descriptions in the NEXT Week for just the coming week are the most detailed and up to date, compared to what is in this “Schedule” and in the “Calendar.” The NEXT Week emails also include photos and graphics. This is facilitated by the use of the Constant Contact software for these weekly emails.

Notes about types of events in this Schedule:

Note 1: “Special Events” at lunchtime include monthly “Discussion” and events with special guests or for brainstorming. There are five such recurring events each month.

	Week of Mo.	Day of Week	Hybrid Event? as of 2-10-24
Discussion:			
Book	1 st	Thursday	Yes
Short Story	2 nd	Tuesday	Yes
Current Events	2 nd or 3 rd	Friday	Yes
Luckiest Generation	4 th or 5 th	Friday	Yes
Varied topics, e.g. Meet a Member Announced Guest Good Old Days Brainstorming	Varies	Varies	Yes

Note 2: Other “Special Events”

A. Recurring:

New Member Party	Sept.
Holiday Party	2 nd or 3 rd Sat. in Dec.
Garden Party & Annual Meeting	3 rd Saturday in May
Mint Julep Party	2 nd or 3 rd Sat. in June

B. Less Recurring (Some also referenced in Note 1 above.)

- Saturday Cocktail parties at homes of members (1st in Jan. '22)
- Walking historic tours, sometimes combined with lunch at club
- Exhibit at Walters Museum before or after lunch at club
- Visits to other significant tourist destinations before or after lunch at club
- Concert at Peabody Conservatory after dinner at club
- “Meet a Member” lunch at club; may be hybrid
- “Announced Guest” lunch at club; may be hybrid
- Lunch with “Good Ole Days” member talk at club; may be hybrid
- Brainstorming; may be hybrid

C. May 18, 2024, Celebration of this club’s 100 Years, to be held at Clifton Mansion

Note 3: Speaker Events

- A. Recurring after dinner presentations:
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of most months
2nd Wed. only in Nov., Dec. and May
Professionally managed hybrid event in club's Living Room
- B. Less Recurring after lunch presentations
Any regular lunch day or Saturday
To permit offering
- more speakers than the above schedule allows
 - speakers who are unavailable in evening

Note 4: New events not yet conceived or attempted

Members are invited to suggest them. The January "Brainstorming Lunch" was created specifically to generate ideas for such new events as well for ideas for future speakers and improving the existing design of club events. And such monthly brainstorming will continue on the 3rd Thursday of the month at lunch.

Note 5: This Schedule does not include the lunches in the club that have no special attraction that was scheduled in advance. Neither does it include the Noon are offered as a substitute to members who cannot visit the club in person for these lunches.

Committees that Create and Manage the Above Events

Speaker Events Committee

Mitch Koppelman, Chair

Members: Art Hildreth, Mike Franch, Bruce Barnett, David Zoll, Bettina Jenkins, Eric Brown, Frank Pine, George Ferris, Josh Ewen, Lois Schenck, Rich Gardella, Skip Isaacs, Peter Quint, Barret Freedlander, Snowden Stanley, Tim Wolf, Steve Scott, Norman Smith, Greg Cukor, Ed Stringer, Sam Hopkins

Special Events Committee

Frank Pine and Lois Schenck, Co-Chairs

Members: Mark Cammock, Bruce Barnett, Tottie Towsley, Les Fink and Sam Hopkins

Noon Zoom Committee/Hosts:

Sam Hopkins, Chair

Other hosts (past and present) : Mike Franch, Bruce Barnett, Gus Lewis, Jeff Sawyer, Jim Ulmer, Bill Reynolds, Frank Pine, Mitch Koppelman

Schedule of Events

2022

Thurs., **9-8-22**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion.

Fri., **9-9-22**, 12:30 pm. – Zoom only - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Tim Wolf is moderator.

Sat., **9-10-22**, 6:30 pm cocktails; 7 pm buffet dinner. This resumes the annual dinner we do jointly with H.L. Mencken Society

Dinner will be followed by an “after-dinner conversation” about “Writers' Homes as Relics: Mencken, Poe, and their Baltimore Houses.”

Description: People flock to the former residences of literary and political figures long after the occupants of those homes have left planet earth. The reasons for the appeal of such homes may be obvious, but the Saturday Night Club Program allows two people with ongoing involvement in the administration of the Mencken House and the Poe House to speculate about the appeal of these facilities. Brigitte Fesseden, from the Mencken House, and Thomas Brown, from the Poe House, will participate in an informal conversation, led by D. G. Hart, president of the Mencken Society. This after-dinner conversation will conclude the annual meeting of the Saturday Night Club, a meal co-sponsored by the Hamilton Street Club and the Mencken Society as part of Baltimore’s annual celebration of Mencken Day.

Wed., **9-14-22**: Speaker Event was postponed to Jan. 11

Tues., **9-20-22**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion: Bruce Barnett, host

Fri., **9-23-22**: 12:30 pm – Zoom only - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins, moderator.

How several kinds of unprecedented growth have made us luckier than previous generations by compensating for many repeated and new political problems of civilization. But only fossil fuels have made this growth possible. And this will include another look at the writings of William Ophuls since 1973. See Amazon.com for his books.

Sat., **9-24-22**: 6-8 pm - In Club Special Event: New Members Party. "New Members" are all who joined since the last party in 2019.

Wed., **9-28-22**, 6:30 pm - In Club Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Catherine Wyler, daughter of the late William Wyler, and her husband will join us for cocktails and dinner in the club. Then, Ms. Wyler will show part of the documentary she produced about her father, talk about him, and answer our questions. The film title is "Directed by William Wyler." Thanks to George Ferris for arranging this unique club event.

Ms. Wyler will explain her father's continuing influence in cinema. She will also give personal stories about visiting the sets on his movies as a child and as she grew up.

Every list of the great directors from Hollywood's golden era includes the name of William Wyler. From the 1920's until 1970, William Wyler painstakingly crafted over sixty feature films which are cherished by audiences today – features like *Jezebel*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *The Heiress*, *Roman Holiday*, *Ben Hur*, and *Funny Girl*. Not only did he win three Academy Awards as best director, William Wyler also brought more Oscars to his leading men and women than any other director (the number is 40). He flew combat missions in World War II, in order to make *The Memphis Belle*, the documentary that brought home to American audiences the realities of the war in the air. Never associated with any particular genre or technique, Mr. Wyler chose his material carefully and invested his projects with demanding perfectionism. Audiences recognize that William Wyler's films today reflect consistently high quality and unmatched good taste.

The first of his four children, Catherine Wyler has had a distinguished career of her own. Most notably she produced in partnership with David Puttnam the 1990 adaptation of her father's documentary into a full-length feature film, *The Memphis Belle*. She was Senior Vice-President of Production at Columbia Pictures. She was Director of Cultural and Children's Programming at PBS. She was assistant director of the Media Arts Program at the National Endowment for the Arts and helped create the Sundance Institute. Deeply immersed in film aesthetics, she has been a juror at the Venice, Sundance, Berlin, Chicago, and Istanbul film festivals.

Recently she and her husband Richard Rymland have returned from Mulhouse, France, her father's birthplace, to attend a city-wide celebration of the centenary of William Wyler's birth. Active and engaged to this day, they currently live in Washington, D. C.

George Ferris is host

Thurs. **10-6-22**, 12:30 pm Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion. Book TBA

Wed., **10-12-22**, 6:30 pm - In Club Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Dr. Gary Pasternack, club member, will speak.

Topic: **"So You Have a Great Business Idea - What Next?"**

Description: Starting a business is always fraught with challenges. Starting a business in the pharmaceutical or diagnostic sectors is several orders of magnitude more complex. Dr. Pasternack has been starting and managing early stage businesses in these sectors since the late 1980's. In describing his journeys and wrong turns, he will provide a *vade mecum* that will touch on the mixed blessing of venture capital, the ebullient diffidence of investment banking, the kabuki of the FDA, the Machiavelli of the European Medicines Agency, and the inscrutability of the elusive IPO.

Dr Gary Pasternack received his MD and PhD degrees from Johns Hopkins, then moved to Yale for his residency in pathology and postdoctoral training. He was on the full-time faculty in pathology at Johns Hopkins from 1984 to 2005, when he resigned his position to pursue private sector interests. He has served as CEO of Asklepiion Pharmaceuticals since 2008, and is also managing director of the Aliceanna Group, a seed stage fund operated by his business partner, Jeff Courtney, and himself. He maintains an adjunct appointment at Hopkins and amuses himself by attending on the autopsy service several days per month.

Host is Sam Hopkins

Fri., **10-14-22**, 12:30 pm. – Zoom - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Tim Wolf is moderator

Mon., **10-17-22**, 12n – Hybrid Board Meeting

Tues., **10-18-22**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion: Bruce Barnett, host

Sat., **10-22-22**, 6-8 pm - Special Event at Member's Home: Cocktails again at home of Lois Schenck and Todd Meyers

Wed., **10-26-22**, 6:30 pm - In Club Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Dr. Jean Fernandez about her book on effect of U.K.'s imperialism on English writers. Speaker is Chair of Dept. of English at UMBC.

Her book is: *Geography and the Literary Imagination in Victorian Fictions of Empire: The Poetics of Imperial Space* (Routledge, 2020). It explores how the rise of institutional geography in Victorian England impacted the treatment of space and place in fictions of empire. The study engages with late Victorian fiction by R.L.Stevenson, Olive Schreiner, Joseph Conrad, Winwood Reade, Flora Annie Steel, and Rudyard Kipling.

Mike Franch is host.

Wed., **10-28-22**, 12:30 pm – Zoom only - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins, moderator.

Thurs. **11-03-22**, 12:30 pm Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion. (1st Thurs.) Book TBA

Tues., **11-08-22**, 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion: Bruce Barnett, host (2nd Tues.)

Wed. **11-09-22**, 6:30 pm - In Club Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Frank Barranco will talk about the burden on Baltimore today of having been such an early and major player in the industrial revolution in the U.S. Toxic pollution from the earliest days of that revolution in Baltimore still need remediation today.

Mr.. Barranco's career has been at a unique Baltimore engineering firm, EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. or "EA."

EA is a 100% employee-owned public benefit corporation that provides environmental, compliance, natural resources, and infrastructure engineering and management solutions to a wide range of public and private sector clients. EA has earned an outstanding reputation for technical expertise, responsive service, and judicious use of client resources.

Host is Frank Pine.

Fri., **11-11-22**, 12:30 pm. – Zoom only - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Tim Wolf is moderator

Mon., **11-14-22**, 12n – Hybrid Board Meeting (2nd Mon.)

Tues., **11-15-22**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion: Bruce Barnett, host (2nd Tues.)

Fri. **11-25-22**, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Zoom only - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion.
Sam Hopkins, moderator.

Wed., **11-30-22**, , 6:30 pm - In Club Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Dr. Hal Weaver on the JHU APL DART Mission to Protect Our Earth from an Asteroid Disaster
Bruce Barnett is host.

Thurs. **12-1,-22** 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion. Book TBA

Fri., **12-9-22**, 12:30 pm. – Zoom only - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Tim Wolf is moderator

Mon., **12-12-22**, 12n – Zoom Board meeting (2nd Mon.)

Tues., **12-13-22**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion: Bruce Barnett, host (2nd Tues.)

Wed. **12-14-22**, 6:30 pm - In Club Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Mitch Koppelman on the Evolution of News Photography in print journalism.
Mike Franch is host.

Sat., **12-17-22**, 6 pm – In Club Special Event – Holiday Party

Mon., **12-19-22** – Club closes until Jan. 2

Fri. (last Fri.) , **12-30-22**: 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm– Zoom only - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins is moderator.

2023

Mon., **1-2-23** – Club opens for New Year

Thurs., **1-5-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion.

Tues., **1-10-23**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion
Bruce Barnett, host

Wed, **1-11-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: George W. Liebmann will speak on of his book, *America's Political Inventors: The Lost Art of Legislation*.

George is a long time member, retired attorney, and historian specializing in American and international history. He has more than a dozen books to his credit. He graduated from Dartmouth with high honors and was a managing editor of the law review at the University of Chicago. For the past twenty-five years he has frequently been a Visiting Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge. George's law office was on Hamilton Street for many years and he and his wife Anne-Lise live on Mount Vernon Place. George is President of the Baltimore Bar Library.

Jim Ulmer is host.

Thurs., **1-19-23**, 12:30 pm – New Hybrid Lunch Event: Brainstorming for an Even Better Club: Meeting of Speaker Events and Special Events Committees with leaders of monthly discussion events and any other members who wish to join in this stimulating exercise to do as a group what it is harder to do alone

Fri., **1-20-23**, 12:30 pm. – Zoom only - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Rich Gardella or Skip Isaacs will be moderator.

Sat., **1-21-23**, 12:30 pm – Special Event – Lunch in Club, followed by visit to exhibit at Walters Museum
Frank Pine will arrange the event. Member, Joaneath Spicer, curator of exhibit will lead tour of it.

Wed., **1-25-23**, 6:30 pm - Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Dr. Stephen Oppenheimer will give dramatic reading of two of his short stories.

Stephen Oppenheimer first performed readings for us in July. He will return in January by popular demand.

Stephen was born, was educated and pursued a totally uneventful and inauspicious career. He is retired but not retiring. He will read two stories from his collection of short stories. The first continues on board the Queen Mary in 1937 during a winter transatlantic crossing. It explores the lives of two of the six passengers seated with Mr. Pettibone and the Major in the first class dining room. The second story has yet to be decided but will likely come from the next volume of stories.

Bruce Barnett is host

Fri. **1-27-23** , 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Zoom only - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion.
Sam Hopkins is moderator.

Thurs., **2-2-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion.

Wed, **2-8-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Dr. Ralph Hruban on his book, *"A Scientific Revolution?"* The sub-title is "Ten Men and Women

Who Reinvented American Medicine." The underlying theme is that all were at Hopkins Hospital, most of them in the late 19th century ---people such as Mary Elizabeth Garrett, John Shaw Billings, William H. Welch, William Osler, etc. Ralph is Chairman of Pathology at JHH.

Steve Achuff is host

Tues., **2-14-23**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion

Bruce Barnett, host

Thurs., **2-16-23**, 12:30 pm – 3 pm – Brainstorming lunch event is moved to 2-23 for this month.

Fri., **2-17-23**, 12:30 pm. – First ever Hybrid Current Events Monthly Discussion. Previously Zoom only. Rich Gardella and Tim Wolf will be moderate. They will be on Zoom and still moderate all who attend. Sam Hopkins will be in club to help moderate as needed.

Wed, **2-22-23**, Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Rush Loving on his new book, Fat Boy and the Champagne Salesman: Göring, Ribbentrop, and the Nazi Invasion of Poland.

The book offers a compelling behind-the-scenes exploration of the road to World War II and the invasion of Poland by the Hitler's Third Reich. Focusing on the personal power plays within Hitler's inner circle, author Rush Loving details the struggle for Hitler's approval, long before the battle for Poland had begun.

David Zoll is host.

Thurs., **2-23-23**, Lunch, 12:30p – 2p – Hybrid Event

Brainstorming for an Even Better Club.

Peggy Sparr will be our guest at this second monthly Hybrid Lunch Event. Peggy has used brainstorming in the Women's Hamilton St. Club and in her earlier career. For her club she used it for both to increase membership and to help the nominating committee.

Before this event she will brief Sam Hopkins, Jim Ulmer and Lynn Davidson on how she did this.

Then, this month we shall focus the brainstorming on member recruiting and retention, using Peggy's methods.

So, we especially ask all Membership Committee members to attend. We invite Jim Ulmer to moderate. Sam Hopkins will record the brainstorming suggestions.

But, again, all club members are invited to join in this stimulating exercise to do as a group what is harder to do alone.

Fri. **2-24-23** , 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Zoom only - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion.

Sam Hopkins is moderator.

Thurs., **3-2-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion

Wed, **3-8-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Rob Kamigel about his new memoir on Baltimore in the 1960's.

Robert Kanigel spoke to us in September 2021 on Hearing Homer's Song: The Brief Life and Big Idea of Milman Parry. On Wednesday March 8 he'll be back to talk about himself, Baltimore in the 1960s, and his search as a young engineer who didn't yet know he was a writer. He describes this in his new book, Young Man, Muddled, his well-regarded autobiography and his tenth book. In a review of this book, club member Charles Duff writes, Kanigel "has a marvelous gift of finding interesting characters and using them to reveal the world in which they lived, and which they usually helped shape. In this book, he trains his sights on himself. Writing with revealing honesty and marvelous grace, he uses the story of his own life to illuminate an important moment in American life."

Mike Franch will host

Tues., **3-14-23**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion

Bruce Barnett, host

Fri., **3-17-23**, 12:30 pm. – Hybrid - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Rich Gardella and Tim Wolf will moderate

Wed, **3-22-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: James Bond, President and CEO of Baltimore's Living Classrooms Foundation

TOPIC: LIVING CLASSROOMS—A MAJOR FORCE IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF EAST BALTIMORE AND BEYOND.

Living Classrooms accomplishments under Mr. Bond's energetic leadership are remarkable.

Living Classrooms programming occurs at multiple locations in Baltimore and the National Capital Region which have been developed in collaboration with residents in the surrounding neighborhoods, these include their Community Hubs – the UA House, POWER House, Patterson Park House, in Baltimore, and the James C. Dent House in DC; environmental education campuses that preserve and showcase urban green spaces and serve as outdoor learning laboratories; a public charter middle school; and a fleet of ships including active floating classrooms and stationary historic museum vessels that offer activities in STEM, ecology, and cultural and maritime heritage.

Using a multigenerational approach reaching from young children to senior citizens, Living Classrooms implements community-driven, research-based, best practices that value the priorities and aspirations of the communities, providing hands-on experiential learning opportunities for individuals of all ages through unique learning environments. Living Classrooms also provides Head Start programs and offers nutritional support, and workforce development and job training programs for young people and adults including citizens returning from incarceration.

Its stewardship of historic vessels such as the USS Constellation, USS Torsk, and Chesapeake Lightship have delighted visitors to the Inner Harbor for many years while its development of the Frederick Douglass Isaac Myers Maritime Park have provided a window into the thriving free black business community in 19th Century Baltimore and its importance to the City's maritime history.

About 20 years ago, Living Classrooms began to replicate its highly successful programs in the Anacostia River basin where it focuses on providing educational, workforce

development and job training services to the residents of District of Columbia Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8.

In partnership with a wide variety of corporations and governmental entities, Living Classrooms Foundation is committed to working with communities, partners, and supporters to ensure every person has access to the programs, skills, resources, and opportunities to succeed and thrive.

Snowden Stanley is host.

Fri. **3-24-23**, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Hybrid at 12:30 pm; Zoom only at 5:30 pm - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins is moderator.

Dr. Gary Hufbauer will be our guest expert to help us understand how lucky our generation has been because of the enormous growth in international trade. Gary is an economist specializing in international trade. He has been a speaker at our club on international trade agreements.

Click on this link for more information about Gary:

<https://www.piie.com/experts/senior-research-staff/gary-clyde-hufbauer>

Thurs., **3-30-23**, Lunch, 12:30p – 2p – Hybrid Event - **Brainstorming for an Even Better Club.**

We will be brainstorming about communications this month. Share your freewheeling thoughts about the Club website, calendar, weekly Friday NEXT Week email, and any other suggestions that come to mind. Think about whether you would like to know more about whom to call about any suggestions or requests. This brainstorming lunch gives you a chance to present your ideas directly to some board members. Since this is a brainstorming session, there won't be any criticism of the ideas presented. Sam and others on the board will take notes for discussion at a later time.

Thurs., **4-6-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion

Tues., **4-11-23**, 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion

Bruce Barnett, host

Wed, **4-12-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Kristina Gaddy

Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History

In an extraordinary story unfolding across more than two hundred years, Kristina Gaddy uncovers the banjo's key role in Black spirituality, ritual, and rebellion, establishing it as an instrument born from African American beliefs and traditions. Weaving together the stories of people who played and observed the banjo, Gaddy follows the instrument from the 17th century, when enslaved people of African descent created it out of gourds and calabashes, to the beginning of Blackface Minstrelsy and the instrument's appropriation by white Americans. Using the few remaining early banjos, portrayals in art, and the diaries, letters, and accounts of European and white Americans, she reveals a landscape of African American music, dance, and religion from which the banjo was born as

a spiritual device. She will illustrate some of these themes with on a banjo (and maybe banjos). Mike Franch will host.

Kristina R. Gaddy is the author of *Well of Souls: Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1922) and *Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis*. She has received the Parsons Fund Award from the Library of Congress, a Logan Nonfiction Fellowship, and a Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Rubys Artist Grant. Her writing has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Washington City Paper*, *Baltimore* magazine, and other publications. She lives in Baltimore in the Waverly neighborhood with her partner Pete Ross and their cat. She graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with degrees in History and Modern Languages (German and Spanish) and holds an MFA in Nonfiction Writing from Goucher College. She is also a weaver and fiddle and banjo player.

Mike Franch is host.

Fri., **4-14-23 (exception to 3rd Fri.)**, 12:30 pm. – Lunch in club with Hybrid Event - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Rich Gardella and Tim Wolf will moderate

Wed., **4-19-23**, 12:30p – Lunch in club with Hybrid Event - **Brainstorming for an Even Better Club**.

Fri., **4-21-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch with Hybrid Speaker Event: Carol Graham will speak on her many years of research and writing on **Happiness, Hope, and Despair in Economics**

Carol Graham is Interim Vice President and Director of Economic Studies at Brookings, College Park Professor at the University of Maryland, and a Gallup Senior Scientist. More information about Carol is below the following explanation of what she will talk about.

We live in increasingly polarized and unequal societies, not only when it comes to incomes and opportunities but also in terms of how people feel about their lives. Why should economists and other social scientists care about how people feel? Feelings of subjective well-being, such as happiness and life satisfaction and hope, have become important metrics in these disciplines because they predict health, productivity, and labor market outcomes, among other things.

Carol's most recent book is about the importance of hope, and why we should consider it an additional independent dimension of well-being. Hope, which is in part genetically determined and in part shaped by the environments that individuals develop in, is perhaps the most important dimension of well-being for future outcomes. We have been tracking trends in hope as a key factor in understanding the rising numbers of "deaths of despair" and premature mortality in the United States; mental health concerns have since been highlighted by COVID. We use well-being metrics to track warning indicators of despair in the U.S. and beyond. We also have conducted surveys of hope among low-income adolescents in Peru and in Missouri, and the implications of those findings for the futures of those young adults. We are also exploring the extent to which lessons

from well-being research as well as from other disciplines can provide strategies for restoring hope in populations where it has been lost, and why doing so matters to our society's health, well-being, civil society, and even national security.

Now for more about Prof. Graham. She has served on a National Academy of Sciences panel on well-being metrics in 2012-13, received Pioneer Awards from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2017 and 2021, and a Lifetime Distinguished Scholar award from the International Society of Quality of Life Studies (2018).

She has served as a Vice President at Brookings, as Special Advisor to the Inter-American Development Bank, Visiting Fellow at the World Bank, and consultant to the IMF.

Her most recent books (published in several languages) are: *The Power of Hope: How Wellbeing Science Can Save us from Despair* (Princeton, 2023); *Happiness for All? Unequal Hopes and Lives in Pursuit of the American Dream* (Princeton, 2017); *The Pursuit of Happiness* (Brookings, 2011); and *Happiness around the World: The Paradox of Happy Peasants and Miserable Millionaires* (Oxford, 2010).

She has published articles in journals including *Science*, *Social Science and Medicine*, the *Journal of Population Economics*, *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *World Bank Research Observer*; *Health Affairs*, *Health Economics*; the *Journal of Development Studies*; the *Journal of Human Development*; and the *Journal of Economic Literature*; and her work has been reviewed in *Science*, the *New Yorker*, and the *New York Review of Books*, among others, and is senior editor at *Behavioral Science and Policy*. She has an A.B. from Princeton, an M.A. from Johns Hopkins, a D.Phil from Oxford, and three beautiful children.

Sam Hopkins is host

Wed, **4-26-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: E. Evans Paull, a retired city planner and author of the highly-praised 2022 book *Stop the Road: Stories from the Trenches of Baltimore's Road Wars*.

The book takes us from Robert Moses's 1940s plan to put a freeway almost in the club's backyard through the battle to stop running roads across Federal Hill, the Inner Harbor, and Fells' Point, and the construction of the "highway to nowhere" in West Baltimore. The battle changed the physical and political landscape of Baltimore. Barbara Mikulski came to prominence as one of the voices against the road. The author conducted extensive interviews, including with club members Charlie Duff, David Gleason, and the late Jack Lapides.

Evans Paull spent 45 years as a city planner, working in Baltimore and nationally on urban redevelopment issues, and particularly on the redevelopment of brownfields. He lives in Northwest Baltimore.

Mike Franch is host.

Fri. **4-28-23** , 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Hybrid at 12:30 pm; Zoom only at 5:30 pm - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins is moderator.

Thurs., **5-4-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion

Tues., **5-9-23**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion

Bruce Barnett, host

Wed, **5-10-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Dr. Kellogg J. Schwab on the history and current status of the Baltimore City water system.

Dr. Schwab is the Abel Wolman Professor in Water and Public Health with dual appointments at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Whiting School of Engineering Department of Environmental Health and Engineering.

Snowden Stanley is host.

Wed. **5-17-23**, 12:30 pm. – Hybrid - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Rich Gardella and Tim Wolf will moderate. (moved from 5-19 to allow more time on 5-19 for Garden Party preparation)

Sat., **5-20-23**, 4-6 pm – Spring Garden Party and Annual Meeting Event: At parish hall and garden of St. Christopher's by the Sea Church at Gibson Island, MD

Note: A second speaker event in May is not scheduled because of proximity of 4th Wednesday of month to both the 3rd Sat. of month Garden Party and Memorial Day weekend (May 27-29)

Wed., **5-24-23**, 12:30 pm – Hybrid – Brainstorming for an Even Better Club. Sam Hopkins will moderate.

Topic: Events Outside the Clubhouse, including but not limited to:

- * Critique of Past Events, e.g., cocktail parties, exhibitions at Walters Museum, Garden Parties, walking tours of historic sights, Birthday Party for Johns Hopkins at Clifton Mansion

- * Imagining other events like

- * Other day trips, two day trips, and even one week trips

- * Trips that use hiking, biking, boats, buses or ski lifts

We shall start with this topic but, again, not be limited to it. After all, this is brainstorming!!

Fri. **5-26-23**, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Hybrid at 12:30 pm; Zoom only at 5:30 pm - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins is moderator.

We shall discuss how inducing feelings of "gratitude" and "wonder" have been found to have great value for mental health. This is relevant to our discussion. The fundamental purpose of steadily, month after month, increasing our understanding of how lucky we are compared to civilizations 200 and even 20 years ago should induce the recommended emotions of both gratitude and wonder. Here are a book and an article about the very new findings on the value of "wonder."

Here is the link to the Amazon page for the book.

https://www.amazon.com/Power-Wonder-Extraordinary-Emotion-Change/dp/0593419367/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Here is a link to an article about the book and the author:

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90885111/focusing-happiness-make-you-unhappy-do-this-instead>

The article finds the word, "Wonder" to be the best word for describing the state of being that we are seeking to create I am trying to create (among others) in these discussions.

The understanding of the benefits of feeling gratitude is much older of course. Just Google "the benefits of feeling gratitude" for many good articles. Here is a link to one from Harvard.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>

Here is another from the Mayo Clinic:

<https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/can-expressing-gratitude-improve-health>

Thurs., **6-1-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion

Mon.-Sat., **6-5 through 6-11-23**: Club closed for spring vacation of staff

Sun., **6-11-23**, Boating Event for 20 members and 2 guest at Gibson Island and Magohy River

Tues., **6-13-23**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion
Bruce Barnett, host

Wed., **6-14-23**, 2nd Wed. speaker event was moved to 6-7 because 6-17 event is so close to 6-17 Mint Julep Party.

But then 6-7 had to be cancelled because travel plans had already been made for some staff to be on vacation from club on 6-7. So, a day trip to NYC is offered, requiring no staff to be in club.

Wed., **6-14-23**, 12:30 pm. – Hybrid - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Rich Gardella and Tim Wolf will moderate.

Sat., **6-17-23**, 4-6 pm – Mint Julep Party: At home of David and Robin Zoll

Wed., **6-21-23**, 12:30 pm – Hybrid Lunch – Brainstorming for an Even Better Club. --for whomever did not sign up in March for the exciting new NYC daytrip special event that is described next.

Sam Hopkins will moderate

Wed., **6-21-23** – Day Trip by bus to NYC to see Sweeny Todd musical. Organizer is Lois Schenck. Reservations had to be made in March or 1st week of April

Fri. **6-23-23** , 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Hybrid at 12:30 pm; Zoom only at 5:30 pm - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Sam Hopkins is moderator.

Wed, **6-28-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:
Speaker: Betty Loafmann, President of Renaissance Institute
Topic: The Renaissance Institute and the importance of “Life Long Learning”

Thurs., **7-6-23**, 12:30 pm – Lunch in club with Hybrid Book Discussion

Tues., **7-11-23**: 12:30 pm - Lunch in club with Hybrid Short Story Discussion
Bruce Barnett, host

Wed., **7-12-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Heidi Schreiber-Pan, Ph.D., LCPC, is the clinical director at Chesapeake Mental Health Collaborative and founder of the newly launched Center for Nature Informed Therapy.

Topic: Nature-Based Mental Health

Nature-based mental health explores nature-based methods of psychological healing, grounded in the belief that nature has profound mental health effects specifically for anxiety and stress-related mental health challenges. This topic is particularly relevant as many individuals struggle with an uptick in anxiety in the aftermath of the Covid-19 epidemic.

Both Chesapeake Mental Health Collaborative and the Center for Nature Informed Therapy are located at 1010 Dulaney Valley Road Towson, MD 21204

More about the Speaker:

Dr. Schreiber-Pan is a licensed professional counselor and board-approved supervisor. Her clinical specialization in the treatment of anxiety disorders, PTSD, OCD, stress reduction, and occupational burnout has made her a sought-after international speaker.

As an affiliate and former faculty member of Loyola University, Maryland, her past research has focused on resiliency, psychological well-being, and nature-informed therapy.

Dr. Schreiber-Pan has worked with various organizations, schools, and corporations to reduce stress on a communal level and to increase organizational well-being through training in positive psychology as well as the integration of nature into mental health. She is the author of the successful self-help book: Taming the Anxious Mind. Her new book The Outside Within: Stories of Nature’s Role in Psychological Well-being was just published in April of 2023.

Links for more information:

[Center for Nature Informed Therapy](https://www.cmhcweb.com/about)
<https://www.cmhcweb.com/about>

Heidi Schreiber-Pan, Ph.D., LCPC

Sam Hopkins and Frank Pine are hosts

Wed., 7-19-23, 12:30 - 2 pm – Lunch in club & Hybrid Event: “Assessment of Our 6 Months of Brainstorming for an Even Better Club.”

This will be our first "Assessment of Our Brainstorming" lunch, rather than pure Brainstorming itself.

Josh Ewen will report on his assessment of the 6 monthly Brainstorming sessions and his recommendations for what to report and recommend to the Board of Directors at their September meeting.

Josh will do this in part by examining the notes taken on these 6 sessions.

Then, we shall discuss Josh's recommendations and welcome others from attendees. All attendees who have made reservations or who are joining by Zoom will receive before July 19 a copy of these same notes on the first 6 sessions. So, this event will be a discussion event, not a brainstorming event.

Please call Sam Hopkins, if you have any questions or suggestions. 410 935 8540.

Sam Hopkins and Josh Ewen, Moderators.

Fri., 7-21-23, 12:30 pm. – Hybrid - Current Events Monthly Discussion. Rich Gardella and Tim Wolf will moderate.

Wed, 7-26-23, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: Jack Gohn will do a presentation based on his book, *What I Was Listening To When*.

The book is dedicated to the proposition that the music that you were listening to at moments when important things happened to you evokes the moments, and the moments evoke the music. In a series of short essays, therefore, my book presents pairs of moments (candidly recalled) and music, mostly songs, (thoughtfully discussed). There are accompanying free, publicly available playlists, in both Spotify and YouTube. When I do a reading, it's a multimedia experience, including slides and videos, and clips from the songs discussed.

Mike Franch is host.

Fri. 7-28-23, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm – Hybrid at 12:30 pm; Zoom only at 5:30 pm - Luckiest Generation Monthly Discussion. Topic will be explosive increase in leisure activities and related mobility increases during our lifetimes, like all kinds of travel for pleasure. We shall reminisce with each other.

Sam Hopkins is moderator.

8-1 though 8-31-23: The club is closed and no Zoom events occur.

Sat., **9-9-23**, 6:30 pm cocktails; 7 pm buffet dinner, and 8 pm speaker, This resumes the annual dinner we do jointly with H.L. Mencken Society. The speaker will be Michael Downs, who gave the Pratt Mencken lecture a few years ago and teaches creative and non-fiction writing at Towson. Prof. Downs will soon publish a piece in the LA Times on Mencken and his current relevance to the country.

Wed. **9-13-23**, 12:30 pm lunch at club
2 pm: Visit Emmanuel Church for guide tour of new art exhibit

Wed., **9-13-23**, 6:30 pm -- Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: RE-PLACED just this month by the New Members Party. See next item

Sat., **9-16-23**: 6-8 pm - In Club Special Event: New Members Party. "New Members" are all who joined since the last party in 2022.

Fri., **9-22-23**: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. -- Hybrid Event -- Current Events Discussion
Tim Wolf will Host

Wed., **9-27-23**, 6:30 pm -- Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:
Rick Striner, a club member and past speaker at the club, will talk about his new book on Dwight Eisenhower, titled Ike in Love and War.
Rick is a retired professor of history at Washington College and author of many books of history.

The book will Shed Light on Eisenhower's Personal Conflicts and How He Overcame them to Achieve Greatness.

Behind the demeanor that made Dwight D. Eisenhower so popular was a cold-as-steel intelligence that kept his country prosperous and out of danger. Because his operating methods were so deeply hidden, it is only in the past few decades that historians have grasped the full extent of his achievements.

Ike in Love and War shows the hidden sacrifices that made Eisenhower remarkable. It probes the mission that was driving him: the quest to reconcile his skill as a fighter with his mother's pacifism, which led him to become the greatest peacekeeper of his age. It also probes his haunted quest for love. Perhaps his greatest sacrifice was leaving the woman

who was probably the love of his life, thus making him one of the great tragic heroes in our history.

Bernie Shiffman is host.

Fri., **9-29-23**: Luckiest Generation discussion
12:30 – 2 pm - Hybrid lunch event
5:30 – 6:30 pm – Zoom only

Thurs., **10-05-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid Event – Book discussion

Sat., **10-07-23**, 10:30 am – Guided Tour of Jim Henson exhibit at MCHS
12:30 pm – Lunch at club to discuss the exhibit

Tues., **10-10-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid lunch event – Short Story Discussion

Wed., **10-11-23**, 6:30 pm – Cocktails, Dinner 7 pm, and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event: John Emond, club member, will speak about Northern Ireland At The Crossroads: Lessons For the United States.

This will cover last year's general election and the crossroads which is Northern Ireland. For the first time in the century-long existence of Northern Ireland (1921 to the present), the predominantly Catholic, Nationalist Sinn Fein party became the lead political party in Northern Ireland as a result of the election. This presentation briefly provides visual background to the "Troubles" as seen in "Return To Derry"; covers the May 2022 election and its results; and underscores both the positive evolution in Northern Ireland from the days of "bombs, bullets and British Army" yet still recognizes the challenges that are still quite evident including the aftermath of "Brexit" and the "Irish Sea Border". This presentation would also provide some comparison between the election that took place last May particularly in Derry, and our own recent election history.

Sam Hopkins is host.

Wed., 10-18, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid lunch event – Good Ole Days with Jacques Kelly

Fri., **10-20-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid lunch event – Current Events Discussion – Tim Wolf, moderator.

Wed., **10-25-23**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Gus Russo -- author, documentarian, screenwriter, and former professional musician and composer

Topic: The Effect of the Digital Revolution on Creative Professionals.

The Hollywood strikes are just the latest incarnations of the computerized assaults on the creative profession.

How the digital revolution with computers, audio and then video recording, cable TV, the internet, and now web-based streaming of audio and video has created new professional careers and then destroyed them, and how this is happening at this very moment in Hollywood.

More About the Speaker: For over 20 years, Gus was a professional musician, instructor, and composer.

He has since written ten books (nine non-fiction), and reported or co-produced a dozen feature documentary specials for all the major networks here and abroad.

He has had dozens of Hollywood film options for his books and screenplays.

Thus, he has had a front-row seat to the immense changes that have occurred in the creative arts as a result of computers and the Internet.

As a result, musicians, authors, and filmmakers have undergone a sea change in their ways of life, a change that is largely unknown to the public.

This sea change will be the focus of his presentation.

Ed Stringer is host

Fri., **10-27**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid event – Luckiest Generations discussion

Thurs., **11-2-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid event – Book discussion

Wed., **11-8-23**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Jack Gerbes will speak about “Baltimore in the Movies.” This is part of the clubs “YOUR BALTIMORE” series.

Jack Gerbes is Director of the Maryland Film Office. He will talk about, and show film clips of the many movies and television series that were filmed in the City of Baltimore, including the various films of John Waters and Barry Levinson, Ladder 49, Enemy of the State, Runaway Bride, 12 Monkeys, the Accidental Tourist, House of Cards, the Wire and many others, and how the Maryland Film Commission helped to bring them to life, from scouting locations and providing financial incentives to closing I-95 to blow up a nearby building for real.

Hosted by Peggy Israel.

Tues., **11-14-23**, 12:30 - 2 pm – Hybrid event - Short Story discussion

Fri., **11-17-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid event – Current Events discussion

Wed., **11-29-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid event – “Meet a Member” – This is a revival of a special event that was Zoom only when Covid closed the club. Rich Gardella is the member we shall meet. Les Finke will interview Rich and moderate the Q & A.

Fri., **12-01-23**, 12:30 – 2 pm – Hybrid event – Luckiest Generations discussion
Topic: Reflect on what about our present life should be viewed as awesome and magical, instead of just ordinary. Start with our roads.
To help you prepare read a condensed version of Vaclav Smil’s book, How the World Really Works. See Appendix to this HSA Schedule at bottom of this file. Therein see “Addendum to Event Description” for 12-1-23.

Wed., **12-06-23**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:
Scott Shane about his new book “Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery’s Borderland.”

Shane is a former Sun colleague of our member, Brian Sullam. He was a journalist for 40 years at The Baltimore Sun and The New York Times,

Host is Brian Sullam

Thurs., **12-07-23**, 12:30-2 pm – Hybrid book discussion

Tues., **12-12-23**, 12:30-2 pm – Hybrid short story discussion

Fri., **12-15-23**, 12:30-2 pm Hybrid Current Events discussion

Sat., **12-16-23**, 6-8 pm – Holiday Party at club – cocktails and buffet.

Club closes after this party and does not reopen until after New Year's Day

The following two monthly events are cancelled because the club is closed:

Cancelled: Wed., **12-20-23**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid discussion event for varied topics

Cancelled: Fri., **12-22-23**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid discussion event for "Luckiest Generation."

2024

Postponed to 2024 with date not yet determined:

Wed., 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner, and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:
Stan Mazaroff about his long research and unique article about
"Saint Jerome, Pope Nicholas V and the remarkably studious Italian painting that
brought them together in 1451"
Sam Hopkins is host.

Yes, Our Club Is Now in Its 100th Year!
Let's Enjoy It!

Tues., **01-09-24**, 12:30-2 pm – Hybrid short story discussion

Wed., **01-10-24**, 6:30 pm -- Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Tom D'Asto, Engineer who has done important work on the Hubble Space Telescope. He is now working on the Roman Space Telescope that will be next in space after the Web. He is also the father of former club bartender, Gina D'Asto. And that is how we found about his interesting work. He is preparing a presentation with visuals just for our club at Gina's request. Thank you, Gina.

Tom did his graduate work in engineering at Johns Hopkins University. His employer, Aerodyne Industries, Inc., is a major contractor that does vital work for the Goddard Space Flight Center. Tom has worked there for 35 years as a mechanical engineering contractor supporting the Mechanical Engineering Division at Goddard.

Topic: The huge complexity of the space telescope projects from the earliest of design through many other steps to launch. How the success of the first two space telescopes is almost magical.

See Addendum to this event description in the Appendix for more about Tom D'Asto and the work he will speak about.

Thurs., **01-11-24**, 12:30-2 pm – Hybrid book discussion

Wed., **01-17-24**, 12:30-2 pm – Hybrid Announced Guest Special Event had to be postponed to Feb. 8, because snow storm closed this club on this day

Fri., **01-19-24**, 12:30-2 pm Hybrid Current Events discussion

Wed., **01-24-24**, 6:30 pm -- Cocktails, Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Gregory E Johnson, CIV USARMY CENAB (USA), PE, CDFM, PMP

Topic: How the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Helps to “Save the Bay”

Greg has Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Villanova University and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering – Environmental Engineering from the University of Delaware. He was a Vice President and director of SE Region Federal Programs at EA Engineering, Science and Technology from 1996 to 1999. He joined the USACE in 1999 in the Civil works division and is currently CFO Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, Chief Resource Management Office. His extensive experience has included issues related to the Port of Baltimore and the Chesapeake.

Gregory will give a presentation on the relationship of the Corps to the Port of Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay, particularly with respect to management of environmental issues. There are 4.5 million cubic yards of dredged material removed from the shipping channels each year, and the Corps is responsible for environmental protection during this process. He will discuss dredged material management and protection of environmental and natural resources. He will emphasize the development of islands for dredged material placement as natural habitat areas for enhancement and protection of species of special concern. This will include the success of the Poplar Island restoration and the return of breeding colonies of Least Terns. He will also review the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project – commonly known as Mid-Bay – located in Dorchester County near what remains of the separate James and Barren Islands. The project will use dredged material from the Chesapeake Bay's Maryland navigation channels to restore remote island and wetland habitat near James and Barren Islands, which will provide improved health and sustainability to aquatic and wildlife species.

Hosted by Frank Pine

Fri., **01-26-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid "Luckiest Generations" discussion

Can we say that we had no choice but to create awesome things with oil, natural gas and coal, despite knowing that they would cause climate change? We shall learn about the maximum power principle.

Thurs., **02-01-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid book discussion

Thurs., **02-08-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid "announced guest" lunch presentation and discussion.

Special guest is Stuart W. ("Bill") Leslie, JHU Prof. whom President Ron Daniels appointed several years ago to write a new history of JHU. He will informally discuss some of his research findings and his preference for a "thematic history," instead of a simply "chronological" one.

Tues., **02-13-24**, 12:30-2 pm – hybrid short story discussion

Wed. **02-14-24**, Cocktails, 6:30 pm, Dinner, 7 pm and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Mike Johnson, retired history professor at Johns Hopkins University has a new book, *Lincoln, Slavery and the Civil War*

Title of Talk: "Abraham Lincoln: From Log Cabin to Appomattox Rather than Vice Versa"

Description: We tend to view Lincoln from the perspective of his success in saving the Union and issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. What if we view him instead from the perspective of his life as he lived it, from the log cabin forward, rather than from the last months of his life looking backward? Doing so, I argue, reveals Lincoln's "inner southerner" as well as his status as the "Great Warrior" alongside that of the "Great Emancipator."

More about the speaker: Michael Johnson is an emeritus professor of history at Johns Hopkins. His books include *Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War*, an edition of selections from Lincoln's most important speeches and writings. He has published, taught, and lectured for many years about Lincoln and related topics of nineteenth-century U.S. history such as slavery, free people of color, and secession. He is a coauthor of a widely used college textbook, *The American Promise: A History of the United States*, now in its ninth edition.

Host is Bruce Barnett

Fri., **02-16-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid Current Events discussion

Fri., **02-23-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid "Luckiest Generations" discussion moved to 03-01 just for this month. No in club lunch on this day in order to help staff prepare for the next day's event.

Let's Give a Toast to Our Club At this Cocktail Party for 100 Years of Great Conversations

Sat., **02-24-24**, 6-8 pm – Cocktails at home of Lois Schenck

Wed. **02-28-24**, 6:30 pm, Cocktails, 7 pm, Dinner and 8:05 pm, Hybrid Speaker Event:
John Racnelli, CEO of the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Mr. Racnelli will describe the Aquarium's programs directed to species and habitat protection and conservation.

Snowden Stanley will host.

Fri., **03-01-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid “Luckiest Generations” discussion

Thurs., **03-07-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid book discussion

Tues., **03-12-24**, 12:30-2 pm – hybrid short story discussion

Wed., **03-13-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Only draft until Feb. 26

Dean Mark Gladwin, Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine and Medical Center, will speak on two topics:

- (1) Baltimore as a med-ed city: How JHU and UM can revitalize the city and
- (2) The Pandemics of addiction, age, obesity

Host is Alfred Berkeley

After Feb. 26 in Calendar and in NEXT Week on March 8:

Dinner & Speaker Event

In Club Cocktails & Dinner and Hybrid

Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Seated Dinner

7:50 p.m. Zooming Members join

8:05 p.m. Speaker begins

Hosted by Alfred Berkeley

Speaker: Dean Mark Gladwin, Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine and Medical Center. See more about Dan Gladwin below.

Presentation: Dean Gladwin will tell us about his vision for the School of Medicine as a center of research, education and community revitalization.

In particular, he will astonish us with the enormity of Baltimore as a "med-ed city," when you view JHU and University of Maryland together as one huge entity. This entity combines medical education, services, research and then new businesses that the research will create or lead to in this city.

He will also explain how much we need this huge med-ed complex to tackle what he calls the new "pandemics of addiction, age and obesity."

More about Dean Gladwin: Mark T. Gladwin, MD was appointed as the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) and Vice President for Medical Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore in August 2022. He is a leading heart, vascular, and lung physician-scientist. He maintains an active research group. He has published more than 450 manuscripts.

His scientific discoveries include the finding that a nitrite salt is a biological signaling molecule that regulates physiological and pathological hypoxic responses, blood pressure and flow, and dynamic mitochondrial electron transport. He also characterized the role of hemoglobin and myoglobin as signaling nitrite reductases that regulate NO production under hypoxia, and his 2003 publication on this work has been cited more than 1,800 times and is in *Nature Medicine's* Classic Collection.

Phase II trials of inhaled nitrite are now underway for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension, metabolic syndrome, and heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

MARCH 17 – 23: Spring Break for staff; club is closed: This eliminates the 3rd Wed. "Various" Special Event and the 3rd Fri. Current Events discussion.

Wed., **03-27-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Troy A. LeMaile-Stovall, CEO TEDCO

Topic: Understanding TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation) and its impact on the lives of the Maryland community. TEDCO facilitates the creation of new businesses and supports their growth in all regions of the State.

Troy A. LeMaile-Stovall, is the CEO of TEDCO and leads the organization in its mission to support economic empowerment through the cultivation of a diverse and inclusive entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem. He also serves as a Strategic Advisor for Hunter Lewis, LLC, an investment management advisory firm, led by Cambridge Associates' Co-Founder Hunter Lewis.

Troy is an entrepreneur at heart; he founded the management consulting firm LeMaile-Stovall, LLC and co-founded GulfSouth Capital, the family investment/venture capital office for US Ambassador to Portugal and SkyTel founder John N. Palmer, where he served as the first President and CEO.

Troy graduated cum laude from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering, earned a master of science in computer science from Stanford University as a Bell Labs One Year on Campus Fellow, and received an MBA from Harvard University (1st Year Honors). Troy's full Bio here: <https://www.ted-comd.com/about-tedco/staff/troy-lemaile-stovall>

Host is Dan Evans

Postponed Speaker: Jorge Rivas -- postponed from March 27

Topic: Human history from the perspective of a mathematical modeler of the rise and fall of past civilizations

Hosted by Sam Hopkins

Fri., **03-29-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid “Luckiest Generations” discussion

Do Social Historians Obscure what Makes Some Generations So Lucky?

Like all great historians, social historians overwhelm us with the many facts and stories that they include in their writings. But despite the overwhelming number, they still appear to largely ignore, give little importance to, or view negatively the facts our discussion group has focused on. And we, in turn, have largely ignored what these historians focus on.

Sat., **03-30-24**, 12-3 pm at Elkridge Club: Celebration of Life of past club president, David Zoll

Thurs., **04-04-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid book discussion

Tues., **04-09-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid short story discussion

Wed., **04-10-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speakers: Charles Mitchell and Jean Baker

Topic: Their book, “Maryland and the Civil War Reconsidered.” A collection of essays on Maryland’s role in the civil war.

This volume provide new information and insights on the role of a crucial border state in the Civil War. Fearing that the state might secede in 1861, the Lincoln administration and Unionist Marylanders—black as well as white—managed to prevent this outcome

and to make an important contribution to ultimate Northern victory. The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered helps us understand how and why this happened. -- James M. McPherson, author of "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era." Charley and Jean will explain how they put the book together with chapter authors around the country and will discuss some of enduring myths about the Maryland Civil War story and how fresh scholarship has been gradually eroding them.

Hosted by Mitch Koppelman

Fri., **04-19-24**, 12:30-2pm hybrid Current Events discussion

Wed., **04-24-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Chris West, club member and member of the MD State Senate

Topic: Chris's own insider report on the just finished Maryland Legislative Session,

Hosted by Sam Hopkins

Fri., **04-26-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid "Luckiest Generations" discussion

Thurs., **05-02-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid book discussion

Wed., **05-08-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: Adam Genn, Vice-President, MCB Harborplace

Topic: Understanding the MCB Proposal for Redeveloping the Entirety of Harborplace

Mr. Genn serves as the Vice President of MCB Harborplace, leading the redevelopment of MCB Real Estate's assets in downtown Baltimore, including the Inner Harbor and Harborplace. Mr. Genn is a proven enterprise leader with extensive experience in extremely complex, large-scale real estate portfolio projects, strategic initiatives, and complex financial executions including representation of a joint venture between the world's second largest investment bank and the family office of the CEO of one of the world's largest apparel manufacturers.

We have heard some strong objections to parts of Mr. Genn's proposed plan for redeveloping Harborplace. Mr. Genn will address some of these in his presentation. And he welcomes you to ask him about these and any others during Q & A.

Host is Sam Hopkins

Tues., **05-14-24**, 12:30-2 pm, hybrid short story discussion

Fri., **05-17-24**, 12:30-2pm hybrid Current Events discussion. No need to move it, because staff does not cater the next day's event at Clifton Mansion.

The 14 West Hamilton Street Club Celebrating 100 Years On May 18 at Clifton Mansion!

Sat., **05-18-24**, 4-6 pm at Clifton Mansion – Celebration of the first 100 years of the 14 West Hamilton St. Club – with special displays and speakers TBA -- and Annual Meeting

Fri., **05-24-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid “Luckiest Generations” discussion

Wed., **06-12-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:
Speaker: David Yezzi

Topic: His book, “Late Romance - Anthony Hecht - A Poet's Life”

Title of Talk: Anthony Hecht at War: American Poetry and WWII.

Description: David will discuss his recent book about Anthony Hecht (1923-2004). Hecht was one of America's greatest poets, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and widely recognized as a master of formal verse that drew on wide-ranging cultural and literary sources, as well as Hecht's experiences as a soldier during World War II, during which he fought in Germany and Czechoslovakia and helped to liberate the Flossenburg concentration camp.

Host: Woody Woodward

Fri., **06-21-24**, 12:30-2pm hybrid Current Events discussion.

Wed., **06-26-24**, 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7 pm Dinner and 8 pm Hybrid Speaker Event:

Speaker: John Edmond

Topic: Benedict Arnold: Hero or Traitor? Yes.

Description: Most people equate the name “Benedict Arnold” with treason and treachery; for good reason. But in the opening years of the American Revolution, Benedict Arnold was a key figure in the fledgling country's efforts to secure independence.

Fri., **06-28-24**, 12:30-2 pm hybrid “Luckiest Generations” discussion

More 100th Year Celebrations Still to Come This Year!

APPENDIX

Addendum to event description for 12-1-23:

Vaclav Smil, How the World Really Works

Copy and Paste of full Blinkist summary

What's it about?

How the World Really Works (2022) tackles a paradox at the heart of the modern world: we've never had so much information at our fingertips and never known so little about how things actually work. Of course, we can't be experts in everything. But, Vaclav Smil argues, it's our duty as citizens to be informed about the basics – the big questions that shape our societies and their futures.

About the author

Vaclav Smil is a Czech-Canadian natural scientist and distinguished professor in the faculty of environment at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. He completed his graduate studies at Carolinum University in Prague and Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include energy, the environment, food, population, and economics.

Key idea 1

The history of life on our planet is a history of energy conversions.

Let's start at the beginning – the *very* beginning. Some three and a half billion years ago, when much of our planet's surface was little more than primordial soup, a new form of life emerged: simple, single-cell microbes.

These bacteria didn't have consciousness or mobility: they merely drifted aimlessly through Earth's seas. But they did have *metabolism* – the ability to convert one form of energy into another. That was how they accessed the nutrients they needed to survive and reproduce. The first

form of energy was solar radiation from the sun. They used that energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into new organic compounds. While doing so, they created a by-product – oxygen.

This process, which is called *photosynthesis*, changed the planet's atmosphere. Before these microbes began photosynthesizing, it was oxygenless; but after hundreds of millions of years, the atmosphere had enough oxygen to support life as we know it. Life, in other words, began with energy conversion. And it continued that way, too. **The entire history of our planet is a history of energy conversions.**

For example, several hundred thousand years ago, there was another epochal shift. This was the first *extrasomatic* use of energy – that is, the conversion of energy outside the body. Previously, all energy conversion had occurred inside the cells of living things. More metabolism, in short. Cells unlocking nutrients by converting one form of energy into another. That's when a bunch of unusually clever apes – our ancestors – discovered the controlled combustion of plant matter.

Fire converts the chemical energy of plant matter, be it wood or peat or coal, into thermal energy and light. *Homo sapiens* began by using wood, of course – coal came much later. But that was **enough to make indigestible foods edible, keep their shelters warm, and scare off dangerous animals.** The use of fire was humanity's first step on the long road to reshaping and controlling its environment.

The domestication of animals some 10,000 years ago is another milestone in the history of energy conversions. Before humans learned to put animals like oxen to work, they relied on their own muscles to convert chemical energy into the kinetic and mechanical energy which **hailed loads, plowed fields, and drew water from wells.** Domestication outsourced that role to beasts of burden. **Later innovations, like sails and waterwheels,** delegated that work to the wind and flowing rivers.

Then comes the next milestone – the use of **fossil fuels** – which brings us into the modern age. After **around 1600**, humans **started burning coal**, a fuel created over millions of years as heat and pressure fossilized plant matter. Coal gave us **the steam engine** – the iron workhorse which powered **early industrialization.** After around 1850, the history of energy conversion picks up tempo, giving us ever more **new energy sources: crude oil, electricity-generating water and wind turbines, geothermal electricity, and then nuclear and solar power.**

The **abundance of useful energy has changed every facet of human existence.** It allows us to work less, eat better, travel more, and communicate more efficiently. Put differently, **if you want to understand the miracle of modern life, you have to start with how we convert energy.**

Key idea 2

Energy is the ability to do work.

Energy conversion, in short, is the basis of all life. It powered human evolution and allowed our species to dominate the planet. No one knows this better than physicists.

In **1886, Ludwig Boltzmann – one of the founders of thermodynamics** – came to the conclusion that energy is the heart of everything. All life, he said, is a **struggle for free energy – the energy**

that's available for conversions. Erwin Schrödinger, the winner of the 1933 Nobel Prize for Physics, agreed. **Every organism feeds on free energy**, he wrote, and the organisms that best capture that energy hold the evolutionary advantage. We'll come back to that, but let's pause first to pose a fundamental question:

What is energy, anyway?

The etymology of the word, which goes back to ancient Greece, is a good place to start. It comes from the noun *enérgeia*, meaning “work.” And that's pretty much the standard scientific definition: energy is the *ability to do work*.

In physics, work refers to the physical act of producing a change of configuration in a system in opposition to a second force which resists change. That's a technical way of saying that work is the force that causes things to move. Energy, in other words, is about motion. If you hold a tennis ball out of a second-floor window, for example, it has *potential energy* – the potential for creating motion. If you drop it, that potential energy is transformed into the *kinetic energy* of movement.

All energy can be converted. The food you eat is a store of *chemical energy*; when you go for a run or tidy up, it's transformed into kinetic energy. The chemical energy in coal, meanwhile, can be converted into *mechanical energy* – the force moving the pistons attached to a steam engine.

And that, really, brings us **back to what energy is all about: conversions**. That's because it can't be created or destroyed; it can only change form. This is known as the *conservation of energy*, which is the first law of thermodynamics.

You can see how this works if you imagine a cardboard box sliding down a loading bay ramp.

When it was sitting at the top of that ramp, the box had potential energy. But then an accidental push sent it speeding down the ramp, converting potential energy into kinetic energy. But the box slows as it comes down the ramp: friction opposes its motion. The box's kinetic energy isn't lost, though – it's converted into thermal energy, which heats both the box and the ramp. What *has* been lost, here, is the ability of this kinetic energy to perform useful work: it can no longer move the box.

That, in a nutshell, is the physics of energy. But let's make things a little less abstract.

We just quoted Schrödinger's view that **organisms which best capture free energy** – energy available for useful conversions – **hold the evolutionary advantage**. That's a pretty good description of **Homo sapiens**. So let's take a look at **one of the most important ways** in which our species has captured energy: **agriculture**.

Key idea 3

Fossil fuels revolutionized agriculture.

Between 1950 and 2019, the globe's population rose from 2.5 billion people to 7.7 billion. More mouths to feed didn't mean more people going hungry, though. In fact, the worldwide share of undernourished people actually *fell* – from 65 percent in 1950 to just 8.9 percent in 2019.

So what explains this dramatic reduction of malnutrition? One answer is that our crops yield more food than before. That in turn is down to *better crop varieties, improved fertilizers, better irrigation, and the mechanization of agriculture*. But all those things are *inputs*. *What made them possible? The answer is fossil fuels*.

Modern food production is hybrid – it relies on *two different kinds of energy conversions*. The first type is as old as life on this planet. Everything we eat, from plants to animals, is the result of *photosynthesis*. Solar radiation powers food production as it has since the dawn of agricultural civilizations 10,000 years ago. Without the sun, there simply wouldn't be anything to harvest.

But solar radiation alone can't explain today's high-yield crops. They *also* rely on *fossil energies like gas and oil*. Labor-saving *machines*, like combines, require diesel to harvest crops; so do the *trains, trucks, and barges* which bring crops to market. *Irrigation pumps, crop processing, and drying machinery* run on gasoline. And the *factories which manufacture* the steel, rubber, plastics, glass, and electronics that go into tractors, combines, trucks, silos, and greenhouses also run on fossil fuels.

That's *only half the story*, however. High-yield crops are intensely managed crops: you need *fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides* to minimize losses *and fertilizers* to boost growth. That, too, is fuel-intensive. Take *nitrogen* fertilizer. On average, farms use between 100 and 200 kilograms of it per hectare, making it the most important indirect energy input in farming. Plant life is impossible without nitrogen. It's in every living cell. It's *in chlorophyll* which powers photosynthesis and in plants' DNA and RNA. It's also *in their amino acids* – the building blocks of the proteins needed to grow and repair tissue.

Nitrogen is everywhere – over 80 percent of the planet's atmosphere is made up of this colorless, odorless compound. Thing is, though, you mostly encounter it in its nonreactive form – a form plants can't use. To make nitrogen available to plants, you *need to split the bond between the two nitrogen atoms and unlock free nitrogen*. In this state, it can combine chemically with other elements and form reactive, plant-accessible nitrogen compounds like ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites.

Some natural processes, like lightning, unlock free nitrogen, but you can't really harness lightning as an agricultural input. What you *can* do, by contrast, is sow *nitrogen-fixing crops*, such as *alfalfa*. The roots of these plants are home to bacteria which convert nitrogen into ammonia, thus "fixing" the nitrogen in the soil. But that takes time: you have to stop growing, say, wheat and plant alfalfa.

In the *early twentieth century*, *German scientists* worked out how to *produce synthetic nitrogen fertilizers*. Simply put, you upgrade natural gas by combining it with nitrogen from the air. Suddenly, there was as much fertilizer as humanity needed. The result: crop yields went through the roof, bringing us to the point where we can almost feed eight billion people. But that came at a cost of ever greater reliance on fossil fuels. Today, fertilizer production accounts for almost *1.5 percent of the entire globe's energy supply and a huge portion of the natural gas* we burn each year.

Key idea 4

The agricultural revolution drove urbanization.

Fossil fuels powered what's known as the *green revolution* – the huge increase in crop yields across the world during the twentieth century. Agricultural development didn't just change what, or how much, we eat, though. It also changed how and where we work. To get a better sense of these big picture changes, let's zoom in on one of the many places that revolution played out: the United States.

It's 1801 and we're in western New York. More precisely, we're on the banks of the Genesee, a river which runs through a fertile valley dotted with small farms growing bread wheat. The farmers here are Americans, but they grow their wheat in the same way their ancestors did back in Europe. In fact, they grow it pretty much exactly like the ancient Egyptians did over 2,000 years ago.

They start by attaching a wooden plow with an iron-plated cutting edge to two oxen and driving that across their fields. Then they sow the seed they've kept back from last year. Next, they harvest the wheat with sickles before cutting and bundling it. After drying, it's hauled into the barn and threshed. The straw is stacked and the grain is winnowed – the process of separating the wheat seeds from their tough husks known as chaff. Finally, the wheat is measured and put in sacks.

Everything is done by hand. Nothing is mechanized and everything is powered by solar radiation. All in all, it takes 120 hours of human labor plus 70 hours of ox labor per hectare. That's about ten minutes of labor per kilogram of wheat, which is what you'd need to bake two loaves of bread.

Fast forward a century. We're now in the Red River valley in eastern Dakota. Agriculture has already moved on a great deal. Wheat farmers use teams of four powerful horses to pull multishare steel plows. They also have mechanical seed drills and harvesters. Fossil fuels have also arrived – threshing machines, for example, are now powered by coal-fired steam engines. At 1,000 kilograms per hectare, bread wheat yields are still relatively low, but much less human labor is required to secure a wheat crop. Now, it's just 22 hours per hectare – about one-seventh of what it was in 1801. In other words, farmers are investing between one and five minutes of their labor per kilogram of wheat.

Let's hit the fast-forward button one last time, bringing us up to 2021. This time, we're in Kansas – the heart of American wheat country. The world of even a hundred years ago has completely disappeared. The US Department of Agriculture stopped counting the number of draft animals on American farms in 1961, which is pretty much when diesel-guzzling tractors became ubiquitous. Every part of the process is now mechanized, including the application of inorganic fertilizers. Combines take care of harvesting and threshing before directly loading grain onto trucks. A hectare now yields 3,500 kilograms and requires just two hours of human labor. That's just two seconds per kilogram of wheat!

The upshot of these remarkable improvements was that farming required fewer hands and produced more food. In the United States, around 83 percent of Americans worked in agriculture in

1801; by 2021, that had all fallen to just 1 percent. This same story was replicated around the world, from Denmark to China and Argentina to India. Fossil fuels, then, changed everything. They drove the mechanization of agriculture and the increase in yields. But they also severed humanity's age-old connection with the land, driving billions of people into cities to find new work in the innovative industries which shaped the modern world.

Key idea 5

Electricity makes the modern world go round.

Lumps of coal and canisters of gasoline are pretty tangible stores of chemical energy. When they burn, they release thermal energy – the heat which powers locomotives or motor vehicles. It's the same with falling water. We can easily picture the water wheel which converts the river's gravitational energy into the mechanical energy which turns a millstone.

Electricity is different. It's less intuitive. Even physicists can't answer the question of what exactly electricity *is* – they can only describe how it interacts with the world. But that's enough to harness its life-altering power. And the effects of that can be seen everywhere.

As an energy source, electricity has many advantages. It's always clean, for example, and mostly very efficient. A simple flip of a switch or push of a button is enough to activate thermostats, motors, heaters, and lights. There's no need for bulky fuel storage and nothing to carry. And unlike, say, coal or gas, there's no danger of incomplete combustion – the source of deadly carbon monoxide.

Its uses have transformed our world. Take just one application: lighting. Before electric lighting, we relied on wax candles, oil lamps, and kerosene cylinders to erase the difference between day and night. All were expensive, inefficient, and often dangerous. They were also feeble. The gas lights of early industrial cities, for example, were ten times more efficient than candles. Today's fluorescent lights, by contrast, are 500 times as efficient. Then there are the sodium lamps we use to illuminate cities at night, which are 1,000 times more efficient!

The energy conversion which really made the difference to modern life, though, is the conversion of electricity into kinetic energy by electric motors. Electrifying machinery to lift, press, cut, and weave various goods made factories cleaner, cheaper to run, and faster. Electric trams, meanwhile, made it possible to move through vast cities, bringing workers to the gates of those factories. Between 1900 and 1930, electrification doubled American manufacturing productivity. By 1960, it had quadrupled it.

It's hard to overstate how much we've come to rely on electricity. Today, the economies of developed countries are dominated by the service sector. And that sector is entirely dependent on electricity. From elevators to escalators, trash compactors, conveyor belts in warehouses, and air-conditioning units – everything runs on electricity. Regular cars now contain between 20 and 40 electric motors. And households rely on it for heating, refrigeration, lighting, and countless other smaller tasks.

Electricity also moves major resources around. Without powerful electric pumps, cities couldn't feed water into municipal pipelines. Those pumps also move fossil fuels – above all liquid gas

– from the point of extraction to the places where they are used: factories and homes. If any **densely populated region** were to experience severely reduced electricity supply for just a few days, it **would be plunged into chaos**. If an entire nation experienced such shortages, we'd be looking at an unprecedented catastrophe. **Yet** despite its profound importance, electricity still supplies only a relatively **small share of final global energy consumption – just 18 percent**. But if history is any indicator, modes of energy conversion will still continue to change well into the future.

Final summary

The most important thing to take away from all this is:

The history of life on Earth is a history of energy conversions. And the history of humanity is the history of a species that has become more and more efficient in exploiting free energy. So, next time you flip a switch or take a bite of food, take a second to think about all the processes and energy conversions that went into those seemingly small luxuries.

Addendum to description of Jan.10, 2024 event

Tom D'Asto: 35 years' as a mechanical engineering contractor supporting the Mechanical Engineering Division at Goddard Space Flight Center. Current employer: Aerodyne Industries, Inc.

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Topics:

1. Satellite Design-to-Launch Process (top-level)
2. DAVINCI Mission (technical aspects, top-level)
3. Telescopes (Hubble, Webb, Roman, & Origins)

