

ISSUE NO. 28

## SOBO EVENTS

December 8, 2025 – February 7, 2026

### HIGHLIGHTS

Library Holiday Open House  
(12/11)

MLK Dare to Dream Day  
(1/19)

Chili Cookoff  
(2/1)



Scan for the latest updates and more event info

Compiled by Rani Murray

**12/8 – Used Book Sale**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Books for all ages plus DVDs and children's toys. 12-7pm.

**12/8 – Wellness on the Waterfront: Boot Camp**, 301 Mission Blvd., sixth floor. 45-minute class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

**12/9 – Sensory Days**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Reduced capacity and modified environment. 10am-4pm. \$

**12/9 – Coffee and Classics Book Club**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. This month's book is *Utopia* by Thomas More. 11am.

**12/9 – Introduction to Screen Printing**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Learn how to screen print on a shirt. 3pm.

**12/9 – \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Art-easy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

**12/9 – Christmas Caroling in Riverside**, Riverside Park gazebo, 301 E. Randall St. Hosted by the Catholic Community of South Baltimore. Meet at 5pm for cookies; caroling at 5:15pm.

**12/10 – Music: Teresa Jiminez**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Interactive music, movement, and percussion session for kids. 10:30am.

**12/10 – Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**12/10 – Wellness on the Waterfront: Yoga**, 301 Mission Blvd., sixth floor. 45-minute vinyasa (flow) class. 6pm.

**12/10 – LPCA Annual Holiday Party**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1338 Hull St. Hosted by the Locust Point Civic Assoc. 5:30-8:30pm.

**12/11 – Holiday Open House**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Annual open house with live music and refreshments. 6-7:30pm.

**12/11 – Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm. \$

**12/11 – Chocolate and Whiskey Pairing**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Pairing of four chocolates and whiskey. 6:30pm. \$

Continued on page 10

# SOUTH BALTIMORE PENINSULA POST

DEC. 2025–JAN. 2026

Connecting the communities of the South Baltimore (Md.) peninsula since 2021. Published bimonthly by South Baltimore United.

## City Reexamines 'Clement Street Caverns' Block

By Steve Cole

On November 10, a drilling crew sent by Baltimore City began probing deep beneath the sidewalk on the 600 block of E. Clement Street near Key Highway to find out whether 19th-century caverns discovered there almost 75 years ago were once again threatening homes on the block.

In 1951, six adjacent rowhouses in the middle of the north side of this block were torn down after City officials unearthed a series of man-made tunnels below the street that eroded basements and cracked walls, rendering the homes unsafe to live in. The six lots, eventually taken over by the City, have never been redeveloped and are now covered with landscaping and a parking lot.

Contractors working last month for the Department of Transportation (DOT) drilled five soil borings to a depth of up to 40 feet through the sidewalk in front of where the rowhouses once stood. That work extended an investigation into the subsurface stability of the area conducted a year ago by the Department of Public Works. According to DPW, that survey

Continued on page 4



Soil borings up to 40 feet deep were drilled through the sidewalk on the 600 block of E. Clement Street in November. Photo by Steve Cole.



**THE BIGGEST FULL MOON** of the year rose over the Domino Sugar refinery early in the evening of November 4. The "beaver moon" was the second of a "supermoon" trifecta this fall, following one on October 6 and preceding another on December 4, just after this issue went to press. Photo by Mary Braman.

## Sail250 Maryland Arrives in SoBo June 2026

South Baltimore peninsula residents will be in the front row for viewing historic ships and aerial demonstrations when Sail250 Maryland and Airshow Baltimore cruises into the city this summer. The free, family-friendly affair features several events in South Baltimore from June 24 through July 1, 2026, as part of the larger celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

Sail250 Maryland will bring U.S. naval vessels, international fleets, and tall ships to locations throughout Baltimore, such as the Inner Harbor, Baltimore Peninsula, and Locust Point, starting on June 24. The accompanying Airshow Baltimore will feature flight demonstrations by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels as well as other aerial and water exhibitions over the Patapsco River and Inner Harbor. Weekend festivals will be held at four locations across the area, including the Inner Harbor and Baltimore Peninsula.

The Inner Harbor and Baltimore Peninsula festivals will run the weekend of June 26 through June 28 and will offer visitors the opportunity to view and visit unique ships docked around each location. Festivals will also have local food and beverage vendors, live music, and other activities, according to Sail250 Maryland director Captain Chris Rowsom.

The Inner Harbor festival will take place along the promenade from the Maryland Science Center to Pier 5. The weekend celebration will feature local and visiting ships as well as demonstrations in and over the harbor, also

viewable from Federal Hill Park. A welcome ceremony will take place at the Harborplace Amphitheater on June 26, and the festival will feature STEM and living history programming for kids all weekend.

The Baltimore Peninsula festival will be held near the neighborhood's commercial corridor along E. Cromwell Street. It will also feature several visiting ships at the nearby waterfront and will be one of the best locations to watch the Blue Angels demonstrations taking place over the Patapsco River.

The Tide Point pier in Locust Point is slated to host a visiting naval ship, likely from the British or Canadian Royal Navy, Rowsom said. Fort McHenry will be open during the celebration but will not host any Sail250 events. The park should be another prime location to view the Blue Angels flyover.

The event is expected to draw more than 200,000 visitors, generating over \$75 million in economic impact for the City of Baltimore and the metropolitan area. Sail250 Maryland is part of a five-city celebration that starts in May in New Orleans, then sails to Norfolk, Baltimore, New York, and Boston.

"We're really excited about showing off the city and having a lot of folks in town enjoying our hospitality," said Rowsom. "There are Orioles games taking place during the event, so the city will be quite alive."

For more information on Sail250 Maryland, visit sail250md.org. A full schedule of events will be released in the spring. – Douglas Bennett

NEXT ISSUE:  
FEBRUARY 6

## FROM THE EDITOR

**Show Your SoBo Pride:  
Donate Today!**

Now that temperatures have turned cold in Baltimore, you've probably seen SoBohemians bopping around the neighborhood proudly wearing knit beanies with "SoBo" or the "Peninsula Post" embroidered on the front.

These beanie-clad locals aren't just fans of our part of the city, they are your neighbors who are helping to keep this newspaper alive and thriving. The beanies – and the heavy-duty tote bags also branded with SoBo and the newspaper's name – are thank you gifts to our new donors. This year's fundraising campaign wraps up January 1.

This newspaper and our springtime "I Love SoBo Day" community celebration would not be possible without our generous donors and the amazing amount of volunteer energy that support this small nonprofit enterprise.

Why not become a *Peninsula Post* supporter, too? See page 12 of this issue and scan the QR code for details on how to make a donation and receive one of our thank you gifts. – *Steve Cole, Editor-in-Chief*

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## New Downtown Sailing Center Dock Set to Arrive This Winter

Demolition of the decades-old main dock of the Downtown Sailing Center (1425 Key Highway) on the Baltimore Museum of Industry campus is scheduled to begin in January, according to Sharon Lacy, the center's executive director. A brand-new dock will be ready for the start of the spring 2026 sailing season, she said.

The nonprofit community sailing center, which has operated at BMI for over 20 years, provides sailing instruction and programs for youth, adults, persons with disabilities, and those with limited opportunities to get out on the water.

The current concrete "A Dock" is close to 50 years old, Lacy said, coming to BMI secondhand from another local marina. It underwent a major refurbishing about 10 years ago "and now is really at the end of its life," she said. The center also uses a smaller "B Dock" closer to the museum.

The new dock, which will have the same configuration and footprint as the current one, will be made of cumaru, a sturdy wood from Brazil that will last for decades and has several safety benefits for sailors with disabilities.

"We were very mindful in designing the new dock to make sure that it would be comfortable and safe for everyone," Lacy said, noting that they have several programs for "adaptive sailors" with various disabilities.

"Imagine going down the dock in a wheelchair. We will now have small, curving edges along each side of the main walkway. It's all about safety. We also thought about participants in our program who, say, need to transfer out of a wheelchair into one of our sailboats. Doing that on a dock made of concrete can be rough on your skin. The wood surface will be smoother and safer."

Lacy expects installation of the new dock will be completed by March. During the winter, the hardy sailors participating in the center's weekend "Frostbite Races" will sail from the B Dock.

The price tag of the new dock is \$1.1 million, most of which is in hand, Lacy said. Donations can be made at: [downtownsailing.org/donate](http://downtownsailing.org/donate).

Downtown Sailing Center is also planning onshore improvements, including upgrading and painting the shipping containers used for storage and education space, Lacy said. – *Steve Cole*



**A NEW FOOD PANTRY** opened at Leadenhall Baptist Church (1021 Leadenhall Street) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 18. The renovated two-story building on Creek Alley behind the church, originally built in the 19th century as stables, will provide storage space for fresh fruits, produce, and meats distributed through the church's "Pantry on the Go" program.

The additional storage will allow the food distribution program to expand from once a quarter to monthly by the summer, said John Purnell, president of South Creek Community Development Corp., the church's development arm. Support for the renovation came from federal ARPA funds supplied by the Mayor's Office and a grant from South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. The Maryland Food Bank provided a grant to purchase equipment for the food pantry.

On hand for the ribbon cutting (top photo) were, left to right, Baltimore City councilor Zac Blanchard, church community outreach director Joyce Dingle (with scissors), executive assistant to the pastor Renee Hammock, John Purnell, and pastor Alvin J. Gwynn, Jr. Photos by Mary Braman.

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## Imagined Worlds Astound in AVAM's New Mega-Exhibition

"Fantastic Realities," the new mega-exhibition at the American Visionary Art Museum that opened on October 4, contains a mind-boggling array of imagined worlds, from outer space to inner dreams. A cross between science fiction and fantasy, the more than 130 artworks in the exhibition evoke new mythological beings and dystopian futures. Many of the pieces draw inspiration from ancient mystic traditions.

"Unexpected Subway Living" by Jordan Laura MacLachlan, an array of hand-sized clay figures colored with gesso, oil paint, and nail polish set on a long platform against one wall, is a meditation on the improbable. With its multiple characters, it is reminiscent of "The Garden of Earthly Delights" by Hieronymus Bosch. Inspired by an economic struggle to maintain a home, MacLachlan imagines a crisis where everyone is forced to live in a stalled subway train. Clay figures inhabit the seats and lie in the aisles. Both a whale and a woman give birth. A minotaur reads a laptop. A skateboarder performs a handstand on a seat, mirrored in height by a seated tree and a stalking lion. Hauntingly, a woman holds a knife while her swaddled baby occupies the seat next to her.

Ho Baron creates bronze statues. One is a post-nuclear fleeing dog with extra eyes all over its body. The dog is paired with a large man who, like



Frankenstein's monster, is made of multiple body parts, faces, eyes, and a seahorse's spine.

Mona Boulware Webb's human-like figure made of a horn on top of a mannequin's head, light bulbs for eyes, a single tin ear, multiple wires, and crutches for backward-turned feet is evocative of a *churail*, a mythical witch or demon in India said to lurk at crossroads, burial grounds, and near toilets.

Junius Wilson started carving wood with a chainsaw after seeing faces in a collapsed bookshelf. Wilson's biggest piece is a red, four-legged creature about the size of a goat with two visible faces, horns, and a metal disc crown that might be a sun, halo, or shield. A smaller creation is the "Queen of Kings (Oracle)," which has an oval face amused by fate, on top of

four legs ending in bird talons.

When Cuong "Mike" Tran's family couldn't afford toys, he created his own. Later, alone in a maximum-security prison, Tran crafted mobile people, animals, and vehicles the size

"*Unexpected Subway Living*" by Jordan Laura MacLachlan imagines a global crisis that forces everyone – and everything – to live together in a stalled subway train. Photo courtesy of AVAM.

of action figures. In a video accompanying his artwork, Tran explains the stories behind the various pieces, in which he imagines a post-capitalist world where damaged people can fight for a place of beauty and redemption.

Yanni Posnakoff's painting of people floating above a town and field declaring "Everything is possible," could be the exhibition's slogan, but I found that words alone cannot describe *Fantastic Realities'* powerful impact. Dreams of transformation echo eerily as if in a cave.

The exhibition, which winds around the museum's central staircase and second floor through September 6, 2026, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm. – Barbara Stanton

## New Businesses on the South Baltimore Peninsula

Since our last issue in October, the following new businesses have opened:

**Dimples Bar & Grill**, 1401 E. Clement St. Family-owned restaurant serving authentic Philly Cheese Steaks and catering. [dimplesbarandgrill.com](http://dimplesbarandgrill.com)

**M&T Bank Branch Office**, 301 Mission Blvd, Suite 11. Full-service personal and business banking. 410-378-7401

**Parkwood Pet Resort**, 1624 Beason St. Indoor/outdoor play space for dogs plus boarding and grooming services. 410-705-4011

**Welling Wellness**, 912 Light St. Mental health therapy practice offering individual therapy, consultations, wellness groups, and emotional support animal evaluations. [welling-wellness.com](http://welling-wellness.com)

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## CAVERNS, continued from page 1

used ground-penetrating radar to detect some subsurface voids, but the technology could only "see" to a depth of six feet.

The City's investigation was sparked by a 311 call from the owner of one of the E. Clement Street rowhouses standing next to the parking lot. Nancy Waldhaus made the call in April 2024 after a crepe myrtle tree a few yards from her house sank about a foot into the ground following a hard rain. She then noticed damage to her house.

"In my basement bathroom, the floor and the ceiling started separating and the floor started slanting a little," she recalls. "I could put my finger between the baseboard of the wall and the floor, which I couldn't do before."

After small cracks appeared in the front wall and a gap developed between her front steps and the house, Waldhaus hired a structural engineer to assess the stability of the house and recommend repairs.

Other events on the block contributed to Waldhaus' concern that there might be a "resurgence of a 'sink hole' on the city lot next to my home." She noted that several times in recent years, holes have appeared in the street that City crews have patched. A DOT spokesperson confirmed in an email to the *Peninsula Post* that the department has made roadway repairs on the block at least four times in the last eight years.

While sinkholes opening up in city streets and walls cracking in century-old rowhouses are not uncommon in Baltimore, there was nothing common about what lay below the 600



**Above left:** Old sand mines were discovered beneath the 600 block of E. Clement Street in the summer of 1951. This photo from The Baltimore Evening Sun (July 7, 1951) shows workers at the bottom of one of the 30-foot shafts dug through the street. **Above right:** Technician conducts a ground-penetrating radar survey on the block in June 2024. Photo by Steve Cole.

block of E. Clement Street.

After parts of the cellars of a few of the houses on the north side of the street fell away into blackness on Sunday, June 10, 1951, the City closed the block and immediately began excavating into the street to get to the bottom of the near-calamity. (None of the residents were injured, but all immediately evacuated.) What they found after weeks of effort was a series of man-made caves about 30 feet below the surface, each 6 to 8 feet around.

According to the official 1951 "Clement Street Caverns" report written by deputy highways engineer William L. Chilcote, who led the excavations, the roofs and sides of the caverns were arched "and the original 'pick marks'

are still clearly visible in the hard white sand," which was mined for glassmaking. "Apparently these caverns were dug in from a 'bluff' or bank that extended along the old shoreline," he wrote. Chilcote estimated that these "sand caverns" dated back to at least the 1870s.

In June and July 1951, workers dug several vertical shafts through the street to explore the long-forgotten caverns. Chilcote and others descended into them and documented what they saw. Photographs of their subterranean discoveries appeared in local newspapers for weeks. Sixty-one soil borings were drilled in the area to further probe the extent of the caverns.

In Chilcote's analysis, the caverns caved in when they did due to a slow process of erosion from within. "After the entrance of these caverns was closed and ground water trapped within them, this water, over a long period of years, attacked the overhead structures and through capillary action softened the overlying materials and weakened them to a point where they became unstable and started to cave in."

An editorial in *The Baltimore Sun* commented on the jarring impact of the discovery on residents of the block. "The neighborhood has had one of the most unpleasant of all possible experiences - the discovery that at least part of it has been perched over a void. ...The shock of learning suddenly of a Sunday afternoon that one's residence rests on the least substantial of all possible foundations is an extremely nasty one."

After completing its explorations in August 1951, the City filled in the shafts it had dug and the caverns themselves with 1,500 tons of sand and gravel. That November, the six condemned houses (606 to 616 E. Clement Street)



were torn down. The people who lost their homes moved into other houses in the city purchased with private funds raised by the "Clement Street Assistance Committee" organized by Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro. By 1953, the City had acquired the empty lots, which were eventually made into a playground.

Seventy-three years later, when the Department of Public Works surveyed the area in June 2024 after Waldhaus' 311 call, they detected underground voids beneath the sidewalks, parking lot, and a portion of the street. They also confirmed that no DPW utilities were impacted by or involved in creating the voids. Later that year, the investigation was transferred to the Department of Transportation for further action.

The goal of the recent drilling project, according to DOT documents reviewed by the *Peninsula Post*, is limited to investigating "the condition of the soils near the backfilled vaults" beneath the sidewalk and street. A report on the findings and proposed next steps will be issued to DOT by the contractors (STV Inc. and EBA Engineering, Inc.). According to a DOT representative, no timeline has been set for the release of the findings.

And so Waldhaus continues to wait - and worry - about the future of her home.

"All I want is to do the repairs on my house. I want to know if I have stable ground under the house," she said. "I've costed out doing borings myself and putting a support in, but if there is nothing to put a support into, that makes no sense."

In one of her many pleas to City officials about her dilemma, she wrote: "I can't sell, I can't repair, I can't sleep ... until the City closes out their assessment and gives me some direction."



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by Robert Hardy

"I would say that I'm just well known enough in Baltimore that I make it a practice to be exceedingly polite wherever I go."

Laura Lippman, Baltimore's best known crime fiction writer, is sitting at a sun-drenched table in a South Baltimore Starbucks this fall, unrecognized for the moment. She's discussing her latest book, *Murder Takes a Vacation* (William Morrow, 2025), and musing on other recent projects and her writing life in the neighborhood.

"I live in Federal Hill South," she notes, "because it's south of Cross Street, which is a very South Baltimore distinction." She's lived in the neighborhood since 2002 and is co-parenting her teenage daughter along with her ex-husband, David Simon (*The Wire*, *Treme*, *We Own This City*), splitting time between Baltimore and a second home in New Orleans.

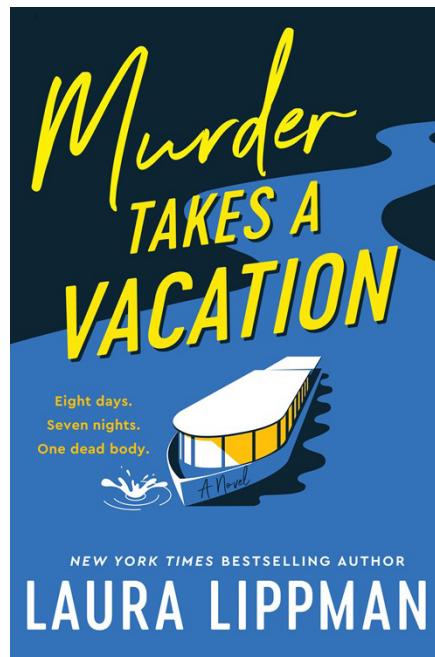
"I used to work here," she says, glancing around the anonymous-looking cafe, "and before that, I worked at Spoons for a long time. Parents would gather there after dropping their kids off to school, and I felt comfortable parking there with a cup of coffee and writing for the entire morning. I had always been good working in public places because I worked in newsrooms for 20 years and it felt very familiar."

"During the pandemic, the room I used as a home office became my daughter's schoolroom, and I worked downstairs at the dining room table. After a year and a half of working from my quiet dining room, I got used to that, and now that's what I do. I like the peace and quiet."

*Murder Takes a Vacation* is Lippman's twenty-sixth novel since the 1997 publication of *Baltimore Blues*, the first book of the Tess Monaghan detective series, which now includes 12 volumes. The new novel's main character, Mrs. Muriel Blossom, first appeared as Tess Monaghan's assistant in *Another Thing to Fall* (2008). She takes center stage now as a 68-year-old widow who solves a murder mystery on a river cruise in France.

"At first, I just wanted to write about somebody nice," Lippman says of her new protagonist. "I'd written two novels back-to-back about just pretty awful people [*Prom Mom* (2023) and *Dream Girl* (2022)], and I thought it would be pleasant for a change. I'm always looking to do something different, so I said, well, this will be different. I'll write a much more traditional Agatha Christie-type novel. I'll pull this character in from the early series

# Laura Lippman: On Cross-Training, Paying It Forward, and Starting Over



*A proud resident of Federal Hill South, crime fiction writer Laura Lippman published her twenty-sixth novel, *Murder Takes a Vacation*, in June. Photo by Vicki Gray.*

and see where it takes us."

Lippman began writing the book "very aware of the ways the character and I are different," she notes. "She's only two or three years older than I am, but in so many ways, we're very different. She's shy. She didn't work outside of her home for most of her marriage. She's widowed. Then as I worked on the book, I was like, well, we have as much in common as not. We're both women on our own in our sixties. She won the lottery and is dealing with the weirdness of that. I walked away from my marriage with a divorce settlement that obligated me to become much more conscientious about finances and things. It's a lot about starting over in your sixties."

Aging is a theme that Lippman has addressed before, tangentially in the Tess Monaghan series and directly in her essays, notably collected in *My Life as a Villainess* (2020), which includes "Game of Crones," focusing on late motherhood.

"I didn't try to write first-person essays until 2018," she says. "At this

point, people who read crime fiction should know who I am. I wanted to explore getting my writing in front of people who didn't know me, and it started with this online publication, Longreads. It had a section called Fine Lines, edited by Sari Botton, who had edited a book of essays about New York called *Goodbye to All That*. I wrote to her out of the blue and said I've got things I want to write about being old, and the first thing I want to write about is being a really old mom. So I wrote 'Game of Crones.'

Lippman wrote three more essays for Fine Lines, "and those essays were popular enough that my editor at William Morrow commissioned a book of essays from me, which is how *My Life as a Villainess* came together."

"I was definitely able to write about some things in the essays that I can't write about in fiction. My mom died in September 2024, and I've written at least two pieces directly about my mom and about the sidewinder that is grief. Most of the writers I like best do more than one thing. One of my

best friends is the writer Ann Hood, who writes a lot of personal essays, and she also writes fiction, and she's written children's books. She writes a lot about grief. She writes a lot about food. Everything informs everything else. It's all cross-training."

Lippman's cross-training has involved translating her fiction onto the screen with an independent film version of her 2004 novel *Every Secret Thing* produced by Frances McDormand in 2014 and last year's limited Apple TV series based on her 2019 novel *Lady in the Lake*.

"I had a great experience with *Lady in the Lake* and also with an earlier book produced by Fran McDormand for a small indie art film. And there are at least two other projects in process," Lippman says.

"We're now creating a new Tess for television," she adds. "We're just starting down a road that's about a hundred miles long. All of the Tess novels and short stories have been optioned, and now my writing partner, who is also one of my dearest friends, Megan Abbott, and I are getting ready to start pitching a pilot. We've had to rethink the Tess world a lot, because most of the work appears in a pre-Internet, pre-cell-phone world, and we have to bring it up to modern day. There's a lot to be done, but we're pretty excited about it. We've got the beats down on our pilot. We're rehearsing for our producers tomorrow. It's all new to me. I've never done any of this."

"Megan Abbott has written a lot for Hollywood. She adapted her book, *Dare Me*, for Netflix. She was on the staff of *The Deuce*. She's got many irons in the fire. I think of Megan as the show-runner, although there's no show to run yet. And the odds are never in your favor. But we believe that Baltimore is one of the strongest calling cards for the series. It's a big part of the pitch: why we think the city matters, what we feel the city has to offer as a setting."

Does the move to television signal an end to the popular series of Tess Monaghan novels? "No, I just keep waiting for the right one to show up," Lippman says. "I'm actually currently writing another Mrs. Blossom novel. From the moment I turned the first one in, the question was, can this be a series? And my answer was, probably, but I need a little break."

"Last fall, I started writing a different book, but I had a hunch that I would make everybody happy if I decided to write a sequel. So I made a deal that in June, after the book came

Continued on page 6

## A Great Holiday Gift

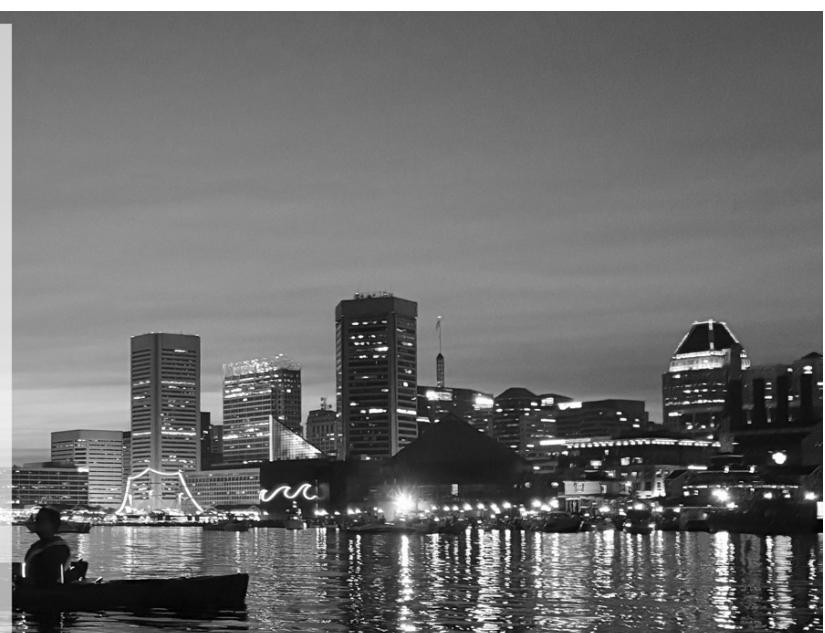
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## LIPPMAN, continued from page 5

out, we'd revisit and decide what was best. I had the idea, and I knew what I wanted to do, so in July, I started writing the second Mrs. Blossom book. She'll be in Tuscany, which is an easy one for me. I've been there a lot. My friend Ann Hood recruited me to teach in a writer's workshop that she does there, so I'm going next month for my sixth or seventh time. I've learned a lot about that part of the world."

Teaching is an important part of Lippman's "cross-training." Besides being on the faculty of Hood's Spannocchia Writers Workshop in Tuscany, she's taught writing at Goucher College in Towson, and "since 2006, I teach in a program called Writers in Paradise at Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, Florida) every January. The crime fiction world is really super friendly, and I think all of us feel that we want to pay it forward. It's good for your genre to bring in young people. If you don't bring in young readers, soon you don't have any readers."

A newspaper reporter for 20 years, including 12 years at *The Baltimore Sun*, Lippman is one of a surprising number of *Sun* and *Evening Sun* writers to end up writing crime fiction, several of whom are represented in the anthology *Baltimore Noir* (Akashic Books, 2006), which she edited.

Skimming through the contents, she notes a few names: "First, there's Rob, which breaks my heart," she says

of Rob Hiaasen, her friend who was killed in the *Capital Gazette* shooting in Annapolis in 2018. Other former *Sun* writers included are Rafael Alvarez, Dan Fesperman, Lisa Respers France, Sujata Massey, Sarah Weinman, and David Simon. "It's pretty funny," she observes. "I don't know how it happened we all turned to crime writing. The joke was that we all wanted to kill people."

Lippman is reflective about her time at the *Sun* and about the ways in which her relationship to Baltimore has changed over the years. "When I was at the newspaper, I was connected to the city in a different way," she says. "I was in a room full of people and we were covering its various systems, and I really understood the interlocking political systems and bureaucracies. Well, I've been out of that world for over 20 years, and now I connect to the city as a mom and as a neighbor in a neighborhood."

"When I walk with my friend Joyce on the weekends, one of the constant themes of our conversations is that we're so lucky to live where we live. There's so much to do, there's such a sense of community, and it's lovely. And it feels like a pretty well-kept secret. I'm a city person. Some of my novels do take place in the suburbs, and those are the darkest ones, the ones most shot through with rot. [She cites *Prom Mom* and *To the Power of Three*.] The Tess books, which are the more urban books, are much more affectionate.

## Laura Lippman's South Baltimore

*Laura Lippman clearly loves South Baltimore. Here are a few of her favorite SoBo spots that came up in our conversation this fall. - R. H.*

"At this point, I've probably seen about 1500 sunrises over **Domino Sugars**. It's always interesting to do something over and over and over again and find out how much variety there can be."

"I love **Fort McHenry**. When I have time, I love walking all the way down there. I went down there the week the bridge collapsed. I wanted to see what it looked like, and it was hard to take in. It was really overwhelming."

"One of my mainstays for eating in the neighborhood is **Hersh's**. Hersh's was so smart during the pandemic. They immediately went to takeout only, and they also added a 20 percent service fee to take care of their staff. I love those guys. I love their food."

"**Shoyou Sushi** is fantastic. My daughter loves sushi more than she loves anything on the face of the earth, and she loves Shoyou. And she's had some pretty good sushi in her life."

Asked whether she has any favorite local watering holes, Lippman has an immediate response. "Oh my god," she says, "the **Idle Hour**. I'm not sure I want people to know. The Idle Hour is only like the most perfect bar in the world. It's the platonic ideal of a bar as far as I'm concerned."

"Something that's really central to my life is the **American Visionary Art Museum** because I'm a docent there. I joined the docent program in 2022. I mention AVAM every time I get a chance. I spread the word about it. It's not just that it's a good museum, it's one of the best visionary art museums in the world. The shop there, Sideshow, is one of the best museum stores in the world. Ted, who runs it, is a Baltimore treasure."

"When I have work done at my house, it's often done by people who have kids in my kid's school, so we know each other, and it's a very different experience when you're each other's neighbor. When the guy who built my deck said to me 'can my daughter come over and interview you for the school paper,' I'm like, 'of course.' We all know each other. I was a regular at the Starbucks they just closed on

Charles Street, and I would tell them when I was going out of town because I honestly believed that if I went more than like four days without showing up, they'd get worried about me.

"As I try to explain to people, especially with the current resident of the White House, I'm safer in South Baltimore than anywhere in the suburbs, because my neighbors know me and they look out for me."

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----------	---------

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5:30 pm	Dinner
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## SOBO PENINSULA PARENTING

The evenings are getting darker, and the days are getting colder - for many families, this can be an overwhelming set of circumstances. Have no fear, SoBo! Despite the chill outside, there is a lot of fun for families in the next few months. - *Beth Mayr*

### Community Events

**December 9 & 13:** Riverside and Federal Hill Christmas Caroling. Join in the Christmas caroling throughout the peninsula! My kids particularly love wearing light-up necklaces, singing as loud as they possibly can, and ending the evening with cookies and hot chocolate. Participants will sing to neighbors who cannot easily leave their homes (or to neighbors who just want some festivity). (Caroling in Locust Point happened before this issue went to press.) [southbaltcatholic.org/events](http://southbaltcatholic.org/events)

**December 13:** Locust Point Holiday Parade. For families who live in Locust Point, this is one of the most joyful parts of the holiday season. The parade will head up and down most streets in the neighborhood, starting at Woodall and ending on Latrobe Park Terrace. Hot chocolate stands are available at several locations. 5-7:30pm.

**December 17:** Baltimore Museum of Industry Extended Hours and Holiday Market. Once a month, BMI opens its doors for a special evening, free and open to all. On this date, the museum will have holiday vendors, local artists, and small businesses, plus a stop-by visit and photo op with Gingy, the Inner Harbor's Christmas Village mas-

[cot.thebmi.org](http://cot.thebmi.org)

**Through December 24:** Christmas Village. Though many perceive this to be best for adults, I beg to differ. My kids have enjoyed the carousel, the hot chocolate (notice a theme?), the international shops, and the cool performances. I also think they'd like the Festival of Trees in the nearby Baltimore Visitor Center. Santa will be there until December 23. (He's busy on the 24th!) [baltimore-christmas.com](http://baltimore-christmas.com)

**December 31:** Noon Year's Eve. A number of local children's museums, including the Maryland Science Center, Port Discovery, and the B&O Railroad Museum, host special activities in the morning, leading up to festivities at noon to celebrate 2026. Visit the respective museum websites for details. Not yet a member? Pro tip: If you celebrate a holiday in December, "experience" memberships make a great gift. The Science Center has an awesome Groupon right now (that also works for renewals).

**Through January 19:** Inner Harbor Ice Rink. A special staple in "Winter on the Waterfront," as Downtown Partnership of Baltimore calls it, is the ice rink at the Inner Harbor. So far, we have only taken our kids to watch the other ice skaters (which often include many kids and families), but I think we're planning to take my oldest out on the ice this year. And yes, they do have "skate helpers" (aka big plastic skating aids) at the rink.

**January 19:** MLK Day Celebration at

AVAM. The American Visionary Art Museum will be open for free in honor of Martin Luther King Day, including a station to create a heart-shaped pin (my daughter will be thrilled!) and a flute-maker performance.

### Giving Back

We love God's Best Family, a peninsula-based nonprofit that supports children who live and go to school here with tutoring, classes, and lots more. It's been a great experience to support a GBF student for their annual Christmas gift drive, teaching my kids about giving back as we shop for other kids their ages. Please consider supporting God's Best Family for their Annual Christmas Gift Giveaway. [linktr.ee/godsbestfamily](http://linktr.ee/godsbestfamily)

### Indoor Play

With a long upcoming break from school, plus more weekends in January with fewer community festivities, now is a great time to explore some local indoor activities.

My five-year-old daughter just took a class at Arteasy and had an awesome time. The staff are so kind, and she's quite proud of the fairy house she made. My two-year-old son is hoping we take him back to SoBo Play Space (and we certainly will), as the big playroom with new-to-him toys and larger structures to play with was a huge hit. My kids also love joining me at Fit4Mom classes, which move inside to the Maryland Science Center for the winter. (The instructors entertain the kids while teaching the parents.) I also have many friends who love Tiny Tides Therapy, especially their group activities. And of course, the Maryland Science Center and the Baltimore Museum of Industry will keep kids exploring for hours.

### January Registration Season

New year, new registrations! Come January, many parents will be completing registrations for activities throughout the year. Keep an eye out for:



The annual Holiday Parade winds through the streets of Locust Point on December 13. Photo by Mary Braman.

**Summer Camps:** Believe it or not, many summer camp registrations open in January (though some, like Baltimore City Rec & Parks, historically have opened later, in March or so). Baltimore Family Alliance compiles a free Summer Camp Directory to help you sift through the options. Submit a camp for inclusion in the directory now, or download it when it's released in January. [baltimorefamilies.org](http://baltimorefamilies.org)

**South Baltimore Little League:** Registration will soon be open (if it isn't already) for this long-time peninsula team sport. I love seeing the kickoff parade each spring. This organization is such a gem in our community. [sobolittleleague.org](http://sobolittleleague.org)

**School Open Houses:** Peninsula elementary schools are currently hosting Open Houses for families interested in enrolling for the 2026-27 school year. Check the websites and Facebook pages for details on touring Francis Scott Key, Thomas Johnson, and Federal Hill Prep.

**Pre-K Enrollment:** Live Baltimore will be hosting a great webinar January 29 on the pre-K enrollment process. Highly recommended! [livebaltimore.com/events](http://livebaltimore.com/events)

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## Reader Picks: Holiday Shopping in SoBo

*In November, we asked Peninsula Post readers for their top picks on where to shop local for the holidays. Here are their pro tips. - Editor*

**Arteasy Studio** (1539 Light St.): "A great addition to the neighborhood. There are many handmade gifts and cards to choose from. And, if craft-making is your thing, check out the workshops where you can create your own gift." - Jane S.

**Cheese Galore & More** (1125 S. Charles St.): "A quality selection of cheese and wines as well as other foods you can buy to create custom gift baskets." - Marc C.

**Hersh's** (1843-45 Light St.): A gift card from this "hidden gem that has amazing, rotating food/drink menus. Every time we go there, I feel like it's a friend/family member cooking for me. It feels laid back but sooo warm and inviting. They make so many of the signature items fresh and in-house." - Mat N.

**Pandora's Box Boutique** (50 E. Cross St.): "A great variety of colorful, unique gifts, from the humorous to the practical and everything in between. And, the owner offers a fun shopping

experience, especially during the holidays." - Jane S.

**Pfefferkorn's Coffee** (1200 E. Fort Ave.): "Friendly workers and delicious coffee." - M.D.

**Phina's Fine Linens & Gifts** (919 S. Charles St.): "A hidden gem with a very nice owner! You can buy good-smelling soaps as well as high-quality linens for your home." - Marc C. "Very charming items for gifts." - Kathie M.

**The Book Escape** (925 S. Charles St.): "Many used and new books to choose from and a friendly atmosphere. Andrew tries to help everyone with what they may be looking for." - Sandra S. "Fantastic and well-priced book selections and many unique volumes." - Jeanne M.

**Vanessa's Vintage Treasures** (1028 S. Charles St.): "Great items for home and personal use. The owner of the shop (Vanessa) has great jewelry also." - Kathie M. "A unique selection of vintage items, well-priced." - Jeanne M.

Want more ideas for shopping local for the holidays? Check out the Holiday Gift Guide published by Federal Hill Main Street at: [fedhill.org/giftguide](http://fedhill.org/giftguide).

# Holiday Parties, A Cookie Contest, and Health & Wellness Programs



The South Baltimore peninsula has several neighborhood groups working to make our part of the city a great place to live. **SoBo 2Gether** is a regular column of updates from

these organizations on community projects that you can get involved in.

## Federal Hill Main Street

[fedhill.org](http://fedhill.org)

execdirector@fedhill.org

Support Federal Hill Main Street this holiday season with a **donation** ([fedhill.org/donate-today](http://fedhill.org/donate-today)). Wondering why your support matters? It sustains the vital work that keeps our business district vibrant, safe, and thriving.

Our organization provides critical services at no cost to local businesses, allowing them to focus on growth while we handle district-wide support. This work directly improves the business environment, attracting more customers and investment into the area.

Every dollar you contribute helps us continue delivering high-impact programs that strengthen the entire commercial corridor. Here's a look at what just one year of our community investment looks like:

**\$200,000** activating empty storefronts and attracting new businesses.

**\$140,000** creating a more welcoming and secure district for our neighbors.

**\$80,000** keeping our spaces clean with maintenance and beautification.

**\$50,000** greening and enhancing the visual appeal of the area.

**\$45,000** driving foot traffic, increasing visibility, and fostering a stronger sense of community.

*- Submitted by Charlotte Faust, Project Manager*

## Federal Hill Neighborhood Association

[federalhillbaltimore.org](http://federalhillbaltimore.org)

president@federalhillbaltimore.org

FHNA's team of volunteers has been hard at work this fall. In October, we organized a **tree planting** across the neighborhood and Federal Hill Park. We were able to plant a whopping number of trees. Thank you to the family of Vincent Andrew, South Harbor Renaissance, and South Baltimore Gateway Partnership for helping us organize the event. And thank you also to Blue Agave for hosting our after-party.

In addition to the tree planting, we held a **neighborhood cleanup** at Robert Baker Park. We were able to remove about 30 bags of debris and leaves from the park and Light Street. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for both events.

Coming up we have an **under-40s social** planned for December 13. Stay tuned for more information on the location. In addition, we are **collecting holiday gifts** for Federal Hill Prep students through December 10. If you would like to donate, please reach out to Celine at [celineplachez@yahoo.com](mailto:celineplachez@yahoo.com).

As always, we meet the third Tuesday of the month at Light Street Presbyterian Church (809 Light Street) from 6:30 to 7:30pm. We discuss civic issues and have a wide variety of

speakers, from neighbors to elected officials. You do not have to be a member to attend. *- Submitted by Locchanan Sreeharikesan, President*

## Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association

[federalhillsouth.org](http://federalhillsouth.org)

federalhillsouthna@gmail.com

The city is in full holiday mode. Federal Hill saw so many children and adults come out on Halloween to trick-or-treat, and Thanksgiving is already behind us. The excitement of the December holidays is in the air!

Our annual **Wreath Sale** was a great success. A big thank you to each one of you who chose to purchase your wreath from FHSNA. The proceeds from the sale go to beautification of our neighborhood. The pickup date is Saturday, December 6, from 10am to 1pm, at the corner of E. West and William streets. We will have festive drinks and holiday cookies to share. Be sure to stop by and enjoy some holiday cheer with your neighbors. A few wreaths will be available for same-day purchase. Come early, though, because they will go quickly.

Mark your calendars! February 1 is our annual **Chili Cookoff** at Little Havana (6-9pm). An apron has been designed specifically for this event. One apron will be given to each cook as a thank-you for participating. To enter as a cook, please email [fedhillchili@gmail.com](mailto:fedhillchili@gmail.com). Kids are welcome, too. Bring your best vegetarian or meat chili – and may the best batch win! Tickets to attend the event will be available on the FHSNA website.

Our next **general meeting** will be on Tuesday, January 27, from 6:30 to 8pm, at St. Ignatius Loyola Academy (300 Gittings Street). We'll have refreshments, including drinks and wine. It is a great opportunity to find out what is happening in our city and neighborhood and how you can get involved.

Happy holidays, everyone! *- Submitted by Nadine Bowen, President*

## Historic Sharp-Leadenhall Community

[historicsharpleadenhall.org](http://historicsharpleadenhall.org)

bettyblandthomas@comcast.net

## Peninsula Communities & Neighborhood Groups



Our next **community meeting** will be Thursday, December 18, at Martini Lutheran Church (100 W. Henrietta Street) from 6 to 7:30pm. This will be our community Christmas Party, so please come and let us hear what you want for the New Year.

Our health and wellness programs have begun, and they are continuing in December. On December 9 and 30, there will be **tai chi classes** at Martini Lutheran Church from 6 to 7pm. Our **healthy cooking classes** will be held December 10 and 17 at St. Barnabas & St. Susanna Church (938 S. Hanover Street) from 12:30 to 2pm with Chef Crystal Forman teaching us how to prepare and serve healthy dishes. And our **community bingo** will also be held at St. Barnabas & St. Susanna Church on December 17 from 10am to 12pm. It's free to play, and there are prizes and refreshments.

We hope everyone stays active and connected this winter! *- Submitted by Betty Bland-Thomas, President*

## Key Highway Community Association

[keyhca.org](http://keyhca.org)

keyhca@gmail.com

KHCA held its **fall meeting** on September 17 with a presentation by our new Harbormaster, Michael McGeady, who has recently been appointed to this position. Mr. McGeady talked about the history of this office which had been vacant for some time. The office is located below the Rusty Scupper restaurant, with an appropriately commanding view of the Harbor. There was also a presentation by Latasha Gresham-James of the Baltimore City Council staff.

In the last days of October, Xceptional Wildlife Removal, the contractor chosen to address the pigeon problem that has debilitated the **underlighting of the Fort Avenue Bridge**, completed the netting installation, which will make it possible to restart this project.

The next meeting of KHCA is the **annual holiday party** that will be on December 17 at the American Visionary Art Museum (800 Key Highway). *- Submitted by Janan Broadbent, President*

*- Submitted by Jeff Dewberry, President*

to 8:30pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall (1338 Hull Street) in Locust Point. Everyone is welcome. There will be a silent auction and donation spots for Toys-for-Tots and local food banks.

The next **LPCA membership meetings** will be held on January 14 and February 11 at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School (1425 E. Fort Avenue). All meetings start at 7:30pm. *- Submitted by Dave Arndt, Board Member*

## Riverside Neighborhood Association

[riversideneighborhoodassociation.com](http://riversideneighborhoodassociation.com)

rnabaltimore@gmail.com

It is that time of year again! RNA is calling all bakers who live within the association's boundaries to participate in the **11th Annual Holiday Cookie Contest**, sponsored by Domino Sugar. We hope you can join us as a baker or a taster.

Here's how it works. On Monday, December 15, registered bakers bring no less than three dozen cookies to the Salem Lutheran Church (1530 Battery Avenue) between 6:15 and 6:30pm, along with the cookie recipe (be sure to include a Domino Sugar product!). Cookies may be presented in any type of container, not to exceed the size of a standard baking sheet. At 6:45pm, our special guest judges will begin to taste cookies. They will determine three winners by the conclusion of the meeting. Winners receive prize baskets provided by Domino Sugar. Winners and winning recipes will be featured on our website and social media.

If you're not a baker, come and enjoy cookies, beverages, and your neighbors' company! Goodie bags will be available for you to take home any leftover favorites.

The contest is open to Riverside residents only. (See the About section of our website, listed above, for a map of the neighborhood boundaries.) Only one entry per resident. By entering, all registrants give RNA permission to include their names, photos, and recipes in future publications. Have fun! *- Submitted by Jeff Dewberry, President*

## South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

[mysobo.org](http://mysobo.org)

executive\_board@mysobo.org

Led by President Tara McNulty, SBNA meets at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at AJ's on Hanover (1500 S. Hanover Street, second floor) every month except August (no meeting) and December (holiday party).

SBNA includes the blocks between Cross Street (to the north), McComas Street (to the south), Race Street (to the west), and Light Street (to the east).

Our **holiday party** is on December 9 at Liv's Tavern (1113 S. Charles Street). General membership meetings return to AJ's on January 13, February 10, and March 10.

SBNA is always seeking **new members**. Annual membership fees (\$20 per person) cover operating expenses and fund efforts to improve the safety and aesthetic of the area you call home. Treasurer Peter Bartels accepts payments in cash, by check, or through Square.

If you live in SBNA and are **interested in volunteering**, the following committees are recruiting: Clean & Green, Public Safety, and Website.

Check out our revamped website for more information. *- Submitted by Justin Lane, Secretary*

## SOBO EVENTS

EVENTS, continued from page 1

**12/11 - Paint & Sip: 'Game of Frogs' Hoppy Hour**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. BYOB and paint your own frog. 7-9pm. \$

**12/11 - Music: The Local Honeys with Abby Hamilton**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**12/12 - Crafternoon: Dino Locker Clips**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Create your own magnetic dinosaur clip. 3:30pm.

**12/12 - Festive Ornament-Making Class**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Make your own polymer clay holiday ornament. 6-8pm. \$

**12/12 - Craft Your Own Holiday Cocktail**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Craft two holiday cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**12/12 - Monthly Bingo**, The Church of the Redemption, 1401 Towson St. Refreshments, food, and raffles. Doors at 6pm, bingo starts at 7pm.

**12/12 - Music: Muskrat Flats**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**12/12 - Music Under the Dome: Dark Side of the Moon**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Pink Floyd's album experienced in the planetarium. 8 & 10pm. \$

**12/13-14 - Grand Opening: 'MAKE' and 'Space' Exhibits**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Explore two new exhibits. 10am-5pm. \$

**12/13-14 - Christmas Express Cruise**, Inner Harbor Finger Piers, 555 Light St. Set sail from the Christmas Village for a 45-minute cruise of Baltimore's harbor. Cruises depart on the hour from 12pm to 5pm. \$

**12/13 - Toddlergarten: Cooking Helpers**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Music, movement, and STEM activities for toddlers and their caregivers. 8-10am. \$

**12/13 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**12/13 - Glass Art: Sea Glass Wreath**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Create a wreath out of sea glass. 1-3:30pm. \$

**12/13 - Coffee Cupping**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Sensory experience designed for coffee enthusiasts and amateurs alike. 2pm.

**12/13 - Christmas Caroling in Federal Hill**, Holy Cross church, 106 E. West St. Hosted by the Catholic Community of South Baltimore. Meet at 6pm for caroling; happy hour at Cross Street Market to follow.

**12/13 - Music: Megan Jean's Secret Family, Rachel May & Friends, and Josee Molavi**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**12/14 - Open Studio**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**12/14 - Craft Your Own Brunch Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two brunch-inspired whiskey cocktails. 10:30am. \$

**12/15 - Wellness on the Waterfront: Boot Camp**, 301 Mission Blvd., sixth floor. 45-minute class with Marissa Walch. 6pm.

**12/15 - Holiday Cookie Contest**, Salem Lutheran Church, 1530 Battery Ave. Hosted by the Riverside Neighborhood Assoc. 7pm.

**12/16 - Playdate at the Library**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Bubbles, toys, and enriching playtime. 10:30am.

**12/16 - \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

**12/16 - FHNA Meeting**, Light Street Presbyterian Church, 809 Light St. Monthly meeting of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Assoc. 6:30pm.

**12/16 - Tuesday Sewing Club**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. A relaxed and supportive sewing circle. 7-9pm. \$

**12/17 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**12/17 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**12/17 - BMI Holiday Market**, Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Hwy. Local craft and food vendors plus free admission to the entire museum. 4-8pm.

**12/18 - Historic Sharp-Leadenhall Community Meeting**, Martini Lutheran Church, 100 W. Henrietta St. Join us for our annual holiday party. 6-7:30pm.

**12/18 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**12/18 - Craft Your Own Holiday Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two holiday cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**12/19-20 - Music: Cris Jacobs and Friends**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**12/19 - Craft Your Own Holiday Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two holiday cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**12/20-24 - Christmas Express Cruise**, Inner Harbor Finger Piers, 555 Light St. Set sail from the Christmas Village for a 45-minute cruise of Baltimore's harbor. Cruises depart on the hour from 12pm to 5pm. \$

**12/20 - Bird Monitoring**, Fort McHenry. Ongoing bird survey from the wetlands adjacent to the Fort; binoculars required. Sponsored by the Baltimore Bird Club. 9-11am.

**12/20 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**12/20 - Winter Solstice Family Meetup**, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. Music, crafts, and science activities. Hosted by Baltimore Family Alliance. 12:30-2:30pm.

**12/21 - Open Studio**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**12/21 - Craft Your Own Brunch Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two brunch-inspired whiskey cocktails. 10:30am. \$

**12/26 - Craft Your Own Holiday Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Craft two holiday cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**12/26 - Music: Old Head and Braddock Heights**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**12/27 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**12/28 - Open Studio**, Arteeasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**12/28 - Craft Your Own Brunch Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two brunch-inspired whiskey cocktails. 10:30am. \$



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**12/28 - 'King of Maryland' Live Pro-Wrestling**, Checkerspot Brewing Co., 1421 Ridgely St. 5pm. \$

**12/29-1/2/26 - Winter Break Camp**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Full-day art camp for kids out of school. 9am-4pm. \$

**12/30 - \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

**12/31 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**12/31 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**12/31 - Midnight Noon**, Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. Festive activities and games and ringing in the New Year with a noontime ball drop. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/1/26 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**1/2 - Craft Your Own Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Craft two signature cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**1/3 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/3 - Read with Pride Book Club**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Book discussion of *Hijab Butch Blues* by Lamya H. 11am-12pm.

**1/4 - Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/4 - Craft Your Own Brunch Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two brunch-inspired whiskey cocktails. 10:30am. \$

**1/6 - The Coping Well Club**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Open conversation for tweens and teens about managing school stress with Maggie Welling, founder of Welling Wellness. 3-4pm.

**1/6 - \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

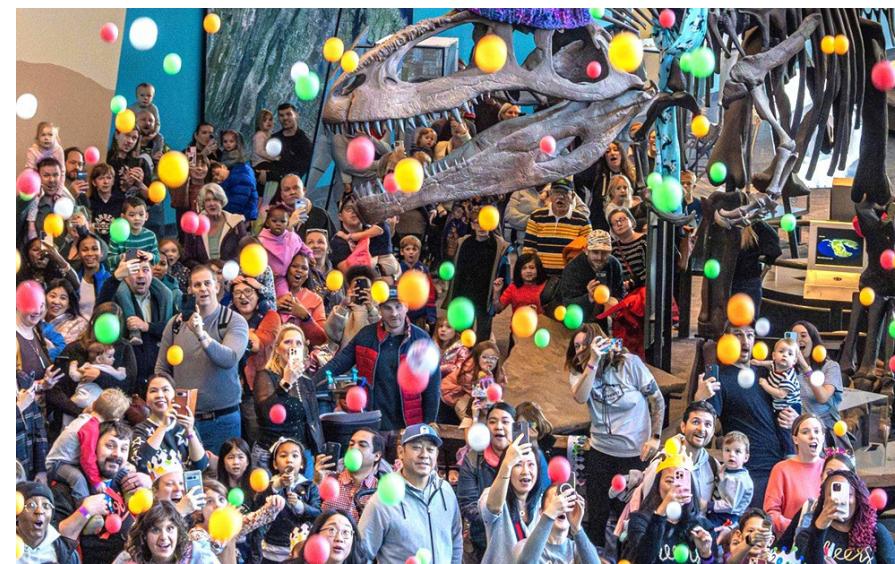
**1/6 - Tuesday Sewing Club**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. A relaxed and supportive sewing circle. 7-9pm. \$

**1/7 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**1/7 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5. 11:30am.

**1/8 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**1/8 - Classic Cocktails Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Learn about the history of Sazerac and Black Manhattan, then mix up a traditional cocktail. 6:30pm. \$



*The Maryland Science Center's 'Midnight Noon' celebration features a massive ball drop on December 31. Photo by Mary Braman.*

**1/9 - Craft Your Own Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Craft two signature cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**1/10 - The Art of Self Discovery Workshop**, American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Hwy. Create a collage portrait with artist Nell Merlin. 10am-4pm. \$

**1/10 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/10 - Music: American Darling, Radish, and Henry Cruz**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**1/11 - Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/11 - Craft Your Own Brunch Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Make two brunch-inspired whiskey cocktails. 10:30am. \$

**1/13 - Coffee and Classics Book Club**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. This month's book is *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. 11am.

**1/13 - \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

**1/14 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**1/14 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**1/14 - Locust Point Civic Assoc. Membership Meeting**, Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School, 1425 E. Fort Ave. 7:30pm.

**1/15 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**1/15 - Classic Cocktails Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Learn about the history of Sazerac and Black Manhattan. 6:30pm. \$

**1/16 - Craft Your Own Cocktail Class**, Sagamore Spirit Distillery, 301 E. Cromwell St. Craft two signature cocktails. 6:30pm. \$

**1/16 - Music: Ben and His Super Friends, Shamboogie, and Coastal Plain**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**1/17 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/17 - Friends of the Light Street Branch monthly meeting**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Volunteers supporting the local branch. 11am.

**1/18 - Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/19 - MLK Dare to Dream Day**, American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Hwy. Open mic, art making, music, and dance. 10am-5pm.

**1/20 - Crafternoon: Winter Snowflake Craft**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Use materials like pipe cleaners and beads to make a decorative snowflake. 3:30pm.

**1/20 - \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

**1/20 - Tuesday Sewing Club**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. A relaxed and supportive sewing circle. 7-9pm. \$

**1/21 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**1/21 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**1/22 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**1/23 - Music: The Muthafunkaholx, Tony Camm, and The All Stars of Funk**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**1/24 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/24 - Music: Experience and The Whom**, The 8x10, 10 E. Cross St. Doors at 7pm. \$

**1/25 - Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Open studio or attend an instructor-led class. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/27 - Playdate at the Library**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Bubbles, toys, and enriching playtime. 10:30am.

**1/27 - \$10 Tuesday Art Class**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Try our open studio or an instructor-led class. 4-8pm. \$

**1/28 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**1/28 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**1/29 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**1/31 - Ceramics & Open Studio**, Arteasy Studio, 1539 Light St. Learn a new ceramics technique each week. 10am-2pm. \$

**1/31 - Music: The Gayle Harrod Band**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. 3-4pm.

**2/1 - Chili Cookoff**, Little Havana, 1325 Key Hwy. Chili tasting, celebrity judges, and live music. Sponsored by the Federal Hill South Neighborhood Assoc. 5-9pm. \$

**2/2 - Writers Exchange**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. A read-and-critique group for writers with interest in all forms of writing. 6-7:30pm.

**2/3 - Intro to 3D Printing**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Class covering an overview of 3D printing. 3:30-5pm.

**2/4 - Baby & Toddler Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for little ones under 2 with a favorite adult. 10:30am.

**2/4 - Preschool Storytime**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Stories, movement, songs, and play for ages 2-5 with a favorite adult. 11:30am.

**2/5 - Community Run/Walk**, Harry's Bar, 1036 E. Fort Ave. Distance 3-6 miles. Sponsored by Bmore Running. 6:30pm.

**2/6 - Peninsula Post Issue #29** available free at outlets all over SoBo.

**2/7 - Read with Pride Book Club**, Pratt Library, 1251 Light St. Book discussion of *Isaac's Song* by Daniel Black. 11am-12pm.



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## Where in the World Was the Peninsula Post this Year?

In June, we invited readers to take their favorite SoBo newspaper along with them on their travels.

Here are some of the places we visited  
and the readers we traveled with.



Paris with Jane Seibold

Prague with  
Stella Martinez  
and her niece  
Anabella King



Anna Maria Island, Florida,  
with Dave Stock



Akron, Ohio, with Elaine Papp  
at her 60th high school reunion

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