

ROLAND PARK NEWS

Notes From The Principal's Office:

Nicholas D'Ambrosio, Principal at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

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By Cynthia McIntyre.

Nicholas D'Ambrosio looks young and relaxed standing in the hallway at RPEMS, and with good reason. At 35, he's a 14-year veteran of the Baltimore City School System, still standing despite North Avenue's vicissitudes, and heading up one of its flagship schools (Roland Park gets a 9 out of 10 in the Baltimore Great Schools rating, and 4 out of 5 stars in online parent reviews).

Arriving at Roland Park Elementary as a new Phys Ed teacher in 2005, he had the good luck to be mentored by his predecessor, former principal Carolyn Cole. In 2007, he obtained a Masters in Education at Loyola University, and became Assistant Principal. After four years, he left to be Interim Principal at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School in South Baltimore, but returned to RPEMS as Principal a year later, in 2012, when Mrs. Cole unexpectedly retired. Clearly, he is very much at home with the Roland Park students, faculty, parents and neighborhood.

With 1,350 students, split about equally between Elementary and Middle Schools, Roland Park is currently at 101 percent capacity. 40 percent of these students have been designated as gifted. Nearly 90 percent of the Elementary School students come from within its designated Roland Park catchment area. That area runs from Falls Road in the west to York Road in the east, north to the Baltimore County line and south roughly to Cold Spring Lane. The Middle School has a similar catchment area, but includes students from Medfield Elementary, as well as children from both the academically selective Ingenuity Program and the city-run Advanced Academics programs. The inclusion of these students results in a city-wide mix, with just about 50 percent

of the Middle School students coming from the Roland Park catchment area.



Learning about their community: As part of an activity on community leadership, Mrs. Rucinski's second-grade class interviewed Mr. D'Ambrosio about a school principal's role. Photo courtesy of RPEMS.

Despite the size of the student body and the age of the school, (it was built in 1938) the building looks pretty good. Inside, the atmosphere is bright and friendly, with children's art on the walls, and high-pitched voices echoing down wide, sunny hallways. D'Ambrosio is proud of its central air conditioning, new roof and children's playground – three major building projects in the past five years.

Last year's technology fundraiser raised over \$100,000 (\$13K of that was donated by the Roland Park Civic

League), enough to create a new computer lab, significantly increasing students' access to online education.

"This building is open from 7 to 7 most days. We really hope that the school makes the neighborhood a better place, because the neighborhood definitely makes us a better place," says D'Ambrosio.

At RPEMS, high numbers of bright students, engaged parents, and some great and dedicated teachers help to compensate for a city school system whose resources are stretched thin. Community involvement is another important piece of its success, and the school does its part to participate in the life of the neighborhood, hosting the annual meeting of the Roland Park Civic League, as well as election polling and other neighborhood meetings. Their baseball field is used by Roland Park Little League teams.

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Roland Park News

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Editor's Notes

By Hilary Paska

2015 could be described as Baltimore's 'Annus Horribilis' of recent decades. In a year of civil unrest and alarming murder rates, our city has garnered international media attention for all the wrong reasons – and we're not out of the spotlight yet. 2016 will likely bring more controversy, challenges and some negative coverage.

During such unsettled times, it's easy (and understandable) to feel negative about Baltimore. But let's look at the whole picture. Baltimore's ongoing social inequalities cannot and should not be ignored, but this midsized city also boasts world-renown universities and hospitals, several established and revitalized neighborhoods and a lively arts and entertainment scene. These are some of the city's assets, and our neighborhood, Roland Park, is one of them.

In her "Bookends" interview for this issue, author Kathy Hudson notes that "Sometimes I think we don't realize how much Roland Park is studied worldwide for its meticulous planning and design."

And that's just the neighborhood's layout.

Here in Roland Park, we have so many assets that contribute to a stronger Baltimore. Roland Park Elementary/Middle School is one of the most valuable contributions. A magnet for high-performing students from across the city, our public school provides a level of education that gives students the tools for a better future. In our lead article, Principal Nick D'Ambrosio shares his hopes for the school and highlights some volunteering opportunities.

Just as our school benefits from involved parents and community volunteers, so our neighborhood gains when residents step up. Creating a Strategic Plan for Stony Run, the woodland trail connecting 15 city neighborhoods, is the latest green space project in which Roland Parkers are playing a significant role. As Community Foundation President Mary Page Michel states, now is the time to share your opinions and ensure that the improvements you'd like to see are prioritized and implemented.

Roland Park's high-quality commercial areas, tastefully interspersed amongst our historic

homes, are yet more of our neighborhood's positive features. Modern urban planners increasingly recognize the value of local shopping, but it's a classic case of "use it or lose it." Supporting Roland Park businesses year-round is crucial, with the holiday season a particular bonus. In "Shop Unique – Shop

Local," Peter and Laura Grier showcase some of Roland Park's commercial gems and share their proprietors' recommendations for holiday giving.

Before we get too complacent, however, let's not pretend Roland Park is perfect! This past year has seen its share of inconveniences and mishaps, in particular the ongoing Roland Avenue repaving

project, which has caused frustration and even anger among residents.

A perceived lack of communication concerning the repaving project, specifically the cycle track installation, has been one of the primary concerns. Given this issue, this

Roland Park is jam-packed with talented individuals so if you have ideas to improve the neighborhood, please step up, share your suggestions and be prepared to follow through.

really is the moment for residents to get more involved and "be the change you wish to see." Roland Park is jam-packed with talented individuals so if you have ideas to improve the neighborhood, please step up, share your suggestions and be prepared to follow through.

This newsletter's editorial team, for example, would welcome more writers and editors. If you have ideas for articles, or could spare a few hours every quarter to review copy and proofs, we'd appreciate your input. Please contact us at Newsletter@RolandPark.org.

While Roland Park may not be perfect, in the grand scheme of things, we're doing pretty well. This neighborhood has much to contribute to Baltimore and beyond, so as we enter a new year, let's appreciate what we have and move forward with a renewed sense of community and purpose. ♦



Getting involved in the community: Neighbors share their ideas at the Stony Run Strategic Plan Community Kick Off meeting in September.

Photo courtesy of the Roland Park Community Foundation.

Arts Happenings

The host of one of Baltimore's premier jazz concert series for 25 years, the **Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society** (Venue: The Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive) has a rich history of bringing the world's finest jazz artists to the region for memorable performances in an intimate setting.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at baltimorechamberjazz.org, or at the door. More information is also available at 410-385-5888 or on the BCJS Facebook page.

- January 31, 5 p.m., **Duduka Da Fonseca and The Brazilian Jazz All-Stars**. Duduka Da Fonseca is a two-time Grammy nominated, legendary Brazilian jazz drummer who tours internationally. He came to national prominence accompanying Herbie Mann, Astrud Gilberto and Antonio Carlos Jobim. Da Fonseca has co-lead the group "Trio Da Paz" for over 25 years. Having recorded over 200 albums, Da Fonseca has brilliantly combined American jazz and the heart of Brazilian music, shining bright light on what is most uplifting and heartwarming in both cultures: abiding love and friendship. \$35 General Admission, \$33 BMA members and seniors, \$10 students.



Legendary Brazilian jazz drummer Duduka Da Fonseca. Photo courtesy of Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society

March 6, 5 p.m., **Antonio Sanchez & Migration w/Seamus Blake, John Escreet, Matt Brewer**. Drummer Antonio Sanchez has spent 15 years as a sideman with guitarist Pat Metheny, but now he has fully arrived as an ambitious, gifted leader. Sanchez was featured in the July 2015 issue of Downbeat discussing his current time in the spotlight due to the international acclaim and multiple awards received from his score for the 2014 film *Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*. His upcoming release with Migration, *The Meridian Suite* pushes his compositional skills in a way that no other project has done before. "The result is a masterwork that strikes a balance between intellectualism and accessibility—with occasional bursts of controlled chaos to make the proceedings even more interesting" (Downbeat). \$40 General Admission, \$38 BMA members and seniors, \$10 students.

Upcoming events sponsored by **Community Concerts at Second** include:

- January 17, 3:30 p.m., **Gary Louie, Saxophone** sponsored by Leslie & Tom Owsley. Known for his "disarmingly understated virtuosity," "remarkable dexterity," and a "finely polished tone," saxophonist Gary Louie has long been distinguished by his successful efforts to break boundaries and integrate the saxophone and its repertoire into the mainstream of classical music. His diverse program, "Paris Connections," will include works by Decruck, Rorem, de Falla, Glazunov, and Milhaud.
- January 31 and February 21, 7:30 p.m., **Chamber Music by Candlelight**. Join us in a candlelit setting, as members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra perform some of their favorite chamber works.
- February 14, 3:30 p.m., **Prima Trio** sponsored by Mark & Beth Felder. Originally connected by their native language at Oberlin Conservatory in 2004, the Prima Trio has since become

a powerhouse in the chamber music world. Winners of many prestigious competitions as an ensemble and solo performers, pianist Anastasia Dedik, clarinetist Boris Allakhverdyan, and violinist Gulrukh Gurevich will captivate with works by Schumann, Piazzolla, Khachaturian, Milhaud, and Schikele.

All concerts are free of charge with free street parking and require no advance ticketing. Concerts take place at Second Presbyterian Church (4200 St. Paul Street). Contact Gina Parks, Managing Director, at 443-759-3309, CommunityConcertsAtSecond@yahoo.com, or visit CommunityConcertsAtSecond.org for more information.

Handel Choir of Baltimore winter programs include:

- December 13, 8:00 p.m., **Handel's Messiah** at Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street) and December 14, 3:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church (5407 N. Charles Street). With Handel Choir, Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, and acclaimed soloists Karen Vuong (soprano), Carla Jablonski (mezzo-soprano), Ian McEuen (tenor), and Andrew Pardini (bass-baritone). Arian Khaefi conducts. Preconcert lecture one hour before each performance. Tickets \$47, \$37, \$10 full-time students with ID.

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AT SECOND

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Arts Happenings

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March 1, 4:00 p.m., **Wild Roses** at Second Presbyterian Church (4200 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore 21218). A midwinter afternoon's reverie of heady aromas, whirling passions and bittersweet longings, featuring Brahms' *Zigeunerlieder* (*Gypsy Songs*), Górecki's *Szeroka Woda* (*Broad Waters*), Lauridsen's Midwinter Songs, and Poulenc's *Sept Chansons* (*Seven Songs*) (selections). Handel Choir with Thomas Hetrick (piano). Arian Khaefi conducts. Preconcert lecture at 3:00 p.m. Tickets \$37, \$27, \$10 students with ID and all patrons 18 or younger.

Tickets are available now at handelchoir.org or by calling 667-206-4120. Single tickets are now on sale for Handel Choir of Baltimore's performances of Handel's *Messiah* December 13 and 14. Preconcert lecture one hour before each performance by WBJC 91.5 FM's Jonathan Palevsky.

The Ivy Bookshop (6080 Falls Road) is Baltimore's independent literary bookstore, carrying a broad range of titles with an emphasis on new fiction, non-fiction, biography, art, interior design, cooking and children's books. Booksellers are knowledgeable and friendly, ready to recommend based on your personal preferences. The Ivy is locally owned and has a deep interest in promoting the community



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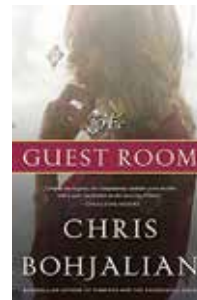
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and its organizations. For the most up-to-date information on events, please visit theivybookshop.com. To RSVP, please call 410-377-2966 or email info@theivybookshop.com. All events will take place at The Ivy unless otherwise noted. All are free unless otherwise noted. Upcoming events include:



The Handel Choir of Baltimore. Photo courtesy of the Handel Choir

- Wednesday, December 2, 7 p.m., **Tim Newby: Bluegrass in Baltimore**. Through interviews and photographs, local author Tim Newby explores the rise and influence of bluegrass in Baltimore.
- Sunday, December 20, 6 p.m., **Rafael Alvarez: Crab Town, USA**. Iconic Baltimore writer Rafael Alvarez presents his follow-up to *Hometown Boy* and *Storyteller*.
- Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m., **Chris Bohjalian: The Guest Room**. In bestselling author Chris Bohjalian's new novel, a man faces the repercussions of one wild night.
- Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m., **Kathy Flann: Get a Grip**. Local author Kathy Flann discusses the range of imaged lives depicted in *Get a Grip*, her prize-winning collection of stories about who we are when the cameras are off and the phone has died.
- Tuesday, February 9, 7 p.m., **McKay Jenkins: ContamiNation**. Local author McKay Jenkins exposes the toxins that contaminate almost every part of our daily lives.
- Sunday, February 28, 4 p.m., **Nancy Cohen: Breakthrough**. Baltimore native Nancy Cohen explores the state of women's political leadership in America, and whether the country is finally ready for a woman president.



Winter shows at **The Patricia and Arthur Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric** (110 W. Mount Royal Avenue) include:

- December 4 & 5, **Disney Live! Three Classic Fairytales**
- December 10, **Mannheim Steamroller Christmas By Chip Davis**
- December 11, **Peppa Pig Live!**



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.
Photo courtesy of the Modell Lyric

■ December 26 & 27, **Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer**

Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com or at the Modell PAC/Lyric box office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 410-900-1150 or visit modellpac.com for more information

History and Heritage

Homewood Museum (3400 N. Charles Street, Johns Hopkins University) is a National Historic Landmark built in 1801 by Charles Carroll, Jr., and one of America's best surviving examples of Federal period domestic architecture. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the hour and half-hour, Tuesday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday noon to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$5 for students (with ID), youth (6 to 18) and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). For more information or to register for museum tours, events, and programs visit museums.jhu.edu or call 410-516-5589.

Winter programs include:

■ December 5, 12 noon to 4 p.m., **Silhouettes for the Holidays.**

Experience the magic scissors of historical artisan Lauren Muney, a master portraitist in the tradition of the silhouette artists of the 18th and 19th centuries, create a perfect gift for the holidays. One of the few remaining freehand-scissor artists still practicing in the Mid-Atlantic, Muney will create a traditional profile-portrait of your little (or big) ones to treasure forever—in just minutes. Proceeds will benefit Homewood Museum. Cost is \$40 for two copies of one silhouette (includes museum admission). Custom-made oval mats and rare frame styles will be available for sale on site. Advance registration for appointment time is strongly recommended. Register by calling 410-516-5589.

■ December 7, 5 to 7 p.m., **Homewood by Candlelight.** Decorated for the holidays with garlands and boxwood by the Homeland Garden Club, Homewood exudes a festive spirit that is best witnessed at the museum's annual *Homewood by Candlelight* open house. Glittering candlelight throughout the museum make Homewood appear as it might have in the early 19th century. The reception hall will be filled with the sounds of live music, the museum shop will offer a wide variety of holiday gift-giving ideas for people of all ages, and refreshments will be served in the wine cellar. Guests will also be able to view the museum's new focus exhibition, *Curating the Carrolls*. Cost is \$8 general admission, FREE for University Museums members and Johns Hopkins students with ID. Reservations requested: 410-516-5589, homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu, or online through Brown Paper Tickets at bpt.me/producer/22987.

■ January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 3, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Docent Training Course.** Homewood Museum's volunteer docents lead engaging and interactive tours to a variety of individuals, school groups and community organizations from around the world. They also assist with the museum's special programs and foster an appreciation for art, architecture and history in visitors of all ages. Docents are needed on weekends and/or weekdays, and schedules can be created to suit your needs and availability. Homewood docents join the intellectual life of Johns Hopkins University, are offered opportunities for additional training, and are invited to attend social events, openings, lectures, and monthly tours of other historic sites. Cost is FREE. Advance registration required by calling 410-516-

5589. Participants may bring a bag lunch and stay after class to study the permanent collection.

Evergreen Museum & Library (4545

N. Charles Street, Johns Hopkins University) is at once an intimate collection of fine and decorative arts, rare books, and manuscripts assembled by two generations of the B&O's philanthropic Garrett family, and a vibrant, inspirational venue for contemporary artists. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the hour Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$5 for students (with ID), youth (6 to 18) and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). Parking is FREE. For more information or to register for museum tours, events, and programs visit museums.jhu.edu or call 410-516-0341.

Upcoming events include:

■ December 10, 6 to 8 p.m., **An Ever Green Evening.** Join us for our annual holiday open house, featuring creatively themed seasonal decorations, a silent auction of original art by Baltimore

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Homewood by Candlelight.
Photo courtesy of Homewood Museum



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Calendar & Announcements

Roland Park Civic League meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Avenue). For more information, call the Civic League offices at 410-464-2525.

Job Hunters Support Group meetings are held on Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at First Christian Church (5802 Roland Avenue). Participants are welcome to share ideas, challenges and spiritual support. A sandwich luncheon will be served. Call 410-435-1506 or visit baltimoredisciples.org.

The **Baltimore Police Department Northern District Community Council** meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Northern District Headquarters (2201 W. Cold Spring Lane). All members of the community are welcome. The Council maintains a liaison relationship between Council communities and the police, keeps Council neighborhoods informed of relevant measures that citizens can take to support police efforts to prevent or resolve criminal activity in the area, and establishes a network for effectively educating and sharing information on mechanisms for dealing with problems in Council neighborhoods. To receive updates on the Council via email, join the Yahoo group at groups.yahoo.com/group/northerncommunitycouncil.

Leaf Collection: Each Monday through January 4, 2016, the Department of Public Works Bureau of Solid Waste crews will collect **up to 20 bags of leaves from each address**. To schedule a pick-up, residents must call 311 by 6:00 pm on the Sunday preceding the anticipated Monday collection. Residents may make multiple appointments, and pick-ups may be scheduled up to two months in advance of the requested pick-up date. Crews will also collect **up to 5 bags of leaves weekly from each address** on regularly scheduled trash collection days. Leaves must be contained in a clear or labeled bag and placed at a regular mixed refuse collection location, not in the public right-of-way.

Train Garden: Please help **Baltimore City Fire Department Engine 45** celebrate their 60th Season this year. View the train garden November 29 through January 4, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Glen Avenue Fire House, 2700 Glen Avenue. ❖

Please submit information for this column to Newsletter@RolandPark.org.

History and Heritage

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artists and designers, after-hours viewing of special exhibitions, the opening reception for Exploring the Museum, and live jazz. Festive fare will be served, a festooned period sleigh will serve as the perfect backdrop for your own photographic memories, and the museum shop will be filled with unique gift ideas and fresh greens harvested from Evergreen's extensive grounds. Cost is \$8 general, FREE for University Museums members and Johns Hopkins students with ID. Reservations requested: 410-516-0341, evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu, or online through Brown Paper Tickets at bpt.me/producer/22987.

Natural Selections

Winter events at **Lake Roland** include:

- December 5, 2 to 4 p.m., **Holiday Centerpieces and Natural Ornaments**. Make a festive centerpiece from evergreens, a holiday container, and a candle. Listen to holiday tunes, enjoy cookies and create natural ornaments for your home or to give as gifts! Ages 8 and up, \$12 per person, \$10 members.
- December 18, 6 to 9 p.m., **Kids Night Out**. Drop the kids off for a few hours while you shop. Children can make wonderful nature crafts, look for nighttime creatures, make gingerbread houses and participate in holiday activities. Registration is limited. Sign up early! Ages 6 to 12, \$10 per person, \$8 members.
- December 19, 6 to 8 p.m., **S'mores, Stars & the Winter Solstice**. This week marks the longest nights of the year. Gather around our campfire to learn about the solstice, the stars, and the folklore of holiday traditions. Then enjoy sing-a-longs and warm up while roasting s'mores. Ages 5 and up, \$3 per person, \$2 members.
- December 28 – 31, **Winter Break Camp**. Winter break camp is a great way to keep the kids active during the school break! Campers will enjoy playing games, making crafts, nature activities, going for hikes, and much more! Limited enrollment. Ages 6 to 12, \$150 per child, \$140 members.

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■ January 1, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **First Day Hike**. Start the year off right by enjoying the great outdoors! Join a park ranger for an easy hike observing nature's winter splendor.

■ January 9, 7 to 9 p.m., **Wolf Moon Hike & Campfire**. Tradition and folklore dub January's moon the Wolf Moon. Join a ranger for a night hike and then gather around our campfire to warm up with hot chocolate. Ages 8 and up, \$3 per person. Dress appropriately for the weather.

■ January 18 and February 15, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., **School's Out Days**. Looking for something fun for your child to do when school is out? Unplug the kids and let them spend the day exploring nature at the park! Bring lunch, snack, and water. Ages 6 to 12, \$25 per child per day with extended care from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for \$10 per day.



An Ever Green Evening
Photo courtesy of Evergreen Museum and Library

■ February 13 and 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Bird Extravaganza**. Join us for birding activities and search for birds in the Great Backyard Bird Count! Meet live birds, join birding hikes, make crafts, help build a giant bird's nest, play games and enjoy hot drinks and a campfire. All ages, free. No registration required.

■ February 14, 6 to 9 p.m., **Parents' Night Out**. Parents can spend a Valentine's evening out while kids have fun in the park. Kids will play games, make crafts, and learn about the funny, surprising, and downright weird ways animals find that special someone. Ages 8 and up, \$10 per person, \$8 members.

Ongoing Programs:

■ Mondays, every 8 weeks, 7 to 8:30 p.m., **Nature Book Club**. Meet at the ranger station to discuss some of the greatest nature book selections. A new book will be selected every 8 weeks. Bring a snack to share. Adults only. Free!

■ Every Friday, 9 to 10 a.m., **Friday Strolls**. Join us for some exercise while enjoying the sights and sounds of Lake Roland. The terrain is varied, but mostly flat with some hills. Hiking boots are recommended. Please bring water with you. Adults only, free!

■ 2nd Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Habitat Trail Team**. Join a ranger and the Habitat & Trail Team to help maintain Lake Roland's beauty. We have some of the best trails in Baltimore, so come get your hands dirty! Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water. Ages 12 and up, free!

■ Tuesdays 8 to 10 a.m., **Tuesday Bird Walks**. Baltimore Bird Club's weekly walks will follow the progress of spring migration. Beginning birders are welcome! We will meet at 8 a.m. at the light rail boardwalk entrance. See baltimorebirdclub.org for more information. Cancelled in conditions of snow, rain, or ice. All ages, Free!

■ **Art on the Trail**. On the Red Trail just beyond the Light Rail tracks, hikers can view sculptures created by local artists. These sculptures combine art and nature in the captivating scenery of

Lake Roland. For more information, visit lakeroland.org/art-trail-2.

■ **Story Walks**. Children and their families can meet at the Acorn Hill play area and enjoy reading a story as they walk along the paved loop. Look for new stories to be posted throughout the year. All ages, free!

■ **Nature Quest**. Have an adventure in your own backyard with Baltimore County Nature Quest. Pick up your Nature Quest Passport booklet

at participating parks, online at lakeroland.org/nature-quest or at your local Wegman's grocery store. The Passport will direct participants to hiking, biking, and canoeing opportunities at the County's nature sites, where questers can record their visit in the Passport. Complete just 5 trails to earn prizes!



Ranger Jeff Ruark leads the Friday Strolls at Lake Roland.
Photo courtesy of Lake Roland Nature Council.

Please submit information for this column to Newsletter@RolandPark.org.

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Natural Selections

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Cylburn Arboretum

Cylburn Arboretum (4915 Greenspring Avenue) is a 207-acre, nature preserve and public garden located in northwest Baltimore. The property takes its name from the Civil War-era mansion, which was once the private estate of industrialist Jesse Tyson. The house, designed by Baltimore City Hall architect George Aloysius Frederick, was completed in 1888. Now it is home to the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the Horticultural Division of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. This partnership has preserved and protected the Arboretum as a place of beauty and open space for more than half a century.

Cylburn has an extensive and expanding collection of trees and shrubs, including groves of magnolias, hollies, conifers and Japanese maples. The grounds include 13,000 square feet of



Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum

greenhouse space, more than three miles of walking trails, wildflowers and natural habitats. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Winter events at **Cylburn** include:

■ December 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cylburn Mansion, **Cylburn in Holiday Dress: Open House**. Wander the first floor of the historic Cylburn Mansion dressed in holiday finery. See turn-of-the-century woodwork, marble fireplaces and European plaster work set off by seasonal decorations. Take a stroll on the grounds and enjoy the winter gardens, then drop into the mansion. Free. Call 410-396-0180 for more information.

Please check the website for late additions to our programming calendar. For more information, visit cylburn.org or call the Arboretum at 410-367-2217. ❖

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Tea with the Author: January 10, 3 to 5 p.m., Peabody Room, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (4 University Pkwy). Author **Ann G. Giroux** will discuss her latest book *Guilford*. The lecture will focus on the development of North Charles Street and University Parkway adjacent to Guilford including ecclesiastical, university and high-rise apartment buildings.

The talk will be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation of early photographs documenting Guilford and the surrounding area. The program will include a Q&A session, book signing and refreshments. Please call 410-467-1399 with questions about this program. To reach the author, please call 443-939-4023, or send an email to ann@anngiroux.com.



Stony Run Strategic Plan Moves Forward: Please Join in the Discussion!

By Mary Page Michel, President, Roland Park Community Foundation

On September 26, seventy-five people of all ages gathered at the Bolton Hill Synagogue for the Stony Run Strategic Plan Community Kick Off. City Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton, members of the Friends of Stony Run, a representative from the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, folks who have loved Stony Run for 50 years and new neighbors were all in attendance. Many thanks to Miss Shirley's for their generous sponsorship – the plentiful and delicious food was much appreciated by all the attendees.

Tom McGilloway and Megan Griffith of Mahan Rykiel Associates, an internationally respected landscape architecture firm, led the group in a traditional SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Mahan Rykiel was hired for their expertise in creating Master Plans for urban parks, including Wyman Park Dell and Patterson Park. Participants placed sticky notes on large maps of Stony Run to show the places they loved, and highlight the areas of concern. Some of the Wyndhurst Avenue business owners voiced their concern about the recent flooding of the area after heavy rain storms; Tuxedo Park residents detailed the erosion that is creating an ever-narrowing elevated path; and some participants suggested adding more seating along the path, so older walkers could have a place to rest. Not everyone agreed on all of the suggestions but it was obvious that the community adores Stony Run. The Mahan Rykiel representatives were able to compile dozens of ideas, concerns and things not to change about the woodland path. At the end of the meeting, some attendees walked the path to point out particular sections.

The Stony Run Strategic Plan will be a huge milestone for our community. The Greater Roland Park Master Plan recommended the creation of such a plan to capture the local knowledge and hopes for this neighborhood treasure. Many Open Space Campaign donors specifically allocated their donations to Stony Run improvements, and the Roland Park Community Foundation voted

unanimously to match the funds raised to complete a Strategic Plan. No doubt more funds will be needed to implement the improvements, but we will be working from a comprehensive list, compiled by residents, of what needs to be done and prioritized.

As the next step, Mahan Rykiel will compile the suggestions, complete site assessments to study the areas identified at the kick-off and create an analysis explaining the path's assets, constraints and opportunities.

At a second work session (date to be determined), Tom McGilloway will present the analysis and some concept plans to be evaluated by the community. Please look out for the next meeting date on the Stony Run Strategic Plan website, stonyrunstrategicplan.weebly.com, the Friends of Stony Run website, stonyrun.org, the Roland Park listserve and all of the adjoining neighborhood listserves.

If you would like to learn more about the Stony Run Strategic Plan process, please visit stonyrunstrategicplan.weebly.com. To receive email updates, click on the "Contact" tab and enter your email address. You can also add your comments under the "Contact" tab, and/or complete a survey. ♦

If you have any questions, please email communityfoundation@rolandpark.org or call (410) 464-2533. Please join your neighbors in making the Stony Run Strategic Plan as comprehensive as possible.



On February 6, the Roland Park Civic League will host its fifth Chili Cook-off fundraiser. As 2016 is an election year, the theme will be Presidential Politics. Chefs will create chilis inspired by their favorite president (costumes are optional!). Once again, our wonderful neighbors at the Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys have generously offered to host the event. Chase away February's chill and root for your favorite Chef-in-Chief!

To register as a chef or volunteer to help with the event, please contact Kate Culotta at krculotta@msn.com or Martha Marani at marthamarani@gmail.com. Register by January 16.



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Year End Report

Civic League Update

By Chris McSherry, President, Roland Park Civic League

2015 has been a very eventful year in the neighborhood, to say the least! The Roland Avenue repaving and traffic calming project, which I am hoping and praying will soon be completed, has been the biggest undertaking. This project has proved a tedious and somewhat torturous slog, but we are almost there. Our patience will be rewarded with a smooth street, improved curbs and crosswalks, and slower traffic.

The repaving project began in July 2014 and was supposed to be finished within a year. It has included the improved entrances to Bryn Mawr and Gilman Schools from Northern Parkway, the repaving of Roland Avenue and the installation of several traffic calming devices. The curb extensions or "bump outs" were installed to help slow down traffic and they will be planted with native plants by the time you read this. Fifty-eight new trees will also be planted as part of this project. Installation of the new brick crosswalks will depend on weather conditions in December. They take 45 days to complete, but that means 45 days of actual construction, which could be interrupted by bad weather.

Happily, the fiasco of the disappearing curbs has finally been remedied and the affected trees are being treated to help them survive. The Department of Transportation is working with Davey Tree to do everything they can to preserve the trees. It has been

a series of mishaps and mistakes, and we will all be very relieved when this project is finally behind us.

The new cycle track on Roland Avenue will also be installed by the time you read this. I know that this has been a contentious issue but I truly believe that the track will improve our safety and quality of life in Roland Park. It may require changes to our daily patterns, but we will adjust, and greater safety for everyone on Roland Avenue is worth that adjustment.

The Civic League has been busy with many other projects this past year. We have been working with our City Councilwomen, Sharon Green Middleton and Mary Pat Clarke, on Baltimore City Council's review of "Transform Baltimore," the rewrite of the Zoning Code, and we have advocated for the best interests of the community in that process. The City Council will soon be voting on the new

The City Council will soon be voting on the new Zoning Code – the new changes will help Roland Park to maintain our Village Center Commercial district and work with area schools on their development plans.

Zoning Code – the new changes will help Roland Park to maintain our Village Center Commercial district and work with area schools on their development plans.

We have also been working with Mary Pat Clarke on the proposed expansion of Roland Park Place. The community and the Roland Park Place administration are negotiating on the plans to ensure that the final development will be something that everyone can live with.

The Civic League also undertakes projects related to some of the neighborhood's tangible and intangible "quality of life" issues. Our Maintenance Committee, for example, oversees the organic waste removal program and maintains neighborhood paths, green spaces and medians. They will also plant a tree for you if you pay your full fees to Roads & Maintenance. Our Zoning Committee meets with those who wish to develop properties in the area and advocates for the community with the Planning Department and the BMZA (the zoning board). We sponsor a mentoring program at Roland Park Middle School and in May, the Civic League coordinated a Bike Rally to collect bikes for economically disadvantaged kids. We also organize the neighborhood's annual Fourth of July parade, which was soggy but very special this year!

At present, we are working on an overhaul of the **RolandPark.org** website so that it will be easier to navigate. We send out e-newsletters on neighborhood issues and upcoming meetings, as well as monitoring the Roland Park Listserve. I encourage all residents to sign up for these communications. We work with the Community Foundation on the Open Space Campaign and advocate for the neighborhood whenever City services are needed, including sewer and storm drain maintenance, getting our side streets paved and collaborating with the police when public safety problems crop up.

Continued on page 27

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Safety on the New Roland Avenue

By Caitlin Doolin, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner for the Baltimore City Department of Transportation

Americans have driven less every year since 2004 and there is a rising demand for better bicycle facilities. This has created a need to implement cycle tracks in the city, to provide better and more equitable access to businesses and communities.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) is working actively with advocates and communities to implement several miles of cycle tracks around the city. The resurfacing project along Roland Avenue from Cold Spring Lane to Northern Parkway provides a great opportunity to add this much-needed infrastructure and improve the safety of the street for all users. While protected bike lanes have become common in over 77 cities nationwide, Roland Avenue will have the first parking protected cycle track in Baltimore City.

The BCDOT would like to share some helpful tips and safety information for using the cycle track and roadway in general.



Source: NACTO, 2015

Tips for people on bikes:

- Yield to pedestrians and wheelchair users who may be crossing the road and protected bike lane and give an audible signal before passing any pedestrian.
- Watch for turning vehicles when approaching intersections, driveways and alleys.
- Be alert for passing bicyclists within the bike lane and for pedestrians crossing the bike lane to access parked motor vehicles.
- Be aware that the bike lane may weave as it approaches intersections to make bicyclists more visible to people and cars.
- Ride slowly and respectfully. Please pass slower riders with caution at intersections.
- Maryland law requires people under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle.

Tips for pedestrians:

- Watch and listen for protected bike lane users traveling from either direction just as you would when crossing a street.
- Cross the protected bike lane at crosswalks.
- Be alert for nearby cyclists when crossing a protected bike lane to access parked vehicles.

People using wheelchairs:

- Travelers in wheelchairs are allowed to use bicycle lanes to exit vehicles and access ADA ramps. Individuals should follow the same rules as other protected bike lane users.

Continued on page 14

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Shop Unique – Shop Local

By Laura and Peter Grier

Shop Roland Park stores this holiday season – it'll be fun, festive, and help build a stronger and more prosperous neighborhood.

Sure, the couch and online shopping is an alluring alternative. But it's risky to choose gifts from thumbnail photos. Is that sweater long enough? Is it teal green or more of a lime? And dealing with retail web sites can be frustrating. No, there shouldn't be four juicers in my "shopping cart". What do you mean my account has been hacked?

A visit to local brick-and-stucco merchants avoids these problems. They've got merchandise you can heft and help that's, you know, helpful. There's the serendipity of seeing things you didn't search for on Amazon. Plus, you'll run into neighbors. Holiday gossip is the best.

In its small area Roland Park has many stores to choose from. From stationary and scarves to toys, books and cheeseboards, there are gifts for all ages and tastes. Take a stroll along Roland Avenue and Deepdene Road, then head over to Wyndhurst Station with a stop at the Roland Park Shopping Center on the way. Cold Spring Lane yields more options. Here's a selection of the season's best, picked by a sampling of the stores themselves.

GUNDY'S Gundy's Gifts is Roland Park's retail grande dame. Founded in 1939 on Park Heights Avenue in Pimlico, the eclectic shop moved to its present Deepdene Road location in 1984. It stocks everything from baby gifts to lingerie, with lotion, candles,



Gundy's Gifts is Roland Park's retail grande dame. Photo: Beth Hayes

cocktail napkins, gloves, handbags, lovely serving pieces, and custom business cards in between.

"I call us a mini-department store," says owner Diane Lochte.

Gundy's is happy to help customers who don't know what they want. Need a hostess gift? Got kids clueless about a present for Mom? Come on in. They ship UPS to save you a trip. They will gift-wrap for free. Also, they feature Roland Park's best selection of funny birthday cards.

Shoppers looking for a uniquely Baltimore item can check out Gundy's Greg Otto prints. Artist Otto's colorful paintings of local landmarks hang in many neighborhood living rooms. His wife, Kathy Hudson, has recently published a new book that's also available at Gundy's. *On Walnut Hill: The Evolution of a Garden* is a gorgeous tome about the long development of the Hubbard family garden, one of the finest in Maryland (see Bookends, P. 23).

Need a suggestion? That's a big advantage of a store with knowledgeable staff.

CRIMSON & CLOVER Further down Deepdene is Crimson & Clover, Roland Park's go-to flower store. Their blooms are half-price from 4 to 6 p.m. every Friday. Spouses take note.

Asked how flowers can fit into holiday giving, shop proprietor Amy Epstein McManus suggests setting up a delivery schedule. Givers can pre-select bouquets to arrive on birthdays, Mothers' Day, Easter, or any number of days they want, throughout the year.

Orchids are a simpler choice. At \$50 for a single stem they make great hostess gifts, says McManus.

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But Crimson etc. is more than flowers. “We do have other things,” McManus says.

Jewelry, for instance. They’ve got earrings in the \$30 to \$40 range, with necklaces \$60 to \$80. Candles are another big category. Simpatico Home scented candles in lovely hobnail containers are a steady seller.

Unique to Crimson are floral oil paintings on 5” by 7” panels by in-house artist Corynne Ostermann. They’re a burst of color that won’t fade in February, starting at \$75.

THE CHILDREN’S BOOKSTORE Sandwiched between Gundy’s and Crimson is another Roland Park institution, The Children’s Bookstore. Founded in 1978, it’s provided a place to browse and great book choices for generations of North Baltimore kids, parents and grandparents.

Need a suggestion? That’s a big advantage of a store with knowledgeable staff. For picture books, owner JoAnn Fruchtman likes “Waiting”, by Kevin Henkes, about five toys killing time on a windowsill; and the “Tea Party in the Woods”, described by one reviewer as an “Alice in Wonderland meets Little Red Riding Hood” tale.

One of the store’s favorites for older readers is “The Marvels”, by Brian Selznick. It’s the story of a family of famous actors, a runaway, and a mysterious house. The book is a combined graphic and conventional novel, like the award-winning author’s “Wonderstruck” and “The Invention of Hugo Cabret”.

Then there’s “Echo”, a genre-bending novel by Pam Muñoz Ryan that’s difficult to describe. “It’s a wonderful story about a harmonica that passes through a family over generations,” says Fruchtman.

For middle schoolers to adults, The Children’s Bookstore also recommends “The Hired Girl”, by Baltimore’s own Newberry Medal winner Laura Amy Schlitz. It’s about a young domestic in a turn-of-the-century Baltimore society house who yearns for adventure and art.

EDDIE’S Eddie’s of Roland Park – it’s the center of the universe. Move away from Baltimore and it’s easy to miss their gourmet grocer experience. Got a Baltimore expatriate on your list? Send them an Eddie’s signature product, crab cakes. Eddies will pack them in ice and mail them anywhere in the U.S.

Or send them a basket. Eddie’s has ways of making gift baskets you’ve probably never thought of. There’s “Bringing Home the Bacon”, which includes bacon lollipops, maple bacon onion jam, bacon barbeque sauce, and other bacon-themed items packed in a decorative container. There’s “Maryland, My Maryland”, which starts with Berger Cookies, moves to Naron Chocolates, and continues with all Free State-produced stuff.

Of course the baskets are great for local gifts too. Starting at \$49.99 they’re perfect for a boss or business associate or to bring to a party.



Crimson & Clover sells much more than flowers. Photo: Beth Hayes

And the Eddie’s folks will mix and match and pull together custom conglomerations.

“We can make any type of gift basket you want,” says Kathy Dodds, Eddie’s basket czar.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE The Carriage House is the gem hidden in the garage behind Schneider’s Hardware on Wyndhurst Avenue. It carries a wide variety of garden décor and gift ware.

In the garden department, if you have a friend that would love a birdhouse, bird bath, wind chimes or simply a beautiful planter, this is a great source.

For gifts, owner Pat Pratt focuses on local artists and fair trade items. There are hand painted ornaments, vases, and votives; tiles intricately impressed with natural forms and made into other items, such as coasters and jewelry boxes; and beautiful hand-blocked dish towels which can double as napkins, guest towels, and even curtains.

The Carriage House carries beautiful scarves of all types, some in felted wool with dashes of silk, as well as lots of hats, gloves and mittens. There is lots of Christmas décor as well and gift wrapping is complimentary.

Continued on page 25

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Safety on the New Roland Avenue

Continued from page 11

People driving cars:

- Park in the marked lane between the travel lane and the bike lane where on-street parking is available.
- Take extra caution and look both ways before turning across the bike lane at intersections, driveways and alleys, especially when the bike lane is protected by on-street parking.
- Cyclists have the right-of-way at uncontrolled intersections, driveways and alleys. At signalized intersections, people in cars must yield to cyclists in the same manner they yield to crossing pedestrians.
- Don't drive in a protected bike lane. You can cross a protected bike lane, but must yield to cyclists.

Bikemore and BikeMaryland are advocacy organizations with ample bike safety information on their websites. Additionally, for questions regarding the cycle track and its use, please contact Caitlin Doolin,



Note: This diagram shows the new positions of the parking and bike lanes on the street. The Roland Avenue cycle tracks, however, allow one-way, rather than two-way cycling. Source: Seattle DOT

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner for BCDOT, at caitlin.doolin@baltimorecity.gov or at 443-842-9341. ❖



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Lake Roland Once Again

By Nancy Worden Horst

Known locally to generations of Baltimoreans as Lake Roland, the beautiful 500-acre park just to our north will no longer be officially called Robert E. Lee Memorial Park. While Baltimore City continues to work through its process regarding the legal name of the park, the County has moved forward to identify the entire area as Lake Roland, the name of the former reservoir that anchors the entire park.

The new name was unveiled this fall when Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Department of Recreation and Parks officials and members of the Lake Roland Nature Council broke ground for the Lake Roland Nature and Environmental Education Center.

The new Education Center will provide facilities for the many activities offered by the Nature Council, including year round education programming, meeting space and audio/visual capabilities. A deck spanning the entire front of the building will provide stunning views of the Lake Roland dam. Total cost for this project is \$1.2 million, comprising \$285,000 of County funding, \$200,000 from State capital grants, \$375,000 from Program Open Space, and \$340,000 from Nature Council fundraising.

The Baltimore City waterworks reservoir project that resulted in Lake Roland began in the 1860s and was originally called Lake Swann* after then-Baltimore Mayor Thomas Swann. By 1876, however, the lake was variously identified on maps as Lake Roland or Roland Lake, taking its name from one of its feeder streams, Roland Run (Jones Falls and Towson Run being the other two streams).

In 1945, the park was enlarged and named to honor Robert E. Lee by an ordinance approved by the Baltimore City Council with funds from a bequest by the late Elizabeth B. Garrett White. Robert Garrett, White's great-nephew and executor of her will, and also chairman of the city's Recreation and Parks Commission, petitioned the Circuit Court to use White's bequest to fund recreation at Lake Roland rather than erect a statue in Lee's honor at Druid Hill Park as Mrs. White had requested in her will.



Ground-breaking for Lake Roland Education Center. From left: Maryland State Delegate Chris West, Maryland State Delegate Shelly Hettleman, Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond, LRNC President Larry Zeafra, LRNC Secretary Nancy Horst, Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Head Park Ranger Shannon Davis, LRNC Treasurer Jeffrey Budnitz, Director of Recreation & Parks Barry Williams, LRNC Vice President Elise Butler Photo courtesy Siobhan O'Brien Budnitz

Since Baltimore County entered into a formal agreement with the City in 2009 to administer the park, Baltimore County has made many renovations and improvements including: Paw Point Dog park; a boardwalk trail leading from the Light Rail Station to the heart of the park; a new pavilion overlooking the dam; decking replacement on the old railroad trestle for pedestrian use; Acorn Hill playground; and staffing by Baltimore County Park rangers who educate park users and ensure safety. These amenities were made possible with funding from the State of Maryland as well as Baltimore City and County. ❖

**A recently renovated Swann Park, also named for the former Mayor and Governor of Maryland, is located in South Baltimore. Information from Baltimore County Office of Communications and Department of Historic Preservation.*

Don't Trash – Recycle!

Before tossing your water bottle or other recyclables into a trash can at Lake Roland, look for the green recycling containers in one of seven locations around Lake Roland's peninsula area. County Executive Kevin Kamenetz recently announced that Lake Roland is one of 12 regional parks with the potential to participate in recycling, since on-site staff already empty trash cans and aggregate it into dumpsters for weekly collection. The initial cost of the program, excluding weekly hauling fees, is about \$44,000; private haulers charge approximately \$88 per unit per year. Paper, plastic, cans and bottles are acceptable.

The program began in May and features attractive green trash/recycle combination containers, as well as the familiar blue recycling and green trash containers. In addition, a dumpster designated for recycling will soon be located behind a wooden fence in the MTA parking lot. Do your bit to keep Lake Roland as green as possible!

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Prep. Time: 20 minutes

Serves: 10-15

- ½ cup walnuts, coarse chopped
- 1 cup pistachios, shelled, coarse chopped
- 1 cup dried apricots, chopped
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 1 jar Dalmatia Fig Spread
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 4 oz. gorgonzola dolce
- 6 oz. Vermont Creamery chevre
- ½ tsp. white pepper
- 1 box Anna's Ginger Thins
- 1 box Rustic Bakery Pan Forte

Cover the bottom of a standard loaf pan with plastic wrap. Be sure to extend extra wrap over the sides of the pan.



Add cream cheese, gorgonzola, chevre and pepper to the bowl of a food processor fitted with the metal blade. Process so that the mixture is well combined and spreadable.

In a medium bowl, combine nuts, apricots and cranberries. Mix in the entire jar of fig spread. Spread half the nut mixture onto the bottom of the prepared loaf pan in an even layer. Top with half of the cheese mixture. Repeat with another layer of the nut mixture, then finish with the remaining cheese mixture. Fold the extra plastic wrap over the cheese, so that the torta is completely covered. Press the top lightly to release air and to compact the layers. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours or overnight.

To serve: Peel back the plastic wrap on the top of the loaf. Invert pan onto serving platter and remove the rest of the plastic wrap. Serve the torta with ginger thins and pan forte.

Pair with Nino Rustico Prosecco.



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Potato Leek Soup

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4lbs Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and quartered
2 large onions, thinly sliced
4 leeks (trimmed for white part)
2 quarts chicken stock
3 quarts heavy cream
1 tsp. Cayenne pepper
Butter



Salt to taste

Chives to garnish

After prepping the potatoes and onions, trim and wash the leeks. Save only the white part of the leeks for the dish. The soft green sections can be saved for garnish. Discard the hard green parts.

In a pot, sweat the onions in butter until they soften and are translucent. Add the leeks and sauté until they become soft as well. Add 2 quarts of chicken stock and bring to a boil. Once boiling, reduce to a simmer and add the potatoes.

In a separate saucepan, warm the heavy cream (this will reduce the possibility of the cream separating when it is added to the soup).

Once potatoes are almost cooked (about 15 minutes), combine the cream and let simmer for an additional 10 minutes. Continue until the liquid has reduced by around 20 percent.

Puree and strain the mixture. Return to the pot, add cayenne pepper and salt to taste.

Serve and garnish with freshly chopped chives.

Bistro Tip: If you would like to make your own stock for the soup, come into Petit Louis, order the Poulet à L'Éstragon, and ask your server for the chicken bones to go. They make a great soup starter.

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I am a writer.

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I know this because I go to Park.

—Amani, Grade 3



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Miss Shirley's Cafe in The Community

By Jessica Saladini, Social Media & Marketing Manager, Miss Shirley's

Miss Shirley's Cafe is humbled and honored to be celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the cafe's original location in Baltimore's Roland Park neighborhood!

In an effort to give back to the community that has supported them for the last decade, the restaurant kicked off a "10 Months of Shirley's Giving" charitable campaign in May of 2015.

As part of the campaign, Miss Shirley's is #ShirleysGiving to one local nonprofit organization, each month through February 2016. And what better way to show our appreciation to loyal guests and the community than by kicking off this charitable campaign in the neighborhood where it all began?

In the spring, Miss Shirley's aimed to help beautify and protect the surrounding neighborhoods by teaming up again with the Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service. The cafe now sponsors new Adopt-A-Road signs in Roland Park, the Inner Harbor and Annapolis. As part of this program, sponsors

financially support sections of highway, to assist in keeping our roadways clean, maintained and litter-free.

As a sponsor for Teach for America's "First Taste of Baltimore" event this summer, Miss Shirley's donated some of their Barbecue Shrimp Deviled Eggs. Teach for America, a national organization of college graduates committed to teaching for two years in the country's most underserved areas, holds this annual event to welcome new teachers into Baltimore's program, and provide them with a great first impression of Charm City.

Miss Shirley's Team shook things up in August with a fun, musical appearance on WJZ-13's

Manic Monday, supporting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's "Women on the Move" fundraiser. The restaurant donated Crab Cake Martinis with Old Bay Cheddar Mashed Potatoes to the event, which raises funds in the effort to fight Multiple Sclerosis.

In September, Miss

Shirley's helped say "FAREWELL to Food Allergies" by participating in, and sponsoring, the Baltimore FARE Walk for Food Allergy for the fourth year! During the walk through Druid Hill Park, the restaurant gave out Shirley's Swag, bottled water and orange door hangers, reminding guests with food allergies to "STOP! Remember your epinephrine!" With the help of loyal guests, friends and supporters, Miss Shirley's Cafe raised \$9,659 for food allergy research and education.

This fall, Miss Shirley's showed support for one of Baltimore's landmarks by becoming a corporate member of The Maryland Zoo, and adopting several African Penguins. The Adopt an Animal program aids the Zoo in providing a stable, happy and healthy habitat for the animals. The restaurant also has the opportunity to name a newly born penguin chick, "Eddie," after Miss Shirley's founder, Edward L. Dopkin, who had a special connection to the Zoo as a longtime fan, supporter, caterer and board member.

In October, the restaurant was also a gold sponsor for Anne Arundel Medical Center's "Stepping Out for Breast Cancer" fundraising event.

In the spirit of the holidays, members of Miss Shirley's Team helped continue a tradition spanning 16 years by serving a Thanksgiving Meal, prepared by The Classic Catering People, to the children & families of St. Vincent's Villa, an organization that offers stabilization programs for children with emotional or behavioral challenges.

Miss Shirley's also sponsored and created a 7.5' tall 10th anniversary-inspired Orange Tree, to be auctioned off at Kennedy Krieger's Annual Festival of Trees. All funds from this holiday event benefit the Kennedy Krieger Institute, which aims to improve the



As part of their ongoing commitment to philanthropy, Miss Shirley's has participated in, and sponsored, the Baltimore FARE Walk for Food Allergy for the past four years. Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's.



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Making Peace: Fourth and Fifth graders partner with Robert Coleman Elementary peers to solve world problems

By Heidi Blalock, Director of Communications, Friends School of Baltimore

Over 11 weeks, from October 27, 2015 and continuing into January 2016, 15 Friends School fourth and fifth graders and 15 of their counterparts from Robert W. Coleman Public Elementary School in the city's Mondawmin Community have been gathering twice weekly at Friends for an after-school club dedicated to playing the World Peace Game. Founded more than 30 years ago by veteran educator John Hunter, the game seeks to place "all the problems of the world," including economic, social, and environmental crises and the imminent threat of war, on a 4' x 5' plywood board and "let the children solve them." Interestingly, Friends is the first Quaker school to play the World Peace Game.

Fourth grade teacher Jillien Lakatta and her Robert Coleman Elementary colleague Tayamisha Thomas attended a World Peace Game master class this June in Charlottesville, Va. and together



Children from both schools gather around the triple-decker game "board." Photo courtesy of Friends School

facilitate the club. Describing the experience, Lakatta said. "We were with educators from all over the world whose schools have been playing the World Peace Game. A group of teachers from Mali shared how they've used the game to engage their students in solving some of the real-world problems that exist in their country. They say it's given their students hope and has really made a difference in their lives. It is difficult to put the experience into words, but it was one of the best weeks of my life."

A TED talk given by Mr. Hunter has received more than 1.2 million views since its posting in 2011. Additionally, a documentary, "World Peace and Other 4th-Grade Achievements," offers a moving inside-look at the game and its young players. ❖

Miss Shirley's Cafe in Community

Continued from page 18

lives of individuals with disabilities.

Yet, in all of the excitement of the restaurant's anniversary, Miss Shirley's has not forgotten the importance of philanthropy as a continuous, year-round mission.

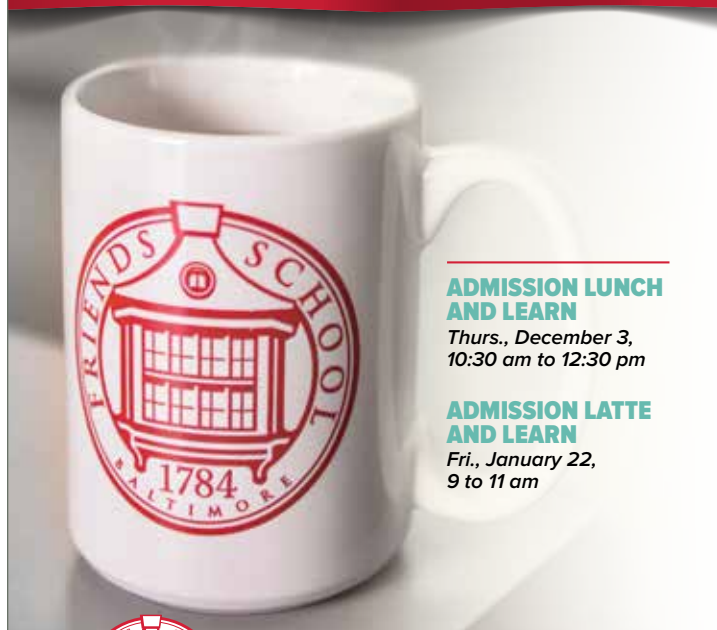
In memory of Miss Shirley's founder, who was known as a whole-hearted philanthropist, and to maintain the values he instilled, Miss Shirley's Cafe is happy to donate to over 150 local schools, organizations, charities and fundraisers each year.

Miss Shirley's Cafe is proud of their community, and is always happy to greet Roland Park's New Neighbors with a welcome gift, or donate snacks to community events or committee meetings. The restaurant is also an annual sponsor of multiple Roland Park Little League Teams, as well as Loyola University Athletics. In an effort to thank those who keep our community safe, Miss Shirley's also supports the Northern Police District, as well as area fire stations.

Annually, Miss Shirley's donates and serves gallons of soup for St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's "Empty Bowls" event, which raises funds towards their mission to help the hungry and homeless in our community. The Dopkin family also created a Culinary Scholarship through the Restaurant Association of Maryland, the "Eddie Dopkin First Course Award Honoring Entrepreneurship in Hospitality," which annually awards \$5,000 to a student at the culinary institute, Stratford University Baltimore Campus. ❖

For updates on the Miss Shirley's Cafe's community involvement, please visit MissShirleys.com and enter your email address at the bottom of the page, to be added to Miss Shirley's News & Updates email list.

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Bryn Mawr Fifth Grader Honored at Library of Congress

By Laurel Weijer, Assistant Director of Communications

Bryn Mawr fifth grader Naria Lemma has been selected as the third place grand prize and Maryland state winner in the Library of Congress's National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest. Lemma received her award at the end of August during a special presentation at the Library of Congress.

The theme of this year's contest was "A Book that Shaped Me." Lemma chose to about "Homesick: My Own Story" by Jean Fritz. The book, which tells the story of the author's experiences as a ten-year-old girl living in Hankow, China during the Chinese communist revolution, inspired Lemma to begin to learn more about her own family history. She interviewed her grandmother, an Ethiopian émigré, and compared those experiences to the ones of Jean Fritz in "Homesick."



Bryn Mawr Fifth grader Naria Lemma, third place grand prize and Maryland state winner in the Library of Congress's National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest.

Photos courtesy of Bryn Mawr School

Now in its fourth year, the annual National Book Festival Summer Writing Contest is administered by nearly 300 libraries in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The contest is judged by members of the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association. Grand prize winners are selected by a panel assembled by the Library of Congress that includes educators, children's authors and Library of Congress staff. The contest is open to all rising fifth and sixth graders in the Mid-Atlantic area. ❖

Annual Gilman-McDonogh Game Generates Cooperation as well as Competition

By Debbie F. Jones, Manager of Social Media and Public Relations, Gilman School

The annual football game between Gilman and McDonogh, the second oldest interscholastic rivalry in the state, reached a milestone on November 7 as the Greyhounds and the Eagles played their 100th game. After losing to the Eagles the last two years, the Hounds retook the trophy with a 35-28 win.

In the week before the game, however, both schools held activities that were better characterized by cooperation than by competition. Each school welcomed rival student leaders to school assemblies, wore the colors of their rivals during "Empathy Day" and held a joint food drive.

For the Stuff A Bus food drive, each school community filled the bus of the rival school with nonperishable food. The collection in Gilman's bus was donated to the Donald Bentley Food Pantry and McDonogh's bus was donated to the Maryland Food Bank. More than 12,000 pounds of food were collected, which will yield more than 10,000 meals for hungry families.

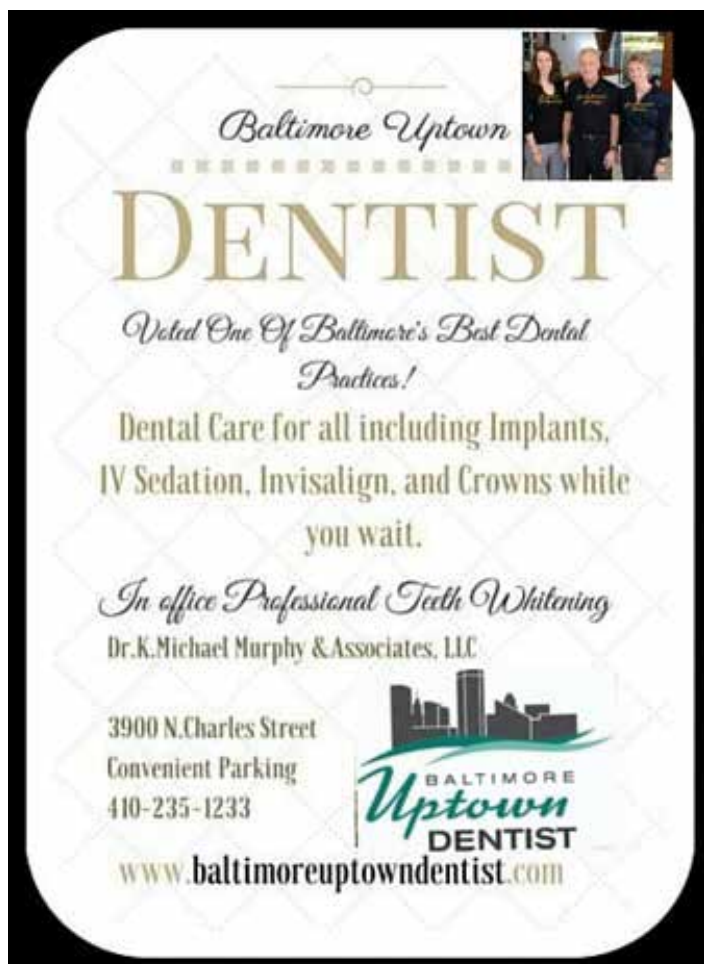
Throughout the course of each academic year, Gilman conducts various food drives to support the Donald Bentley Food Pantry, and the Lower School has adopted the Bentley Pantry as an ongoing community service project. The Pantry was founded by Gilman alumnus A.J. Julius '91 and mother Ellen Bentley to memorialize alumnus Donald Bentley '88 after his tragic murder in 1989.

As part of its mission to help boys grow into men of character, service projects are built into the school year for Gilman boys of all ages. In addition to food drives, fundraisers have supported research for cystic fibrosis, juvenile diabetes and other diseases affecting children; and volunteer projects have benefitted educational, environmental, religious and arts organizations. ❖



For the Stuff A Bus food drive, each school community filled the bus of the rival school with nonperishable food.

Photo courtesy of Gilman School.



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Faissler Library Learning Commons emphasizes Collaborative Space and Technology

By Nancy Mugele, Assistant Head of School for External Relations

Roland Park Country School unveiled its newly repurposed Middle and Upper School Faissler Library in October with an emphasis on active learning, supported by many high-tech features to fit the needs of today's students.

The Learning Commons focuses on the growing need for space that fosters collaboration and creativity among groups of students. Gone are some of the stacks of books and reference materials, most of which can now be accessed online. In their place, the new Faissler Library Learning Commons offers: moveable desks and tables designed to promote group interaction; a super-sized projector and screen in the main room; comfortable seating interspersed with tables and



Comfortable seating promotes student interaction. Photo courtesy of Roland Park Country School

chairs for individuals or groups; noise cancelling headphones for students who need to study individually; and flexible small rooms that can be used for quiet study, group work or meetings, with high-tech projectors that turn whiteboards into touch screens.

"We're excited to have new technology and spaces for the students to connect and work collaboratively," said Janice Moore, Roland Park Country School director of libraries.

"It encourages creativity, imagination, communication and

sharing knowledge, rather than conducting research in isolation. That's what today's learners want and need." ♦

Roland Park Country School Names Caroline Blatti as New Head of School Beginning July 2016

By Nancy Mugele, Assistant Head of School for External Relations

Roland Park Country School (RPCS) is pleased to announce that its Board of Trustees has appointed Caroline Blatti, age 41, to

succeed current Head of School Jean Waller Brune upon her retirement at the end of the 2015–2016 academic year. Blatti, who will be the seventh Head of School in RPCS history, was unanimously appointed following an extensive search that attracted top candidates from all over the United States.



Caroline Blatti

Photo courtesy of Roland Park Country School

Board President Catherine McDonnell said, "Caroline stood out from a field of truly exceptional candidates, with her commitment to innovation and single sex education, her tremendous energy, her enthusiasm for creating a dynamic learning environment and her superb communication skills. We are

thrilled that she accepted the position to take the School into the coming decades."

Blatti said, "I'm so excited to be joining the RPCS community. The qualities of the school resonate with my personal values and leadership style, and their commitment to balancing strong academics with a broad offering of co-curricular programs ensures that each girl has an opportunity to pursue her passions and shape her unique journey." ♦

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Notes From The Principal's Office

Continued from page 1

"This building is open from 7 to 7 most days. We really hope that the school makes the neighborhood a better place, because the neighborhood definitely makes us a better place", says D'Ambrosio.

In response to the many individual offers to volunteer, the school has recently created the position of Community Resource Coordinator, whose job is to "match the school's needs with the interests of the volunteers." That person is Phillip Rowland-Seymour, a parent with two children at the school. His contact email is rpems.crc@gmail.com, and he can be reached by telephone at 410-396-6420 x2331.

"To be honest, we haven't totally perfected the program", Mr. Rowland-Seymour says. "You might have to call more than once. But there are a lot of opportunities and a lot of appreciation for anyone willing to volunteer." Right now, library volunteers are in high demand. "We have one librarian for the whole school – and she also teaches. So having someone on hand to check books in and out lets us keep the library open all day for the kids." Teaching aides are welcome, and not just in the classroom. "Aides can help a lot with lesson planning and organization, tasks that give the teacher more time to teach."

Then there's chess club and debate team, soccer, lacrosse, track and field and wrestling – all of these could use 'small group leaders' or coaches. Especially wrestling. "For some reason it's hard to find a wrestling coach" D'Ambrosio says, "I did it myself last year, and I loved it – but it does take time." Oh, and "someone who could

tune instruments for the orchestra would be awesome...."

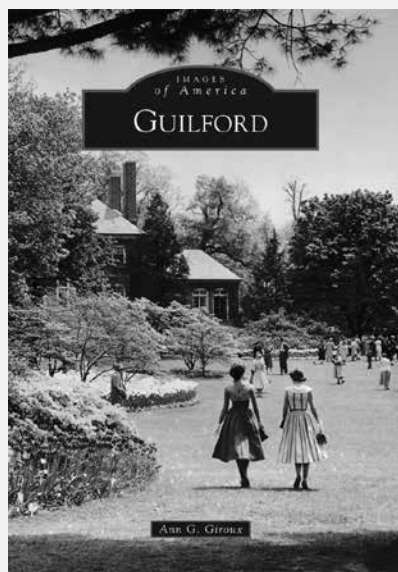
RPEMS has several mentoring programs, including one started a few years ago by the Civic League, which is "still on-going, but on a less formal basis." Kids from Bryn Mawr and Gilman Schools as well as RPEMS alumni and others, come after school to tutor children. And the Roland Park Library offers a safe and (mostly) quiet place for them to do homework while waiting for a ride home.

Transportation – morning drop off and afternoon pick-up – is D'Ambrosio's biggest physical challenge at Roland Park. He welcomes the new bike lanes, but says that parents are naturally concerned about children riding in close proximity to traffic.

"We are happy about the opportunity to have students bike to school. And whenever we have bike and walk-to-school days, there is a noticeable drop in traffic." RPEMS is part of a safety committee with neighboring private schools to collaborate on ways to improve the situation, but it is beginning to seem as if every possible option to create a safer drop-off system has been explored and rejected. At this point, D'Ambrosio says, there may be "some things we just have to live with."

Besides the traffic issue, and the constant wish for "more time to give everyone here the attention and support that they deserve", Mr. D. is overwhelmingly positive about the school. "I think we are preparing children to live in a diverse world. We do a lot of work in problem-solving and learning-from-interaction. We are able to customize a student's experience to his or her strengths. And we add a lot of enrichment to the standard curriculum in a way that makes learning both fun and memorable." ♦

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Bookends: Finding Inspiration, Appreciation, and Even Hope in a Private Garden

An Interview with Kathy Hudson

By Henry Mortimer

Inspiration comes in many shapes and colors. Roland Park resident and author Kathy Hudson finds the genesis of her creative spark, as well as an endless source of knowledge, in what Francis Bacon called “the purest of human pleasures” — namely, getting lost in a neighboring garden. As a columnist and essayist for numerous local publications, Hudson has been spelunking and writing about the “trees and greenery” of her surroundings, as well as myriad other subjects, for several decades. She is an avid gardener herself and often draws on her own experiences for her subject matter. But for her first book, *On Walnut Hill: The Evolution of a Garden*, she decided to combine her passions and focus her efforts on one particular spot, a private, not-so-secret garden in nearby Ruxton.

Part pictorial essay, part instruction manual, *On Walnut Hill* documents, among other things, the fascinating relationship that developed between A.C. and Penney Hubbard and Kurt Bluemel, a famous horticulturist who collaborated with the couple on the transformation of their property for 40 years. More importantly, the book, which features nearly 250 lush landscape photographs by Roger Foley, also explores the rich bonds that the garden helped the family form over the years, not only with each other but also with their natural surroundings. It's a topic that should inspire and offer hope to anyone concerned about the future course of our neighborhood's — and our city's — vital greenery.

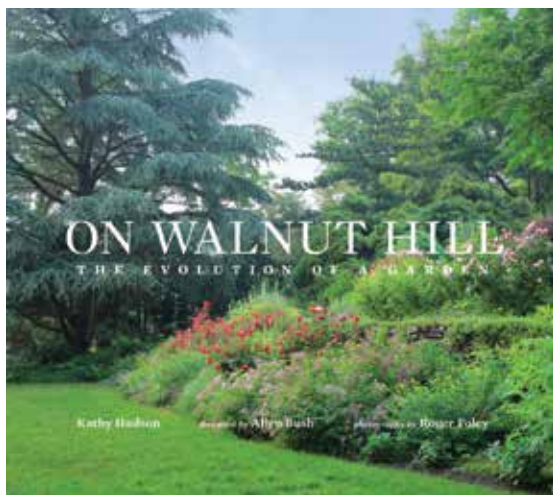
Briefly describe the idea behind *On Walnut Hill: The Evolution of a Garden*.

The book chronicles the development of the outstanding Ruxton garden of A.C. and Penney Hubbard and features the work of nationally known photographer Roger Foley, who captures the beauty in the changing landscape over a year's time.

What inspired you to write *On Walnut Hill*? Why were you interested in writing about a private garden?

I first encountered the Hubbards' garden when I wrote an article about it for *Baltimore Style* magazine in 2004. I like good stories, and the story of the Hubbards and their garden is one. With the help of the late Kurt Bluemel, a world-renowned garden designer and plant expert from Baldwin, Maryland, the couple transformed a plain, grassy hillside, where horses sometimes wandered, into lush terraced gardens. As I've found when writing about other gardens, the passion of the owners, who did all the early work themselves, is contagious. Such dedication inspires new and experienced gardeners alike, as well as those not the least bit interested in gardening.

As Penney Hubbard often says, the fact that their garden is on two acres and not an estate makes it “grabbable.” I wanted to share with others the artistry of their garden, their plant and sculpture collections, and their knowledge. The Hubbards also believed in raising their children outdoors and in this garden. The family



spent time in it during the week and every weekend. One daughter was married in the garden. To the surprise of their parents, all three children have ended up back in Baltimore, within three miles of their childhood home. Nine grandchildren now enjoy the garden, particularly its natural-looking swimming pool with an undulating waterfall wall. Besides sharing the garden, I wanted to share the story of a happy, outdoorsy family.

How does this project differ from others you have undertaken?

This is my first book. I seem to have short-stretch muscles in both sports and writing. In the Hollins College writing program, I wrote poetry under R.H.W. Dillard, George Garrett, Julia

Continued on page 24



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Randall, Howard Nemerov, and Louise Bogan. For a dozen years, as media rep at Maryland Public Television, I wrote press releases, later short stories and essays, before falling into garden writing. Years ago, my first Style editor figured that, because I had a garden, I knew plants. I told her that she was wrong, but she insisted. Passionate gardeners Ann and Sydney King, Jean and Sidney Silber, the Hubbards, and others were generous with their time and knowledge, and very patient. They taught me as I wrote.



Author and Roland Park resident Kathy Hudson.
Photo: Jack Young.

On Walnut Hill took me to a type of writing I hadn't done before. After I completed a sample chapter, the book's editor Laura Wexler, also a Roland Parker who was my former Style editor, suggested I change the essays that introduce the seasonal photographs. She wanted them to be very different from the garden history and suggested prose poems. I'm not sure they are quite that, but they ended up being the most challenging and my favorite writing that I did for this book. The project returned me to my writing roots, but with a new twist.

What do you hope readers will gain from reading this book?

Two words: inspiration and appreciation. Not everyone is a

gardener, but with the growing interest in the environment many have been bitten by the gardening bug. People want the space around their homes (houses, condos, apartments) to look nice.

Lots can be learned from the Hubbards' pursuit. They began at their first house in Roland Park, on shady and hilly Merrymount Road. Shade gardening is a challenge because of the limited selection of blooming plants. For the same reason, fewer choices make it a good way to begin. They found sunlight on Walnut Hill in Ruxton, where they started a vegetable garden with raised beds. Those beds are now filled with tulips in spring and dahlias in summer.

The book offers a section on Penney's advice to gardeners, lessons learned over almost half a century. Lists of favorite tools and other resources are also included. Penney's first career was as a teacher, so it's important to her to share what she's learned.

Are there local writers who have inspired or otherwise shaped you as a writer? If so, who and how?

One Hollins poet I mentioned before, Julia Randall, was from Baltimore. In literature classes she'd like to say, "If you don't have time to write a short paper, write a long one." She helped me edit myself.

After a stint in Washington, I discovered Anne Tyler when I returned to Baltimore and began seeing my family with new eyes. Her novel *Searching for Caleb*, set in Roland Park, made me feel much better about our family eccentricities. Anne Tyler has a strong sense of family and place. Similar to the effects of working in a garden, her novels offer hope through her characters' small epiphanies and changes.

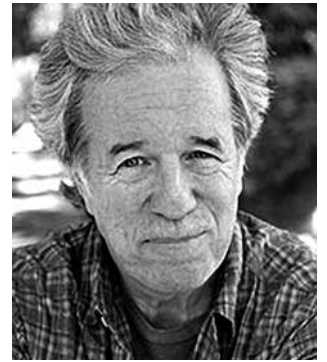
The minute I was introduced to them, I devoured essays by Anne Raver, former garden columnist of *The New York Times*. In recent years she's lived on her family's farm north of Baltimore. Besides vast horticultural experience, she has a great sense of humor and feeling for people. Anyone who gardens needs humor. Having never met or corresponded with her, I took a chance and invited her to see the Hubbards' garden. To my amazement, she came and later wrote a wonderful blurb for the dust jacket.

Our Roland Park friend Christopher Corbett writes wickedly funny essays. I've learned a lot from his non-fiction books, *Orphans Preferred* and *The Poker Bride*, but the sharp observations and wit in his essays give me (a born goody-goody) permission to loosen up a little with my words.

How does living and writing in Roland Park shape your work?

Former Speaker of the House "Tip" O'Neill liked to say, "All politics is local." Roland Park is my home base and springboard. It gives me plenty of subject matter. The first essay I wrote for *The Baltimore Messenger*, in 1995, focused on the way we Roland Parkers park our cars. I still write those kinds of essays. Many neighborhood residents and gardens have been subjects for articles in *Baltimore Style*, *Chesapeake Life*, *Chesapeake Home*, and *The Sun*.

What I've always loved about living here is that I can step out the door and run into a neighbor on Roland Avenue. At the same



Photographer Roger Foley specializes in landscape architecture and garden design.
Photo: Penney Hubbard.



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Continued on page 25

Shop Unique – Shop Local

Continued from page 13

THE MONOGRAM SHOP Yes, The Monogram Shop monograms. Owner Regina Bello and her daughter, Courtney Bishop, will print, emboss, embroider, or otherwise apply custom initials to items they sell.

But the real glory of this Wyndhurst Station store is that it sells a little bit of everything. From women's and children's shoes and clothes, to bags and totes, to baby onesies and men's golf shirts and bow ties, it is not hard to find something you will love to give or have.

In menswear they carry the Johnnie-O line, which the company calls "California Prep" and is made of performance fabrics. They also have Castaway clothing from Nantucket.

For the home they carry fine china and glassware as well as bed linens, decorative pillows and towels which can be purchased plain or monogrammed.

To keep all of your linens and delicate items looking beautiful they also carry a line of laundry products from New York's The Laundress. The Monogram Shop is the only place to find this in Baltimore. It is a little shop jammed full! They are planning a special shopping evening during December so check with the shop for details.

Shananigans is what every toy shop in America should be, but isn't.

SHANANIGANS Shananigans is what every toy shop in America should be, but isn't. It's a happy place with so much fun stuff it makes the toy aisles of big box stores look dreary and under-stocked.

Bookends

Continued from page 24

time, the size of the community affords a sense of privacy. We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful place in the city. The trees and greenery offer respite, as well as subject matter. Sometimes I think we don't realize how much Roland Park is studied worldwide for its meticulous planning and design.

Recently, what has been done to the Japanese zelkova trees on Roland Avenue, as a possible side effect of the paving project, is keeping my pencil sharp. Neighborhood traffic and commercialization, and the state of our city, do too. Baltimore is at a tipping point; so is Roland Park.

What are you working on next?

More garden articles, for Baltimore Fishbowl and *Baltimore Style*, a book of essays similar to the seven seasonal ones in *On Walnut Hill*, and a collection of stories about my own, Anne Tyler-esque family. ♦

For more information about Kathy Hudson and the book *On Walnut Hill*, as well as a glimpse of its lush photography, visit onwalnuthill.com.


Henry Mortimer resides in Roland Park with his wife and children. He writes an occasional blog about music, books, and other distractions. In his spare time, he works as a communications consultant. Contact him at henry@mortimercommunications.com.




Thinking Putty is like Silly Putty that went to school to learn new tricks.

Photo: Beth Hayes.

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Shop Unique – Shop Local

Continued from page 25

Kid-in-Chief/owner David Stelzer shows off its wares best. “I love littleBits,” he says, pointing to kits of colorful electronic components that stick together with magnets to produce working gadgets. “You can even build your own computer. They’re really cool.”

Then he whirls to point out a stack of small tins, akin to the kind that hold Altoids. It’s Thinking Putty, which is like Silly Putty that went to school to learn new tricks. “This is crazy popular,” says Stelzer. “You can stretch it, bounce it. Some of it is magnetic. Some glows in the dark.”

Further down the aisle are games, Shananigans biggest category. Stelzer highlights “Mysterium”, a new board game that’s a cross between “Clue” and the card story game “Dixit”.

“This is going to be the biggest game of the year,” says Stelzer.

What’s the Playmobil generation into now? Still Playmobil. Stelzer likes the new fire station and the hockey set that can be customized with NHL team stickers.

In crafts Shananigans carries inexpensive, high quality crochet and jewelry kits from a local firm, Style Me Up. Their iLoom plugs an iPad into a plastic loom and guides users through bracelet weaving. “It’s really pretty amazing,” says Stelzer.

Reminder: Shananigans is open Christmas Day. And they carry batteries.

REDEUX ReDeux is Roland Park’s high-end clothing consignment shop. Remember, nobody at the holiday party needs to know you how much money you saved on that gown.

And they do have gowns, lots of them, along with shoes and accessories to match. They’ll help you pull the outfit together.

“We’ll ask, ‘what’s your event, where are you going?’” says co-owner Linda Eisenbrandt.

But the store’s not all dressing for galas. There’s a sweater room, and a shoe wall, and a jeans rack, and a coat section. They have lots of wallets that would make great holiday gifts, if you’re a spouse who’s looking. Also you will find handbags, sunglasses, and jewelry, with brands from Tiffany to Chanel and David Yurman.

“We do gift cards a lot for the holiday season,” says Eisenbrandt.

Check them out on Instagram. Have they sold those vintage Bakelite bangles yet? Hopefully no... ❖

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206 Goodwood Gdns.	\$1,795,000	\$1,650,000
200 Hawthorne Rd.	\$649,900	\$637,000
5 Merrymount Rd.	\$360,000	\$340,000
300 Oakdale Rd.	\$579,500	\$575,500
5508 Roland Ave.	\$875,000	\$865,000
311 Somerset Rd.	\$1,125,000	\$1,100,000
803 W. University Pkwy.	\$699,000	\$699,000
829 W. University Pkwy.	\$695,000	\$660,000
4804 Wilmslow Rd.	\$579,500	\$579,500
4910 Wilmslow Rd.	\$469,500	\$452,500
409 Wingate Rd.	\$540,000	\$540,000
505 Wingate Rd.	\$359,000	\$344,000
111 Woodlawn Rd.	\$649,900	\$630,000
202 Wyndhurst Ave.	\$750,000	\$700,000

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Information provided by **Daniel Motz**, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, (410) 235-4100 (office), (443) 415-3160 (cell), dmotz@cbmove.com.

Civic League Update

Continued from page 10

Looking Forward to 2016

The New Year will soon be upon us and we will have so much to look forward to in 2016. The Roland Avenue paving project will be finished and we can finally enjoy the benefits of slower traffic and safer biking.

The new website will be launched and residents will be able to find neighborhood information much more easily. This will help everyone to keep up with neighborhood initiatives and to contact the right community representatives for information.

The Open Space Campaign, run by the Community Foundation, is moving forward with plans to improve Stony Run Park, preserve the Roland Water Tower and ongoing efforts to purchase the 17 acres of land at the Baltimore Country Club. Stay tuned for updates in 2016.

I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of my neighbors in giving of their time, talents and professional skills to help make Roland Park a better neighborhood for everyone. On our boards, for example, we have a professional engineer who oversees the sewer and storm water maintenance project, an expert on urban planning who helps with our zoning issues and professional fundraisers who work on the Open Space Campaign. Experts in urban development projects, construction and real estate law all work for the Civic League and the Community Foundation – for free! We could never afford their services if we had to pay them all.

I know that some folks are unhappy about the repaving project and the cycle track, and I am sorry for that. I invite everyone

to get involved with the Civic League and to participate in the community. As Gandhi said, “be the change you wish to see”. ♦

Welcome New Neighbors!

Thomas & Judy Kelly, 302 Club Rd.

James Michael Harris & Christina Mills, 109 Deepdene Rd.

Neil O'Connor & Heather Volk, 5005 Falls Road Terr.

Elizabeth Greene & Mark Gatlin, 12 Hillside Rd.

Richard & Tracy Froh, 2 St. Johns Rd.

Meghan Casey, 3917 Keswick Rd.

Gregory Hoey, 4825 Keswick Rd.

Anthony & Jennifer Kraus, 300 Oakdale Rd.

Jon Garcia & Julia Timofeeva, 501 Overhill Rd.

Area Home Sales

(August through Early November 2015)

	List Price	Closing Price
302 Club Rd.	\$1,225,800	\$1,200,000
109 Deepdene Rd.	\$559,000	\$545,000
712 Deepdene Rd.	\$384,000	\$374,000
5005 Falls Rd. Terr.	\$589,900	\$562,500
12 Hillside Rd.	\$449,000	\$442,000
4825 Keswick Rd.	\$419,000	\$414,000
300 Oakdale Rd.	\$579,500	\$575,500
5005 Roland Ave.	\$499,000	\$465,000
5101 Roland Ave.	\$788,500	\$755,000
5803 Roland Ave.	\$739,000	\$724,000
4406 Sedgwick Rd.	\$399,900	\$400,500

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Note: This diagram shows the new positions of the parking and bike lanes on the Avenue cycle tracks, however, allow one-way, rather than two-way cycling. Source: Seattle



JESSICA DAILEY
Team Leader
Realtor, ABR, GRI, CRS
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Roland Park Office
Village at Cross Keys

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Fright Night Fun

Creepy witches, cute pets and “Kool” celebrities haunted the neighborhood on Halloween night. Brave Roland Parkers calmed the unquiet spirits with candy... but they’ll be back again next year! ❖



Photos courtesy of Sally Foster and Irene Skricki.

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The Book Nook

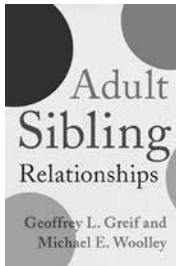
By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

Welcome to the winter edition of the Book Nook. This season, we have two "Meet the Authors" events for adults:

Wednesday, January 6, 6:30 p.m. **Meet the Authors: Louise Phipps Senft and William Senft** discuss their book, *Being Relational*. Originally scheduled for October, we had to reschedule this program when we were closed for repairs to the water line.

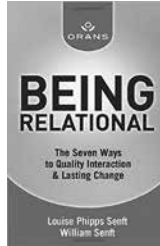
Improve the quality of your interaction with others. In their new book, *Being Relational: The Seven Ways to Quality Interaction & Lasting Change* (HCI Books), Louise Phipps Senft and William Senft of Baltimore Mediation outline a comprehensive approach to being relational, not transactional, when interacting and dealing with people.

Saturday January 23, 11 a.m. **Meet the Authors: Geoffrey Geif and Michael Woolley**, authors of *Adult Sibling Relationships*.



The bond siblings develop in childhood may be vastly different from the relationship that evolves in adulthood. Driven by affection but also characterized by ambivalence and ambiguity, adult sibling relationships can become hurtful, uncertain, competitive, or exhausting, though the undercurrents of love and loyalty remain.

With in-depth case studies of more than 260 siblings over the age of 40 and interviews with experts on mental health and family interaction,



authors Greif and Woolley provide specific suggestions for realizing new, productive avenues of friendship in middle and later life.

Geoffrey Greif and Michael Woolley are on the faculty at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Greif is the author of *Two Plus Two: Couples and Their Couple Friendships* and *Buddy System: Understanding Male Friendships*. Michael Woolley is director of research at the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center and a research fellow of the Society of Social Work and Research.

Winter Reading

As always, reviews are excerpted from the Pratt Library catalog available on the library's home page at prattlibrary.org under the Books & Media tab.

Fiction

Incarnations: A Novel by Susan Barker

British author Barker (*The Orientalist and the Ghost*, 2008) brings both impressive research and imaginative flair to this epic story set in 2008 Beijing during the preparation for the Olympics. Taxi driver Wang Jun has been receiving a series of strange letters informing him that he is an incarnate with a host of previous lives; furthermore, the letter writer claims that they have a shared history going back 1,000 years and describes each life and relationship in glorious detail. Sometimes the two are lovers, at other times, parent and child, but their sweeping story reflects the tumult and class divisions of China's history. Wang Jun has been many people in his previous lives and even in his present one, including mental patient and favored son. The lushly detailed passages recounting his previous lives encompass very graphic sexual and



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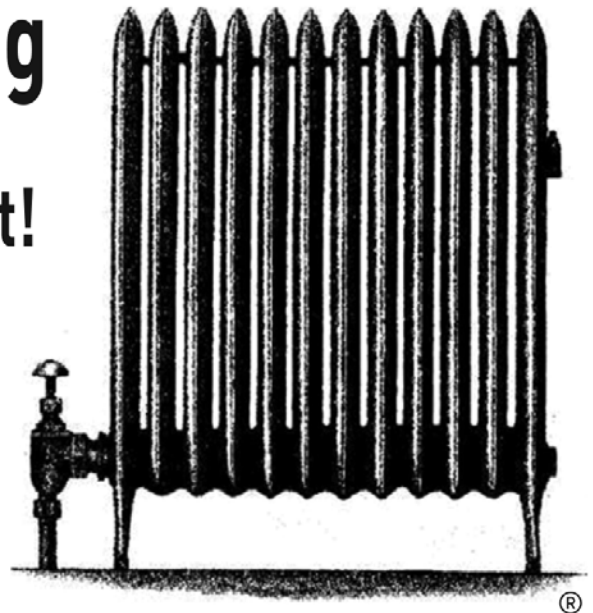
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Book Nook

Continued from page 30

physical violence, and depict people in their most brutalized and despondent states, yet Barker's fluid prose makes of their tragic stories irresistible reading. Whether he is eunuch, prostitute, or slave, and whether the setting is the Tang dynasty in 632 CE or the Red Guard in 1966, the stories come alive via a veritable catalog of dark and desperate details. This ambitious novel traffics in intrigue and betrayal yet never loses its hypnotic grip.

The Daughters by Adrienne Celt

Short story and comics creator Celt interweaves themes of music, motherhood and myth in her lyrical debut novel. It centers on five generations of a family, specifically the women, all musical and all in some way fatherless. The day her first child is born, successful

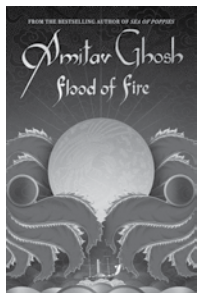


opera singer Lulu loses her beloved Polish grandmother. After Lulu's troubled mother, Sara, disappeared when Lulu was nine, grandmother Ada raised the girl, nurturing her promising voice and offering a sense of heritage through vivid tales about Lulu's great-grandmother Greta. Now an injury sustained during her own daughter's birth puts a halt to the singing that has driven Lulu's life and career, while a guilty secret jeopardizes her marriage. The simultaneous birth and losses seem to affirm the family curse: that Greta's female descendants will each have a daughter

of superior musical gifts, but only at a heavy cost. As Lulu nurtures baby Kara and herself, she revisits the conflicting family histories her mother and grandmother have shared and their messages about female legacy, power, and longing. But whether she can heal her family wounds, either past or present, Lulu can't yet tell. The novel's luminous prose, subtle structure and the rich contrast between present-day Chicago and Old World folklore help craft a resonant meditation on the way our stories at once shape and sabotage our lives.

Flood of Fire by Amitav Ghosh

Ghosh's final novel in his Ibis trilogy (after 2008's *Sea of Poppies* and 2011's *River of Smoke*) is set during the First Opium War in China, from 1839 to 1841. Ghosh's cast of characters is lengthy, and many change identities; relationships and events begun in the first two books are referred to frequently here. Sorting out who is who can be confusing, especially if the reader is not familiar with the other two novels. Still, Ghosh's firm grasp of the British Empire's war with China over opium imports is colorful and insightful, and ultimately a powerful indictment of European imperial arrogance, using force to secure economic concessions from a Chinese dynasty. Havildar Kesri Singh is an Indian sepoy (soldier) in the East India Company Army, sent to China with

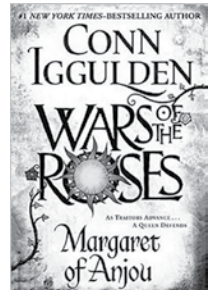


his officer, Captain Neville Mee, as part of the British campaign to force the Chinese to pay reparations, allow opium imports, open free trade ports and cede Hong Kong. An immoral American sailor, Zachary Reid, sees riches in the opium trade, partnering with a rich businessman while bedding his wife, later blackmailing her, destroying her marriage and causing untold grief to others. Woven throughout are historical depictions of British imperialism and duplicity, the Indian caste system, the tragic suffering and the tremendous profits in war, European-Asian enmity, and grim

portrayals of vicious naval and land battles in which cannon and bayonets inflict slaughter. This is an excellent history of the First Opium War, and a fitting capstone to Ghosh's trilogy.

Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou by Conn Iggulden

In the second volume of his *War of the Roses* trilogy, Iggulden (*Stormbird*, 2014, etc.) follows beautiful young Queen Margaret as she defends the Lancaster realm against York rebels. Iggulden tells of blood flowing river-like across "this earth, this realm, this England" in royal-upon-royal confrontations at St. Albans, at Ludlow and finally in the fields outside Sandal Castle. Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, sparks the violence by sending warriors led by his son Thomas to strike a Salisbury wedding party. Percy, a supporter of the king, had grown weary of York ally Salisbury's incursions on his lands. Iggulden thereafter moves the action swiftly to the clash between mentally fragile King Henry VI, aided by loyalists Buckingham and Somerset, and York, Salisbury and Warwick. "There will be no peace while York lives," says Margaret. But York only seeks "to strip the whisperers away from King Henry's side before his house was destroyed by them." From such disputes Warwick's breakthrough thousands die as battles clang with sword and axe. Iggulden deftly describes the keys to victories: at St. Albans; Trollope's betrayal at Ludlow; and Margaret's bartering for Scots allies to corner York and Salisbury at Sandal. Iggulden's fictional Derry the spymaster reflects Margaret's court activities, but other



Continued on page 32



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Photo credit: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org

Book Nook

Continued from page 31

characters peek from history's mists to populate the narrative, like York's son, giant Edward of March, only 18 and carrying "a weight of muscle that made experienced warriors want to look at their feet in his presence." But it is the yowling, pain-riven, spine-twisted Richard, who York believes should have been put out "on a winter's night and let the cold take him," who foreshadows the bloodletting to come. Highly readable as a stand-alone novel, but those who loved *Stormbird* will be anticipating Iggulden's take on the mesmerizing Richard III.

Language Arts by Stephanie Kallos

At two, Cody Marlow started talking to God. But just a few months later, he started losing his language, with God the last word to go. With Cody's autism at its core, this story weaves back to his father Charles' formative fourth-grade year, when he excelled in the Palmer handwriting method, entered a pilot language-arts program, won a citywide short story competition, and befriended the strange new boy, autistic Dana McGucken. When it's clear that something is wrong with Cody, his mother, Allison, is relentless in seeking remedies; Charles, teaching language arts at a private alternative school, finds his son pulling away from him. As Cody turns 21, his parents are divorced, with Charles, living alone in the family house, writing daughter Emmy as she leaves



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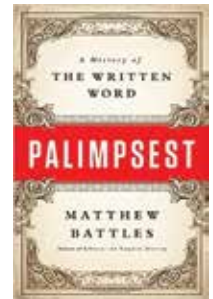
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for college, and Allison seeking comfort in Judaism. After startling revelations, comfort comes thanks to an ambitious art student and a feisty Italian nun with dementia. Kallos' earlier novels, *Broken for You* (2004) and *Sing Them Home* (2009), have been widely praised, and her third deserves all of those kudos and more. This novel, masterfully plotted and written, is a wondrously beautiful story of love and loss, offering hope in the face of the harshest reality.

Nonfiction

Palimpsest: A History of the Written Word by Matthew Battles

An illuminating look at the origins and impact of writing. In this richly detailed cultural history, Battles (*The Sovereignty of Invention*, 2012, etc.), associate director of the research group metaLAB at Harvard, traces the evolution of writing from cuneiform in the fourth millennium B.C. to digital communications. Emerging as an accounting system in Mesopotamia, writing became evidence of power as well as a means of personal expression. It also changed the human mind: writing "exploits (and transforms) circuits in our brains. Writing teaches our brains to do all kinds of somersaults and tricks." Besides communicating immediate needs, writing allows for the transmission of cultural knowledge, bears witness to the past and influences the future. The author highlights several texts as especially significant, including the saga Gilgamesh, unearthed from clay tablets, which imparted lessons about kingship and heroism that influenced later literature; and the Bible, which "hides its own writing from us in a haze of myths and mystical formulae." Before the printing press, hand copying made all books, including the Bible, vulnerable to changes. Movable type changed the production and availability of books, but early printed volumes allowed for ample margins so that illuminators could ply their craft. Battles deftly excavates layers of human history from a wide range of sources to reveal that writing "is always palimpsestic; there is no setting-down that is not a setting-among, a setting-upon." A fascinating exploration stylishly and gracefully told. *Copyright Kirkus Reviews, used with permission.*



How Did I Get Here? Making Peace With the Road Not Taken: A Memoir by Jesse Browner

The title of this memoir by novelist and nonfiction writer Browner (*Everything Happens Today*, 2011) refers to the Talking Heads song "Once in a Lifetime," recognizable to anyone of his generation (he's a late boomer/early Generation Xer). But Robert Frost's well-known poem "The Road Not Taken" supplies the subtitle and becomes much more of a touchstone for Browner. This is an account of an intellectual grappling with midlife regret and what ifs. Browner, a self-avowed "B-list novelist" who left behind the bohemian life for a day job, marriage and family, examines his choices and wonders whether he can set aside regret and make peace with being "a vaguely affable nonentity who has made all the right decisions for himself and his family except the one decision he needs to make to once and for all kill off his obsolete, petrified self-image, and fully embrace the happiness that is his due." There's nothing glib about this self-help memoir. Full of Boethius and Rilke mixed with self-analysis, it's a beautifully written, erudite, and thought-provoking examination of the underpinnings of a creative life.

Continued on page 33

Master Thieves: The Boston Gangsters Who Pulled Off the World's Greatest Art Heist by Stephen Kurkjian

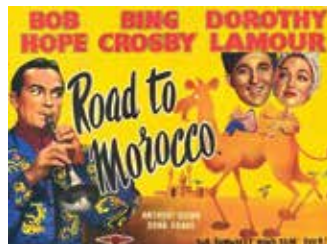
In Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 13 empty frames mark the places of the paintings that were stolen in an infamous 1990 robbery. They included masterpieces by Degas, Rembrandt and Vermeer worth, in total, \$500 million, and they remain missing. Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Kurkjian, of the Boston Globe, pursues the story of the heist with the doggedness of a hard-bitten gumshoe. Declaring the theft Boston's last, best secret, he delves deeply into the scene of the crime, the beleaguered FBI investigation, and the 1980s war between two of Boston's major criminal gangs, the Salemme and Russo/Ferrara clans. Introducing a cast of colorful underworld characters, including the notorious Whitey Bulger, Kurkjian paints a picture of citywide corruption and decades of power struggle between opposing Mob bosses and their soldiers. Conducting new interviews with many of those allegedly involved in the case, the author advances compelling new theories about the robbery that will set true-crime enthusiasts and armchair detectives on the trail of these art treasures.

Objective Troy: A Terrorist, a President, and the Rise of the Drone by Scott Shane

New York Times national security reporter Shane compares and contrasts the trajectories of President Barack Obama and Anwar al-Awlaki, the American citizen residing in Yemen whom Obama ordered to be killed by a drone. Al-Awlaki grew up in an educated Yemeni family. When his parents obtained their educations in the

Continued on page 34

Rollin' Reels at Roland Park Library



A selection of films presented on the big screen in our meeting room on the last Saturday of each month. All start at 10:30 and run continuously throughout the day. Snacks permitted!

December 26: The Road to Morocco, starring Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour

January 30: The Court Jester, starring Danny Kaye, Basil Rathbone and Angela Lansbury

February 27: The Searchers, directed by John Ford and starring John Wayne



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Book Nook

Continued from page 33

United States, he was born a citizen. He grew up in Yemen and returned to the United States at age 19. Obama was also born in the United States to a foreign father who was a secular-minded Muslim. Then Obama resided in Indonesia, returning to the United States at age 10. Due to 9/11, the superficial similarities between Obama and al-Awlaki became more meaningful. One would react by becoming an elected politician, the other by becoming a Muslim holy man who initially spoke for the moderate wing of his religion. But by the time Obama reached the presidency in 2008, al-Awlaki had unexpectedly become a militant calling for the death of the "infidel" Americans. Obama began to explore whether he had the authority as commander in chief of the military to send a drone into Yemen to kill al-Awlaki, even though the cleric had not been charged with a crime. By the time the book ends, al-Awlaki is dead, as is his teenage son. Shane became obsessed about learning how Obama, a former constitutional law professor, justified the drone strikes, especially given his opposition to the conduct of the war on terror created by his predecessor, George W. Bush. The author was equally intrigued by the change in philosophy adopted by al-Awlaki, which required a return to Yemen as something of a fugitive, despite a privileged life in the U.S. In addition to following his two principals, the author examines the drone technology that gave Obama the remarkable ability to target someone thousands of miles away. Shane's reporting is superb, and the way he frames the public policy debate makes the narrative compelling from start to finish. *Copyright Kirkus Reviews, used with permission.*

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General Information

Please note that I always update the voice message on the branch phone when there are changes to our public service schedule. Just call 410-396-6099 and listen to the first message for any changes to hours, openings, etc. Changes to the public schedule are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt Library's webpage at prattlibrary.org.

Our phone number is 410-396-6099 and our branch e-mail is rln@prattlibrary.org. When e-mailing us, please make sure the subject line indicates that you have a library question by using BOOK REQUEST or something similar as your subject. ♦

Parents' Library Corner: Programs for Children

Date & Time	Program
Thursdays, 11 a.m.	Preschool Leaps. Ages 3 to 5 Stories, songs and fun for preschoolers. No storytime on December 10 or December 24
Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.	Mother Goose Baby Steps. Birth to 2 An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement. No program on December 24
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m.	Mazel Tales: Chanukah. Birth to 5 The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of Chanukah.
Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.	STEM Starters: Fractions. Ages 3 to 5 attending with a caregiver. Explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through play and discovery. Program size is limited; please call 410-396-6099 x35503 or stop by in person to register. Online registration is not available.
Thursday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.	Musical Stories with Sahffi Lynne. Ages 3 to 5 with a caregiver. This Bright StARTS Program workshop will bring books and stories alive through movement. Children will enjoy singing and dancing to musical stories, as well as creating their own book based on a popular children's song. Class size is limited; registration is required. Please call 410-396-6099 or stop by in person to register. Online registration is not available. This program is generously provided by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.
Saturday, Dec. 19 and Saturday Feb. 4, 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Creator Corner. Ages 5 to 12. Create, explore and design in our maker space.
Tuesday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.	Mazel Tales: TuB Shevat. Birth to 5. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of TuB Shevat.
Saturday, Jan. 23, 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Games Galore for the Whole Family Get active, challenge your brain and show off your skills with games and activities for every age.
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m.	Mazel Tales: Shabbat. Ages birth to five The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of Shabbat.

Parents' Library Corner: Programs for Teens	
Date & Time	Program
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m.	Book Bingo. December is Bingo Month. Come play some rounds of book- themed bingo.
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 3:30 p.m.	Gingerbread Zombies. Express your creativity and enjoy a sweet snack while decorating gingerbread like the undead.
Wednesday, Dec. 23, 3:30 p.m.	Rollin' Reels at Roland Park: A Christmas Carol. Join us for a great time watching a classic and enjoying some snacks.
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 3:30 p.m.	Teen Iron Chef: Pies Show off your culinary skills and create a masterpiece of pie.
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 3:30 p.m.	Speedy Synonyms. Join us for a celebration of Roget's Thesaurus in a fun round of word relay race.
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 3:30 p.m.	Mad Hatter Tea Party. January is Hot Tea Month. Stop by our tea time for games and snacks.
Monday, Feb. 8, 3:30 p.m.	Chinese Paper Lantern Craft. Celebrate the Year of the Monkey on Chinese New Year by making your own paper lantern.
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 3:30 p.m.	Minute to Win It: Heart Hysteria. Join us for some heart-themed fun and games.
Monday, Feb. 29, 3:30 p.m.	Black History Trivia. Come play a fun and informative game of black history themed Jeopardy.

Roland Park Branch Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 12 noon to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: Closed

Please note the following closings for all Pratt Libraries:
Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve); All locations open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day); Thursday, December 31 (New Year's Eve); All locations open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, January 1 (New Year's Day); January 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day); February 15 (Presidents' Day).

Roland Park Open Space Campaign Pledge Form

Please cut out and mail this form to the Roland Park Community Foundation at P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210.

In support of the Open Space Campaign for Greater Roland Park and to assist in the preservation and improvement of the environment of Greater Roland Park:

I/we hereby pledge \$_____ to the Roland Park Community Foundation, Inc., to be dedicated for the use of the Open Space Campaign.

- ☐ I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____.
- ☐ I/we have donated by credit card on the Foundation's website (www.rolandpark.org/foundation.html) by clicking the yellow "Donate" button at the bottom of the screen.
- ☐ I/we prefer to make pledge payments of \$_____
- ☐ annually over the next _____ years (pledges may be paid over a period of up to five years).
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Name

Signature/Date

Signature/Date

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Permit 6097
Baltimore, MD

A stylized illustration of a woman with blonde hair wearing a green winter hat with a white pom-pom. She is holding a glass of red wine. A speech bubble from her mouth says "HAPPY HOLIDAYS!". The background shows a snowy winter scene with trees.

The logo for Johnny's, featuring the name "JOHNNY'S" in a stylized font on a white banner that curves around a green circular background.

WEST COAST CUISINE

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER

SERIOUS COFFEE
WHISKEY BAR
HAPPY HOUR
SUSHI CAFE

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