



# ROLAND PARK NEWS

Summer  
2011  
Volume  
Forty-Two

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## Serving the Customer: Schneider's Key to Success

By Sally Foster

Imagine picking up the telephone—back when there were party lines—and ordering a rib roast, a sack of potatoes and a bag of onions, and having them delivered to you in a horse-drawn wagon. You would have stored the potatoes in a pantry or cold cellar and you would have put the meat in an icebox, where large blocks of ice would have kept it cold.

Such was life in Roland Park and Tuxedo Park in the late 1890s, when Andrew Schneider opened his grocery store on Wyndhurst Avenue.

Jeff Pratt, who owns Schneider's Hardware store today, can tell you stories that have been passed down through his family. His great-grandfather, Andrew—the one with a handlebar mustache—came from Germany in 1896 to open a meat market. Apparently, another family member had started a grocery store in Baltimore and Andrew thought it sounded like a good idea. Andrew's specialty was meats, but he carried grocery provisions as well.

The store was on the second floor of a house at 700 Wyndhurst Avenue, with steps that led up from the street. The

house was large enough to accommodate family members, who lived on the third and fourth floors.

Jeff's grandfather, Jake, started working in the store when he was 13. Jeff said his grandfather never really liked the grocery business. He would go downtown to the fish market to stock up on supplies with two other grocers, Victor Cohen—the famous Mr. Victor—the founder of Eddie's of Roland Park on Roland Avenue, and John Heidelberg, the founder of Heidelberg's Grocery on West Cold Spring Lane.

There were a few things that bothered Jake. For one, World War II broke out and some foods were rationed. A lot of his regular customers asked for favors or more than their share. The second problem for Jake was the development

of grocery chains, and the third was that produce, like lettuce, would spoil and he would have to throw things away.

In 1950, Jake opened up the first floor of the house as a hardware store. For a while, he leased the second floor to someone else who ran a grocery store, but this proved to be less than satisfactory and he didn't renew the lease.

Many people in Roland Park will remember Jeff's father, Paul Pratt, who married one of the Schneider



In a photo of Schneider's Grocery from 1935, you can see hams hanging from large meat hooks, loaves of Schmidt's Old Home bread, fresh produce, cookies and tins of vegetables, as well as one of the Schneiders about to wield a cleaver on a large chunk of meat. Photo courtesy of Jeff Pratt



Jeff Pratt has used his corner sidewalk on Wyndhurst and Summit Avenues to display a beautiful array of flowers and plants since 2000. Photo: Sally Foster

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# Roland Park News

Volume 42  
Summer 2011

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Winter issue.

## Editors' Notes

By Martha Marani

Recently, while sitting at a chilly, drizzly, late May Roland Park Baseball Leagues game watching my son play, I longed for summer's warmth. I thought about how baseball season always seems like it should herald reliable sunshine and warmth—though it never does. Scowling at the sky, I thought of Walt Whitman's poem, "The Voice of Rain," in which the poet imagines "the soft-falling shower" explaining its purpose:

*...I descend to lave the drouths,  
atomies, dust-layers of the globe,*

*And all that in them without me were  
seeds only, latent, unborn;*

*And forever, by day and night, I give  
back life to my own origin,*

*and make pure and beautify it...*

Yes, showers bring beautiful flowers and refresh and restore the Earth after winter's cold. A rainy spring generally turns into a hot summer, and the outdoors beckons. Answering that call leads to great things in Roland Park!

Summer is the season for outdoor theatre, with one of this year's highlights being the Maryland Shakespeare Festival's production of "As You Like It" in the Meadow at Johns Hopkins' Evergreen Museum & Library. Bring the family and enjoy this lively performance. You can also take in an outdoor movie at the Village at Cross Keys on Saturday nights in June. This year's theme is Academy Award-winners. More great outdoor entertainment can be found at Belvedere Square, which books local musicians to perform "Sounds at the Square" from June through August. Bob Friedman plays with his a five-piece Latin and Caribbean dance music band, Mambo Combo, on June 3rd and July 29th (see the spring issue for more about Bob).

Of course, July 4th is a great opportunity for some outside time. Grab the flags, pinwheels and silly Uncle Sam hats. Tie a red, white and blue bandana around your dog's neck. Deck out the bikes, scooters and strollers in streamers and ride over to the Roland Park Library to get a spot in this year's parade. As is the tradition, kids will enjoy a "soft-falling shower," compliments of Roland Park firemen and their hoses.

Summer is also a time to slow down the pace, with relaxing evenings at the Roland Park Pool, a good read on your porch or leisurely walks along the neighborhood's footpaths. Perhaps you can learn a new path

route or two on the Historic Stony Run and Roland Park Path Walk tour on June 4th. Stop by afterwards to enjoy Tunes@The Tower, a Roland Water Tower event with The Howard Markman folk rock and roots band.

Pack a picnic (including a thermos of Woodberry Kitchen's Farmer's Daughter cocktails, perhaps?) and relax in the summer sunshine. After the seemingly endless spring rains, you deserve it.

Maybe Whitman knew about rainy baseball games. He wrote about America's favorite pastime in a way that makes me think he saw a connection between rain's renewing effects and baseball's similarly restoring qualities. He said, "I see great things in baseball. It's our game—the American game. It will take our people out-of-doors, fill them with oxygen, give them a larger physical stoicism. Tend to relieve us from being a nervous, dyspeptic set. Repair these losses, and be a blessing to us."

Summer blessings (and O's victories) to you all, Roland Park. Enjoy! ♦



## We Need You!

Katy Couch and Mike DiPietro, organizers of the 4th of July Family Parade, need volunteers to help with

the many small tasks that are involved in getting the parade rolling. Please lend a hand this year—it's patriotic (and fun)! Contact Katy Couch at 410-889-7604 or [katy@katycouch.com](mailto:katy@katycouch.com).

## See You on the 4th!

Join the fun on the 4th! Decorate yourselves and your bikes, strollers and



wagons in your patriotic finery and help celebrate our nation's birthday. We'll meet at 10 a.m. in front of the Roland Park Library for a reading of the Declaration of Independence and then follow the fire trucks down Roland Avenue to the Roland Park Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Upland and Roland.



# Art Happenings

**Evergreen Museum & Library** (4545 N. Charles Street) is housed in a former Gilded Age mansion surrounded by Italian-style gardens. It 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 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Call 410-516-0341 or visit [www.museums.jhu.edu](http://www.museums.jhu.edu).

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$3 for students (13 and over with ID), youth (6 to 12), and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). Upcoming events include:

■ Through September 25th, **The American Throne**. Though 18th century colonists rebelled against the idea of a monarchy for the new United States, they often borrowed from royal design vocabularies to create great chairs for local, regional and national leaders. This exhibit will explore the ongoing redefinition of monarchical forms for democratic and everyday seating and how democratic ideals equally have transformed chairs devised for the common man into thrones of power. Included in the exhibition will be examples of pre-Civil War chairs, ancient Roman-inspired chairs designed for the U.S. Capitol by architect Thomas U. Walter and one of President John F. Kennedy's White House rocking chairs, which have become icons of American leadership. An opening reception will be held on May 22nd from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission to the installation is free with museum admission and on view as part of the regular guided tour. The reception is free; reservations can be requested by calling 410-516-0341 or emailing [evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu](mailto:evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu).

■ Saturdays, June 18th, August 27th and October 15th (rain or shine), **Edible Evergreen: Kitchen Garden Series with Chef John Shields**. Evergreen Museum & Library will host a five-part kitchen garden series presented by chef John Shields and his restaurant, Gertrude's, highlighting three seasons of sustainably growing and preparing fresh organic produce. The series will include gardening workshops with master gardener Jon Carroll, four cooking demonstrations with chef John Shields, an optional chef's tour of Baltimore's 32nd Street Farmers' Market and a fall harvest luncheon at Gertrude's Restaurant. The cost is \$110 for the public and \$90 for members (nonrefundable, but transferable with advance notice). Registration includes museum admission




Imported by President James Monroe for the White House, this French Empire armchair is on view in "The American Throne" at the Evergreen Museum & Library through September 25th. Photo: ©Todd A. Smith

on day of class. Class size limited to 20 and advance, pre-paid registration required. Call 410-516-0341.

- June 18th, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., **Maintaining the Garden**
- Aug. 27th, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., **Getting Ready for Fall**
- October 15th, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Gertrude's, followed by lunch, **The Fruits of Our Labor**

- June 29th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Summer Evening at Evergreen**. Experience Evergreen's artistic wonderland after hours. Meet watercolorist and Johns Hopkins alumnus Morton Wesley Huber at his "Asian Influence – Western Vision" exhibition opening and printmaker/paper installation artist Tai Hwa Goh, Evergreen's new "House Guest" artist-in-residence. Explore the museum's first-floor period rooms, featuring the special exhibition, "The American Throne: Royal Seating for a Democratic Venue." The event precedes the opening performance of "As You Like It" in the Evergreen Meadow by the Maryland Shakespeare Festival (see below).
- June 29th through August 28th, with an artist's reception on June 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Asian Influence – Western Vision: The Watercolors of Morton Wesley Huber**. The third installment of Evergreen's exhibition series celebrating artistic expression in succeeding chapters of life, "Asian Influence – Western Vision" explores the often ethereal drawings of Johns Hopkins alumnus, Dr. Morton Wesley Huber, A&S

Continued on page 5



**Thank You  
For 15  
Wonderful  
Years!**

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# KidsView

by Julianne McFarland

## I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!

Here is a vanilla ice cream recipe for the summer. You can make just vanilla, or you can add in strawberries, marshmallows or your favorite candy! Be sure to ask a parent for help if needed!

- 1 T. sugar
- ½ cup milk or half and half
- ¼ tsp. vanilla
- 6 T. rock salt
- 1 pint-size Ziploc baggie
- 1 gallon-size Ziploc baggie
- ice cubes

Fill the large bag half full of ice and add the rock salt. Seal the bag. Put milk, vanilla and sugar into the small bag and seal it. Place the small bag inside the large one and seal the large bag again carefully. Shake until the mixture is ice cream, which takes about 5 minutes. Wipe off the top of the small bag, then open it carefully. Enjoy!

Tip: A half-cup of milk will make about one scoop of ice cream, so double the recipe if you want more.

Thank you to **Kaboose.com** for the yummy recipe!

## How to Make Your Very Own Sun

1. Get a paper plate and color it yellow.
2. Trace your handprint five times on yellow paper and cut it out.
3. Glue the hands to the back of the paper plate.
4. Draw a face on the sun if you want to!

Ta-da! Your very own sun to light up a room!

## Ice Cream Word Search

V	A	N	I	L	L	A	F	J	Y	S
M	I	N	T	C	H	I	P	R	G	C
E	E	F	F	O	C	F	R	O	D	H
N	A	D	S	P	O	E	D	C	V	O
H	A	O	E	G	B	W	S	K	A	C
I	J	L	F	W	E	A	R	Y	W	O
L	T	Y	A	U	N	O	K	R	F	L
K	R	R	F	P	J	U	R	O	H	A
O	T	Y	R	R	E	H	C	A	R	T
S	P	R	E	Q	H	F	Z	D	D	E
C	O	O	K	I	E	D	O	U	G	H

Cherry, Chocolate, Coffee, Cookie Dough, Mint Chip, Rocky Road, Strawberry, Vanilla

## Green Corner

Here are some eco-friendly summer tips:

- To light a room in the summer, open the shades instead of turning on the light.
- Hang wet clothes to dry in the sun instead of using energy on the dryer.
- Ride your bike or walk in the nice weather instead of using a car.
- Remember to always recycle, turn off the lights before you leave a room, don't leave the water running and pick up litter whenever you can.

**Did You Know?** Ceiling fans can be used more efficiently this way: in the summer, have yours turn to the left and in the winter, to the right. Cool, huh? And remember that ceiling fans cool people, not a room, so turn them off before you leave!

You can go to **EnergyStar.gov** and click on the Kids tab for lots more ways to save the Earth!

Send Kids View submissions to Anne Stuzin, 206 Ridgewood Road,  
or email to [anne@stuzin.com](mailto:anne@stuzin.com).

*Note: August 1st is the deadline for Fall!*

# Art Happenings

Continued from page 3



Discover the history of distilling and taste the future of American craft distilling at "Homegrown Spirits," a cocktail party fundraiser for the Homewood Museum.  
Photo: Mount Vernon Ladies Association


'47, '48 (MA). A former professor of organic and biochemistry, environmental science and qualitative organic analyses at numerous prestigious institutions, including Pennsylvania's Albright College, Virginia's Emory and Henry College and Japan's Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Huber developed early on a fascination with drawing, painting and, subsequently, photography. The author of two well-received books on the culture of Japan, he has masterfully integrated Japanese influences into his own calming and thoroughly engaging works, from the poetic narratives of Edo-period block prints to the dream-like monochromaticity of Muromachi-era paintings. Free with museum admission and on view as part of the regular guided tour.

**Homewood Museum** (3400 N. Charles Street) is a National Historic Landmark built in 1801 by Charles Carroll Jr., and one of the nation's best surviving examples of Federal period architecture. It is renowned for its elegant proportions, extravagant details and superb collection of American decorative arts, including Carroll family furnishings. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the half-hour between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 3:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Call 410-516-0341 or visit [www.museums.jhu.edu](http://www.museums.jhu.edu). Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$3 for students (13 and over with ID), youth (6 to 12), and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). Upcoming events include:


■ Through June 26th, **Phantom Callers: Photographs by Lydia Alcock**. This intimate exhibition of 10 photographs by Johns Hopkins junior Lydia Alcock is inspired by the human history of Homewood Museum. Alcock has worked at Homewood Museum since 2009 and, in 2010, held the museum's Pinkard-Bolton curatorial internship. Free.

■ Sundays, June 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, **Historic Homewood ArtWalk**. This fun, informative and free 45-minute guided walking tour covers more than 200 years of history in less than a quarter-mile, including historic and artistic sites between the two significant collections of American historic interiors and decorative arts at Homewood Museum and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Tours depart at 1 p.m. from Homewood Museum and 2 p.m. from the Baltimore Museum of Art (10 Art Museum Drive). Free admission. Reservations can be made by calling 410-516-5589 or emailing [homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu](mailto:homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu).

■ June 10th, 6 to 8 p.m., **15th Anniversary Evening of Traditional Beverages: Homegrown Spirits** (location: Homewood Museum Lawn; rain location: Great Hall, Levering Union). The newest wave in artisan drink—the craft spirits movement—comes to Johns Hopkins' Homewood Museum, with potent shots of vodkas, whiskeys and heritage liqueurs made by modern micro-distillers who are resurrecting pre-temperance traditional techniques and recipes. Guests will discover how spirits were made 200 years ago from Dr. Dennis Pogue, chief historian at George Washington's Mount Vernon, where the first president's own spirit recipes have been recently recreated; enjoy craft spirits, cocktails and appetizer pairings; bid on one-of-a-kind items in a silent auction; and meet and mingle with distillers. Proceeds will benefit Homewood Museum's exhibitions and educational programming. Tickets are \$40 for the public and \$30 for members. Guests must be 21 years or over. Space is limited and reservations are requested by June 8th. Visit



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# Art Happenings

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[www.brownpapertickets.com/event/171923](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/171923) or call 410-516-5589. Tickets are tax-deductible over \$15.

- July 17th, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. seatings, **The Carroll's 211th Wedding Anniversary Tea.** Celebrate the 211th wedding anniversary of Charles Carroll, Jr., and Harriet Chew Carroll by savoring a traditional afternoon tea at their country house. Learn about the lives and lifestyle of one of Early America's wealthiest and most socially prominent families as you dine in the elegant reception hall, designed to be one of the coolest rooms in the house during the summer months. Classic finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, seasonal fruits and pastries will accompany a selection



A special tea will be served at the Homewood Museum on July 17th to celebrate the 211th wedding anniversary of original residents Charles and Harriet Carroll. Photo: Jay Van Rensselaer/HomewoodPhoto.jhu.edu

of fine black and fruit teas and a celebratory Champagne toast. Tickets are \$28 for the public and \$23 for members, and may be purchased only through prepaid reservation by calling 410-516-5589.

The **Maryland Shakespeare Festival** will bring its 2011 Good Will Summer Tour to Baltimore in June, performing between June 29th and July 2nd and July 6th and 10th in the Meadow at Johns Hopkins' **Evergreen Museum & Library**. The company continues the tradition previously established by the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival—which recently announced its closing after 17 years—of staging Shakespeare under the stars at the museum. The innovative, Frederick-based company will perform one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies, "As You Like It," complete with boasting wrestlers, women disguised as men, a lion attack, four weddings, a couple of banishments and some of the most famous lines the Bard ever wrote, including "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

For more than a decade, the Maryland Shakespeare Festival has been playing Shakespeare the way the playwright and his

company played it—bold, passionate and sometimes rowdy. Its annual Good Will Summer Tour offers joyous, casual performances in outdoor venues across Maryland, with live music and a festival atmosphere for the entire family.

"As You Like It" will be directed by John Bellomo. Gates will open at 5 p.m. for picnicking, with shows at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for members of the military and seniors, \$10 for students and \$55 for a family package of four tickets. Tickets can be purchased through the Maryland Shakespeare Festival website at [www.mdshakes.org/summer-tour](http://www.mdshakes.org/summer-tour) or by calling 301-668-4090.

The **Potters Guild of Baltimore** (3600 Clipper Mill Road) is a cooperative craft center dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation of the ceramic arts. The Guild offers juried membership, a sales gallery showcasing Guild members' work and shared studio/classroom space. It is located in Meadow Mill, a historic, converted factory building in Hampden. The Guild offers a year-round program of classes and workshops for adults and children. For more information, call 410-235-4884, email [info@pottersguild.org](mailto:info@pottersguild.org) or visit [www.pottersguild.org](http://www.pottersguild.org). For more information about the Creative Alliance, visit [www.creativealliance.org](http://www.creativealliance.org).

The **Women Artists' Forum (WAF)** is a Baltimore-based organization of approximately 80 active members that was founded to nurture and encourage women artists. WAF sponsors presentations, workshops and critique groups, and provides venues for exhibiting members' work. For more information, visit [www.arttap.com/WAF](http://www.arttap.com/WAF). The Antreasian Gallery (1111 W. 36th Street) is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, please call the gallery at 410-235-4420 or visit [www.antreasiangallery.com](http://www.antreasiangallery.com). ♦



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## Calendar & Announcements

The **Roland Park Civic League** monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday 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 410-494-0125.

On June 2nd, Roland Park's favorite French eatery will host the **Petit Louis French Cocktail Hour** from 5 to 7 p.m. On that date, more than 15,000 people will celebrate French cocktails and hors d'oeuvres across the country, inspired by an effort started by the French government 6 years ago and embraced by people in several states. Petit Louis Bistro (4800 Roland Avenue) will throw a cocktail party that features a selection of French cocktails and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. *Vive la France!*

Please join your neighbors for the **Historic Stony Run and Roland Park Path Walk** on June 4th. Guided tours of the northern sections of the paths will be offered, beginning at 9 and 11 a.m. in front of the Roland Park Library, where maps of the paths will also be available for self guided-tours. Part of the Roland Park footpath network is near the Stony Run, where there will be three marked points guiding people from the paths to the stream. The eastern end of Litchfield Path on the west side of Roland Avenue intersects with the Stony Run, the eastern end of Oakdale Road is adjacent to the Stony Run and Overhill Road near Wickford Road crosses the Stony Run.

For the perfect ending to your walk along Roland Park's paths, make your way to the Roland Park Water Tower (4210 Roland

Avenue) for **Tunes@The Tower**, which will run from 12 to 3 p.m. The Howard Markman folk and roots rock band will perform. Food offerings will include crepes. Children's art activities will be offered. For more information, join Friends of the Roland Water Tower on Facebook.

**Cylburn Arboretum** (4915 Greenspring Avenue) will host "A Celebration of Art at Cylburn" the weekend of June 18th and 19th. On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., a **Family Art Day** will feature nature-themed family activities. Visitors will participate in a nature walk, led by a naturalist, after which the children will work with a local artist to create a mural that reflects their adventures. This event is being offered in partnership with the Walters Art Museum's Education Department. From 5:30 to 8:30

p.m., an Art Gallery Reception will be held in the Vollmer Center. Hosted by Baltimore-based artist Greg Otto and his wife Kathy Hudson, garden writer for *Baltimore Style* magazine, the event's honorary co-chairs, this ticketed evening show will feature a sale of works inspired by Cylburn's beautiful grounds and historic buildings. Guests will mingle with the artists and have the opportunity to purchase a special work of art. Jazz and light cocktail fare will be featured. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased by calling the Cylburn office at 410-367-2217 or visiting [cylburnassociation.org](http://cylburnassociation.org). Proceeds will benefit the artists and Cylburn Arboretum. The Art Show and Sale will continue on June 19th, from 12 to 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Registration for **Mt. Washington Soccer** has opened for the fall season. You can register online or fill out the registration forms, which can be found on the league's website ([eteamz.com/MtWashingtonSoccer](http://eteamz.com/MtWashingtonSoccer)). Mt. Washington Soccer is looking for a new clinic commissioner and, if there's enough interest, an Under-14 commissioner and a second girls' travel team coach. ♦

Please submit information for this column to [Newsletter@rolandpark.org](mailto:Newsletter@rolandpark.org).



Poster created by Greg Dohler



# Nature

It's the

## of Broadmead

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# Reflections on Seven Generations II and Ciclovía Week

By Mike McQuestion and Rita Walters, Co-organizers

On Saturday, May 14th, neighbors and friends purchased native plants in front of Roland Park Elementary/Middle School after visiting the sustainability booths of vendors in the school's auditorium. Children attended a garden party where they learned recycling skills and made native plant seed bombs.

On Sunday, an estimated 1,000 residents turning out to enjoy a car-free northbound lane of Roland Avenue for five hours. A band of 6-year-old rodeo riders whizzed by, getting safety tips from Bike Maryland's Alex Ticu. Earnest teens sold cookies, brownies and hotdogs in front of St. David's Church to pay for a community service project they're planning Honduras. People munched bagels provided by the Crazy Man Restaurant Group's Roland Park Bagel Company and sipped fresh lemon drinks poured by Charlotte Watchinski at the Symphony Manor booth.

That week, more children than usual biked or took "walking buses" to school. On Friday, Bike to Work Day, there were noticeably fewer cars dropping off and picking up kids on Roland Avenue.

Recalling that week, our thoughts are of Rachel Carson and her seminal work, *Silent Spring*. This giant of an environmentalist, who John Perkins suggested, "articulated a philosophy of how civilized people ought to relate to nature" did so by holding up a mirror, challenging us not to look away. What we saw replicated in Roland Park during the Seven Generations II week would have made Carson proud—neighbors coming together to articulate a

vision for our community that is based on stewardship of the Earth.

Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made the event such a great success.

Photos: Mike McQuestion and Sally Foster







*lg wolf*  
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# Natives of the Season: Native Grasses and Sedges

By Vince Vizachero, Vice President of Maintenance,  
Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation

One of the easiest ways to make your Roland Park yard a healthy and attractive place for wildlife is to increase the number and variety of native grasses you use. Thankfully, many of our indigenous grasses (and grass-like sedges) are lovely to look at and are also readily available at independent garden centers.

Many butterflies, especially banded skippers and satyrs, depend on native grasses as a food source for their young. And many birds will use the seeds in fall or winter. Even fireflies depend on having stands of unmowed grass in the landscape. Fireflies are active at night, and spend their days resting on blades of grass. They are, therefore, very vulnerable to mowing if the only grasses in your yard are turf-grasses.

One excellent native grass for Roland Park is *Panicum virgatum*, or switchgrass. It is a wonderful, clump-forming perennial grass. It grows three to six feet in height, and makes a wonderful accent planting. Because of its robust root system, once established it can do very well in



Little bluestem is particularly attractive in the fall and winter. Image courtesy of the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database/Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.

difficult site conditions (for example, along a sunny, south-facing wall or foundation, even one sheltered from rain). The leaves are usually bright-green when they emerge in late spring, though some cultivars turn redder in summer ('Shenandoah' is one of these).

Another choice for sunnier sites is *Schizachyrium scoparium*, or little bluestem. It is highly attractive, especially in fall and winter, and tends to remain somewhat shorter than *Panicum virgatum*. It prefers sites that are on the dry side (too much water can cause it to flop over instead of remaining erect).

We also have several native grasses that are perfect for shadier sites. *Chasmanthium latifolium*, or Indian wood oats, is a favorite. It has large, arching seed heads and it can reseed readily. This makes it particularly well-suited for areas that don't get a lot of maintenance but that you want to look attractive. It will form a fairly dense cover when established, reducing the need to weed or mulch.

*Elymus hystrix*, or Bottlebrush grass, is another choice for woodland areas, though it can also handle sunny spots if they are not too dry. The graceful seed heads

resemble bottle brushes. *Elymus virginicus*, or Virginia wildrye, is related.

Another important group of plants are not technically grasses but do resemble them. Plants in the genus *Carex* are sedges, and they are incredibly useful in Roland Park landscapes. Several popular sedges do well in dry shade, where little else will grow (especially turf grass). In contrast to the true grasses (above), which are tall enough to be planted as an accent planting or in the core of a perennial border, sedges tend to be very low-growing. They are often used as an edging plant or as groundcover.

In fact, many homeowners are replacing lawns with *Carex appalachica* and *Carex pensylvanica* as a no-mow alternative to maintained turf. Both have a fine texture, similar to grass, but never grow taller than 4 to 5 inches. *Carex glaucoidea*, or blue wood sedge, has a wider leaf and is a good native alternative to liriope. Finally, *Carex stricta*, or tussock sedge, is perfectly suited to wet areas or spots that flood intermittently. If you have low spot in your yard, this might be a good choice.

Our native grasses can be used as ornamental accents or as backdrops to perennial beds. Increasingly, homeowners are replacing sections of their yard with meadow gardens—a mix of native grasses and perennials to act as a place for butterflies and birds to congregate. If you have children or grandchildren, you may also find that they love hanging out in such a meadow because there is so much more going on than a bare turf lawn. The meadow garden has another virtue, in that they require cutting only once a year! ♦



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- The Quill, editor-in-chief (2010)
- FS Concert Chorale





# Serving the Customer

Continued from page 1

daughters. Paul was famous for his predictions. In November, he would draw up his list for the coming year, post it on the wall and sit back waiting for the comments. He started this custom in the 1970s, figuring that January and February were slow months and it would generate a little conversation. Paul knew his customers were highly educated professionals and he always included his guesses for things like the Dow Jones Industrial Average. One prediction, in particular, caused a bit of a stir. In 1989, Paul said that the Berlin Wall would come down. The next year, it did.

Jeff has not carried on this tradition. "Whatever he had, I don't have it," he laughed.

On a recent Saturday, a customer reminded Jeff that Paul had always called her "Blondie." Jeff smiled and said that Paul did that a lot. He didn't have to remember the customer's names, but actually he usually did. The customer wanted herbs, parsley, sage, thyme. Jeff told her that he would get some in the next week.

"It's funny," Jeff mused. "When my dad was living, I suggested selling flowers. He didn't like the idea. 'You're selling perishables,' he said."

It was only after Paul passed in 2000 that Jeff turned his front sidewalk into a radiant display of flowers and plants. If there is even a drop of rain, he scurries out to swoop them up and put them under the awning. Invariably, a passing car will pull up and its driver will say, "They're getting watered. You don't have to do that."

Jeff attended Dulaney High School and majored in marketing at Towson University. He really wanted to major in art. His art teacher confided that he, too, had wanted to be an artist, but he ended up being an art teacher. Jeff got the message. With that, he took over the store with his dad.

Throughout the morning, customers come in looking for one thing or another on the shelves that are filled with cleaning supplies and hardware items. The best mousetrap is still the Victor® wooden variety baited with a tad—but not too much—peanut butter. A new addition to the store is local maple syrup and Maryland honey will probably be available next year.

Almost every single day, someone comes in to have keys made or to buy candy. The front door is like a community bulletin board, with information about carpenters, painters and apartments for rent. Cartoons clipped from newspapers or magazines adorn the


walls and postcards from all over the world are strung on a wire across the room.

It's a neighborhood store—a far cry from the Lowe's and Home Depots—where someone will wait on you instead of keeping you waiting.

Jeff says he'll work here as long as he is healthy. His wife, Patricia, tends the The Carriage House, a garden and gift shop behind the

hardware store. They have three children whose lives have taken them in different directions. "But," Jeff said, "You never know what will happen."

There's something else that's interesting, he went on to say. "Before the era of cell phones, people would call the store and say 'Is my husband there?' or 'Is my wife there? Tell her I need such and such' or to 'stop by Eddie's and pick up a gallon of milk.' Now, they just call the person on a cell phone." ♦



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Image courtesy of Jeff Pratt

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# Lake Roland and Robert E. Lee Memorial Park

By Nancy Worden Horst

The area encompassing Robert E. Lee Memorial Park was part of an 18th century land grant from Lord Baltimore to several Maryland families. Lake Roland, now the centerpiece of the park, was formed in the 1850s as a reservoir for the City of Baltimore. Long familiar to Roland Park residents, who could travel by trolley along Roland Avenue to Lakeside Park, Lake Roland was for many years the scene of picnics, boating, hiking and fishing.

It was not until the 1940s that the land surrounding the 54-acre lake was consolidated to form the Baltimore City-owned Robert E. Lee Memorial Park, with its nearly 500 acres of woodland, wetlands, serpentine barrens, rare plants



The 1876 G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore and its environs shows a mostly rural landscape with farming and industrial concerns paramount. Image courtesy Nancy Horst

and rocky plateaus. In 1992, most of the park was declared a National Historic District—the Lake Roland Historic District—in recognition of its historic elements, which are primarily the stone dam structure and valve house, old railroad tracks, retaining walls, and stone bridges, trestles and abutments.

## New Management

By the 1990s, Baltimore City could not adequately care for the Park. An effort by Baltimore County citizens and County elected officials, aided by the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, led to an agreement whereby the park would be managed by Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks.

The County closed the park last year to allow major renovations

to be made, including replacing a bridge over the Jones Falls, repairing shoreline erosion, building a 1-acre dog park, providing pedestrian access from the nearby MTA parking lot, and upgrading roadways, trails and parking.

The new park will open in fall 2011, with County administrative and maintenance staff, seasonal naturalists and other support personnel to help educate park users and ensure safety and adherence to rules governing park use.

## The Nature Council

The Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council (RELPMC) is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of Robert E. Lee Park for recreation and educational purposes. The RELPMC works with the Department of Recreation and Parks to maintain, preserve and protect the natural environment and historic structures in the park, providing a legacy for future generations.


As part of its mission, the RELPMC's board and its volunteers, in cooperation with Department of Recreation and Parks, have organized committees to develop membership, prepare trail maps, promote recreational and educational activities, establish a website, and prepare other informational and promotional materials.

Planned recreational activities include flat-water boating on Lake Roland, scheduled swift-water canoeing and kayaking below the dam, and canoe and kayak classes on the lake. Bikers plan to repair trails and establish guidelines for biking, while hikers and runners are helping to identify, mark and stabilize trails. The dog park committee has named its area "Paw Point" and has designed a membership-only program for licensed off-leash dogs with an appropriate fee schedule and access controls.

Programs are intended to educate adults and school groups about the park's long and interesting history, as well as its unique natural resources. Lake Roland provides an opportunity to inform the public about water safety and improving water quality. Bird

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watching groups and nature experts are ready to lead nature walks. A children's committee is identifying areas suited to programs that focus on creativity and physical exercise, while educating youngsters about the natural environment and its preservation.

The RELPNC and its volunteers, in partnership with the County, hope to produce a Master Plan for the park, help maintain trails and historical and environmental assets, and inform park users about their role in the stewardship of this public legacy. Park and lake clean-up activities will be scheduled as part of these efforts.

Additional programs and events will encourage public involvement, inform people about the park and its resources, solicit volunteers



A marker designates the park as a project of the Baltimore Water Works. Photo courtesy Nancy Horst

and raise funds to help support park programs and improvements. Please look for our announcements as the summer progresses, and let us know how you can help us reach these goals.

The RELPNC board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Jefferson Building at 105 Chesapeake Avenue in Towson. Board meetings are open to the public and we welcome volunteers.

RELPNC is seeking members to support and underwrite its efforts. Joining the Council now shows your support of this undertaking



Lake Roland was formed in the 1850s as a reservoir for Baltimore. Photo: Neil Meyerhoff

and ensures the successful the start-up of park programs. Member benefits will include a newsletter with exclusive member offers and discounted rates for youth, family and adult programs (excluding dog park membership). Annual memberships will run from April 1st through March 31st. Join during 2011 and receive an annual membership bonus—your membership will extend until March 31st, 2013.

For more information, please contact Beahta Davis at [bdavis@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:bdavis@baltimorecountymd.gov) or 410-887-4156. ❖

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## Welcome New Neighbors! (February through April)

Michael Abraham and Nicole Namour-Abraham,  
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We'd like to thank the Crazy Man Restaurant Group for helping us welcome our new neighbors. We hope these new Roland Parkers enjoy the gift of one dozen bagels from Roland Park Bagel Co., one free large pizza from S'ghetti Eddie's and one free tall stack of pancakes from Miss Shirley's Café, Roland Park.

# School's Athletic Complex Awarded LEED Gold

By Nancy Mugele, Director of Marketing and Communication, Roland Park Country School

Jean Waller Brune, head of Roland Park Country School (RPCS), announced in late April that the school's athletic complex has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification. The LEED program was established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute. It is the Nation's preeminent program for design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED Gold certification of the RPCS athletic complex was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community.

## Environmental Features of the RPCS Athletic Complex

**Energy Efficiency.** A reflective, white roof is an "Energy Star" roof designed to minimize the heat island effect experienced with traditional roofs

by reflecting radiant heat energy back into the atmosphere. The plants on the green roof absorb radiant energy so that it doesn't enter the building. In each room, an occupancy sensor turns the lights off when people leave, saving energy. The large number of windows in the athletic complex harvest daylight while minimizing

heat transfer. The cooling tower cools stored rainwater, which then passes through a compressor (much like that in a refrigerator) to cool the building. The athletic complex has a high-efficiency (96 percent) boiler that heats the building and provides hot water for the sinks and showers so no water heater is needed. CO2 sensors in the gym control the amount of outside air being brought in by the ventilation



The RPCS Athletic Complex boasts several "green" features. Photos courtesy of RPCS



system, saving energy.

## Water Efficiency.

The green roof is planted with special grasses and sedum that absorb water, filter pollutants and reduce storm water runoff. The white roof is designed to capture rainwater and channel it into a 10,000-gallon tank, where it is stored and used in the building's cooling tower to reduce the use of city water. Low-flow fixtures are found throughout the building, in the showers, toilets and sinks. On the playing fields and north parking lot, the storm water runs off into large storage tanks under the fields, where it is filtered before trickling slowly into the ground. Native plantings are used around the athletic complex reducing the need to irrigate, saving water.

**Materials and Resources.** By using local, reused and recycled materials, the athletic complex design reduces the amount of energy and natural resources used in transportation and manufacturing. Several rooms in the athletic complex have floors made from the floor of the old gym. The cabinetry is made from Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood. Many of the cabinets are made from wood harvested locally (within 500 miles of the school) and manufactured locally. The countertops are made from recycled paper products. Recycled material was used in the steel (the biggest component of recycled materials), carpet, linoleum, ceiling tiles and rubber mat on the running track. All paint, caulking and adhesives used in the building have low volatile organic compound (VOC) levels. All cleaning products are biodegradable and have low toxicity.

For more information about the LEED certification program and its impact, visit the website of the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council at [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org). ♦

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# Roland Park Country School's New Preschool

**By Nancy Mugele, Director of Marketing and Communication, Roland Park Country School**

Roland Park Country School (RPCS) announces its new Preschool program, which will open this fall for 3-year-olds. The Preschool will be a coed experiential learning center that is designed to foster a lifelong love of learning by taking a hands-on developmental approach to cognitive learning. Children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development will be emphasized. Age-appropriate activities and materials will be offered in an atmosphere of mutual trust, warmth and encouragement. The developmental program will respect each child's individual rate



of growth and allows him or her to progress accordingly.

The Preschool will operate on the RPCS academic calendar and will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The academic program begins at 9 a.m. Children will have access to technology, music, an age-appropriate playground, and RPCS' Lower School Killebrew Library and Multi-Purpose Room. For information, contact Katherine Davis in the Lower School at RPCS at 410-323-5500 or [daviskit@rpcs.org](mailto:daviskit@rpcs.org). ❖

The RPCS Preschool will open for 3-year-olds this fall. Photo: Nancy Mugele

## Home Sales

(February 2011 through April 2011)

	List Price	Closing Price
903 University Parkway West No. 30	\$189,000	\$185,000
4526 Keswick Road	\$257,000	\$254,500
4602 Schenley Road	\$325,000	\$320,000
103 Hawthorn Road	\$389,405	\$375,000
4401 Atwick Road	\$425,000	\$403,500
11 Elmwood Road	\$519,900	\$527,900
4824 Keswick Road	\$548,500	\$560,000
508 Woodlawn Road	\$954,500	\$954,500
5600 Roland Avenue	\$1,545,000	\$1,260,000

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Information is believed to be accurate, but should not be relied upon without verification. Information not guaranteed by Broker or Agents, or by the Roland Park News. Information provided by JoAnn Moncure, AIA, Realtor/Registered Architect, Yerman Witman Gaines & Conklin Realty, 410-583-0400 (office), 410-598-1472 (cellular), 410-800-2183 (home office), [jamoncure@aol.com](mailto:jamoncure@aol.com).

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# Roland Park Spring Celebration

The Roland Park Community Foundation and Spring Celebration Committee are very grateful to the following for their contributions to the 2011 Spring Celebration:

The Woman's Club of Roland Park, for their gracious hospitality  
David Wells and Ian Stalfort of The Wine Source, for the libations

Alan Pressman of Classic Catering, for the delicious food  
Crossroads Restaurant at the Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys, for the tasty pulled-pork sandwiches

Michelle Pasternack, for her famous artichoke dip, and  
Kate Culotta, for her famous Maryland crabmeat spread

Michelle Pasternack, Green Fields Nursery & Landscaping  
Company and Crimson & Clover for the beautiful flowers

Anne Stuzin, Martha Marani, Doug Munro and Sally Foster for the  
terrific slide show

Chip Mortimer and Scott Conover for the memorable  
'80s music mix

Liz Mangle from John's Hopkins Sheridan Library for a glimpse at  
the Roland Park Company Records Collection

In addition, we thank Kate Culotta, Martha Kwiterovich, Holly  
Mihok and Kathleen Truelove for organizing the auction baskets,  
and the following merchants, who made donations:

Basignani Winery, Café Hon, The Children's Book Store,  
Greenbuilders, Inc., Green Fields Nursery & Landscaping  
Company, The Ivy Bookstore, La Terra, Shananigans Toy Shop,  
Starbucks of Roland Park, Tropicool, Tuxedo Pharmacy, The Wine  
Source and Woodhall Wine Cellars

... and the following individual donors:

Muriel Berkeley, David Blumberg, Laura Grier, Peter Kannam, John  
Kevin, Martha Kwiterovich, Ian MacFarlane, Chris McSherry, Mary  
Page Michel, Doug Munro, Mike McQuestion, Mary Jane Namian,  
Anne Porterfield, Kim Strassner, Vince Vizachero, Rita Waters  
and Ken Winkler

Our thanks also go out to all those who volunteered that night. ❖



Photos: Sally Foster







# The Lawn Project

By Jennifer Kraus

In the March 2010 issue of the *Roland Park News*, I read Shannon Putman and Lynn Heller's fascinating article, "EnergyWise: White Dutch Clover." I couldn't get it out of my mind. What a wonderful idea—my family could create a helpful carbon footprint, putting nitrogen back into the soil to replace the useless, expensive yard of gas-guzzling-mowing grass. We loved the delightful idea of growing butterfly, bird and bee food too. We loved the notion of having a bit of the great outdoors, in a very tame sort of way, but in a native state in our yard. Encouraging bees to come to our yard and enhancing flower and shrub pollination all over our neighborhood also seemed very special to us. According to Putman and Heller, we could also save the environment the equivalent of 3,400 car-driven miles if we live here 10 years—one hour to cut our grass with a conventional mower 10 times per season, if you include all that harvesting and processing of gas, oil and so forth. We are accomplishing this and just love the results already.



The Kraus' lawn features native, low-maintenance blossoming perennials of all kinds. Photo: Laura Adams, Seven Winds

So, it started out last year when we hired someone to dig up all of our turf with a special digger gismo, which took out that nasty crabgrass too. It wasn't as expensive as you might think. We then needed to figure out our particular yard, with all its various messy shadiness levels created by different densities of trees and our few sunny spots. We wanted to be sure where the native, low-maintenance, self-sustaining and blossoming perennial plants of all sorts would spread beautifully together into islands. They would be bounded by clover and native "ecology grasses" as natural pathways that you could walk on without causing damage. Some of the perennial islands would be homogeneous and some would be mixed, with complementary leaves and bloom colors of these native plants.

Laura Adams of Seven Winds (443-829-6747 or [www.SevenWindsLLC.com](http://www.SevenWindsLLC.com)) has become the mother of it all—the one who knows what to do and how to do it. Adams began to create the natural space, adding to it as needed and as aesthetics suggest. She's a very special, knowledgeable woman, well informed about native plants and their particular needs. The desired result is already visible in many areas and quite imaginable in others—a suburban outdoor paradise that is already maturing into flowering plant patches, albeit not confluent yet, with clover and "good"

Continued on page 19

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# Woodland Garden at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

By Vince Vizachero

One hundred third grade students at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School (RPE/MS) went to work on April 15th, planting a new woodland garden in front of the school. In celebration of Earth Day, the children installed more than 350 native plants and had a lot of fun doing it. They learned about the important role



Roland Park Elementary/Middle School students planted a woodland garden in front of the school in April. Photo: Anne Stuzin

that plants play in the food web and got some hands-on experience in the process.

The project involved replacing large monocultures of non-native ornamental species with a mix of 18 species of plants native to the Jones Falls watershed. As a result, the

garden should eventually provide a food source for many more varieties of butterflies, moths, insects and birds. Many of the plants were grown from local seed sources.

Teachers Stephanie Bass, Amy Duggan, Betsy Garry and Kristen McGinness were instrumental in making the project a success, as were the many parents who volunteered to help coordinate and manage the event. The Roland Park Community Foundation, RPE/MS Parent Teacher Association and Wyndhurst Community Improvement Association donated funds for the project. ♦

## Lawn Project

grasses all around. Most of all, after the first season of watering to get everything started, this landscaping requires very little maintenance compared to the typical Roland Park yard.

Today, we have white Dutch clover and red clover growing in our yard. We have a number of natives, including wild ginger, purple coneflower royal fern, sweet woodruff and American dog violet. In all, there are 23 native species growing in my yard.

The friends who have come by to check out our new yard are agog with delight at what they can already see and what they can imagine for the future. We find ourselves so grateful to Putman and Heller for their advice on how to help the environment a bit and to create such green beauty. Of course, we are equally grateful to Adams of Seven Winds for putting this into action in such a creative, bio-friendly way. What a pleasure this is now and will be to watch maturing. Think about it and see how delighted you might be with your more interesting lawn-free yard, one that attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and other birds and bees. ♦

# Farmer's Daughter Cocktail

From Woodberry Kitchen

2 oz. organic Crop cucumber vodka

2 oz. watermelon cucumber juice mixture (see below)

0.25 oz. agave

0.50 oz. lemon juice

1 sprig fresh mint

To make watermelon cucumber juice mixture, take 6 cups watermelon, peeled and cubed, 2 cups cucumber, peeled and chopped, and blend on high until smooth.

Combine all ingredients in a Boston shaker tin and fill with ice. Add fresh mint. Shake vigorously for 12 seconds. Strain into rocks glass with fresh ice. Garnish with watermelon.

Non-alcoholic version:


3 oz. watermelon cucumber juice mixture

0.7 oz. lemon

0.5 oz. agave

1 sprig fresh mint

Combine the ingredients in a shaker, shake hard and strain into glass with ice. ♦



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# MovieFest at The Village of Cross Keys

By Julie Gilbert, Marketing Coordinator, The Village of Cross Keys

The merchants of The Village of Cross Keys announce the third annual **MovieFest**, a month-long series of free movies in the Cross Keys courtyard (5100 Falls Road) on Saturday nights in June. This year's theme is Academy Award-winners. Open captions will be provided for all movies, making MovieFest the only captioned outdoor film festival in Baltimore this summer.

MovieFest festivities will begin each Saturday evening at 6 p.m. with pre-movie dinner specials offered at the Cross Keys restaurants—Crossroads, Donna's Café and Village Square Café. Many of the retail shops will offer shopping specials and extended hours. The movies will begin at sunset. Guests are invited to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets; limited seats will be provided.

- June 4th "Shakespeare in Love" (8:30 p.m.)
- June 11th "The Blind Side" (8:35 p.m.)
- June 18th "The King's Speech" (8:40 p.m.)
- June 25th "Slumdog Millionaire" (8:40 p.m.)

The rain date for all movies is July 9th.

MovieFest is sponsored by the shops and restaurants of Cross Keys,


with support from The Health and Speech Agency. MovieFest media sponsors are Urbanite magazine and WYPR 88.1 FM.

For more information about MovieFest, call 410-323-1000 or visit [www.villageofcrosskeys.com](http://www.villageofcrosskeys.com). ♦

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# Summer Sounds at the Square

By Vicki Aversa, President, Aversa Communications, LLC

Belvedere Square announces the schedule for its free, weekly outdoor concert series, which will feature live music by Baltimore's favorite local bands and scrumptious gourmet food and beverages from the Belvedere Square market vendors and restaurants!

Every Friday evening from 6 to 9 p.m., through September 16th, concerts will be held at Belvedere Square (corner of York Road and Belvedere Avenue). Concerts are free and open to the public.

## Schedule:

June 3	Mambo Combo, soca and samba sounds
June 10	Moonshine Society, blues
June 17	Nelly's Echo, soul, reggae and blues



Celtic rock band Donegal Xpress will perform at Belvedere Square on June 24th and September 16th. Photo: Heather Coburn

June 24	Donegal Xpress, Celtic rock
July 1	The Jenny Leigh Freeman Band, country
July 8	Swingin' Swamis, jazz and Latin
July 15	The Apple Scruffs, Beatles tribute band
July 22	Sons of Pirates, rock-n-roll
July 29	Mambo Combo, soca and samba sounds
August 5	The New Romance, 80s tribute
August 12	The Remainders, classic and alternative rock
August 19	Teachers for Sale, rock-n-roll
August 26	Rob Byer Band, modern country
September 2	Sons of Pirates, rock-n-roll
September 9	Donegal Xpress, Celtic rock
September 16	Crazy Fish, Rolling Stones tribute

For a complete schedule of performances and dining options, visit [www.belvederesquare.com](http://www.belvederesquare.com). ♦

*Note: During concerts, East Belvedere will be closed between the 500 and 600 blocks. Concerts will be cancelled if it rains.*

# Chilled Heirloom Tomato Soup

By Ben Lefenfeld, Executive Chef, Petit Louis Bistro

- 2.5 lbs. heirloom tomatoes
- 1 clove raw garlic
- 3 T. extra virgin olive oil
- 2 T. red wine vinegar
- 1 small shallot
- 2 shots of Tabasco
- 10 basil leaves
- 20 tiny tomatoes
- ¼ cup of water

Salt and pepper to taste



You might need to adjust some of the seasoning, depending on the type and ripeness of your tomatoes. The ingredients are simply pureed together in a blender and strained through a fine sieve. I love this soup garnished with lump crab and crème fraîche. It's fun to play with by trying different garnishes, like watermelon, avocado or mint. Try it with some of your favorite summer flavors! ♦

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# Taking a Closer Look at the Baltimore Riots

An Interview with Jessica I. Elfenbein, Thomas L. Hollowak, and Elizabeth M. Nix

By Henry Mortimer

In April 1968, just days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Baltimore experienced two weeks of violent civil unrest that left six dead, dozens injured, and hundreds of properties burned and in ruins. In April 2008, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of those galvanizing events, the University of Baltimore (UB) created "Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth," a project "to advance the scholarship, encourage civil discourse and simply shed light on this important topic." The immediate result was the creation of a website ([archives.ubalt.edu/bsr/index.html](http://archives.ubalt.edu/bsr/index.html)) offering oral histories, photos, art and other archival materials. This summer, a companion book, *Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth in an American City*, will be published to offer a more in-depth analysis of the riots and the aftermath on the Baltimore community. I spoke to the book's editors—Jessica Elfenbein, associate provost for University Engagement and the lead organizer of "Baltimore '68;" Thomas L. Hollowak, associate director for special collections; and Elizabeth (Betsy) M. Nix, an assistant professor who

oversaw the collection of oral histories for the project—about how the book and the website together make up an invaluable teaching resource on cities, social unrest and racial politics in the 1960s.

*Please briefly describe the idea behind the "Baltimore '68: Riots and Rebirth" book and project.*

**Jessica Elfenbein (JE):** In 1996, and again in 1999, UB organized wonderful public history conferences, each of which attracted hundreds of Baltimoreans and reflected the city's diversity. These meetings provided important historical background on relevant contemporary topics, information sought by those committed to pressing quality-of-life issues. (A very good anthology, *From Mobtown to Charm City*, offers a record of this work.) As powerful as the conferences were, however, noticeably absent at both was even a single explicit mention of the civil unrest—the riots, the disorder, the revolution, the rage—that exploded in April 1968. I became more and more



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convinced that the fact that there was no public acknowledgement of the events (which I and others believe profoundly and permanently changed the city) was unacceptable. Worse, as I discovered, no scholarly work had yet been done. So, in the fall of 2005, after lunch with Tom Hollowak—who had been in junior high and heard hateful remarks spoken when King was assassinated—and after hearing similar stories from others at UB, I decided we needed to bring together a range of Baltimore voices to tell stories of '68.

**Elizabeth Nix (EN):** Students at [UB] have deep roots in the Baltimore community and, as the 40th anniversary of the disturbances approached, we thought that it would be a good idea for faculty and students to investigate this time in our city's history. Forty years is a productive interval when you ask people to reflect on an event. Many participants are still alive and well and are able to remember details and emotions accurately. And they also have the benefit of seeing how the events affected their lives and the lives of their community as the years passed. We were able to call on our students, faculty and staff to talk to each other, their families and their neighbors and, through their interviews, we built a collection of oral histories that represented a wide variety of voices and viewpoints. We also talked to politicians, first responders, National Guardsmen, looters and people who lost property in the uprising. The 2008 project culminated in a three-day community conference, and the book is an anthology of the papers presented at that conference and some of the oral histories we collected.

*What inspired you personally to create the project? Were you involved in or somehow directly affected by the riots of 1968?*

**EN:** I was three years old and living in Memphis, TN, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. Dr. King had come to Memphis to participate in a sanitation workers strike, which had started when two workers were killed on the job. The incident that led to the strike and Dr. King's assassination occurred on the street where I lived. Memphians have always harbored a sense of shame that Dr. King was killed in our city, and my education in the city's public schools left me painfully aware of the work that was left undone after his death. The "Baltimore '68" project seemed like a productive way for me and my students to contribute to the discussion about race and urban America.

*How important is this period to the history of Baltimore? How does it compare to other major events in the development of the city, such as the Battle of Baltimore in 1812 or the fire of 1904?*

**EN:** Many people in Baltimore and the surrounding counties look back at their city during the 20th century and see April 1968 as a watershed moment. They believe that, before the riots, the city was healthy, the neighborhoods were safe, and there was lots of commerce and many jobs that paid well. Well, the reality is a bit different. I co-wrote a chapter of the book with Deborah Weiner of the Jewish Museum of Maryland and, in it, we argue that Baltimore's sense of well-being peaked before 1968 and had started to decline by the late 1960s. We look closely at three retail districts hit by looting and arson and discover that many, but not all, of the affected areas bounced back, hung on for awhile and later declined



Baltimore experienced two weeks of violent civil unrest in April 1968.  
Photo courtesy of Lt. James V. Kelly Collection

because of factors like urban renewal, suburban competition or generational succession. However, the perception that the city was less safe after the riots was widespread and persists to this day. So, in the public memory, the riots of 1968 loom large.

*How does the book differ from the website? What do you hope readers will gain most from reading the book?*

**EN:** None of the articles in the book appears on the website. On the website, you can find the primary sources that the authors of the book chapters used to inform their analysis, but their scholarship does not appear there. I hope that readers will gain a historical perspective from the book. We provide context and commentary from a variety of perspectives that reveal the complexities of this contested event.

**Thomas Hollowak (TH):** The website enhances the book by providing more in-depth coverage of the

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# Baltimore Riots

Continued from page 23

issues discussed by the various authors, and provides a vehicle to document witness accounts from many perspectives and make them accessible to a wide public audience. The site first included only the transcripts of more than 100 oral histories conducted and transcribed by UB students. But it quickly expanded to include many other sources, such as news articles, demographic and crime maps, a timeline, a driving tour, and collections from private citizens.

Among the earliest collections received was that of Lt. James Kelly of the Baltimore Police Department, who although only eight years old in 1968 was deeply moved by those terrible days and began collecting anything related to the riots. When he heard of our efforts, he generously offered photographs taken by the Baltimore Police Department, two official reports issued on the Baltimore disturbances, and the ribbon and citation that the Police Commissioner authorized for members of the force on duty those days in April. Eric Singer, an adjunct instructor at UB, provided photographs of his grandparents' pharmacy and home that were ransacked and burned.



Lt. James Kelly of the Baltimore Police Department, who was 8 years old in 1968, provided photos taken by the police during the riots. Photo courtesy of Lt. James V. Kelly Collection

The photographs, showing the Downes Brothers Pharmacy and residence before and after the destruction, which had never been seen except by family members, added a unique dimension to this poignant story. And, after learning about our efforts, Suzanne Foster of Portland, OR, offered to share details about how her family and Gassinger Brothers, her family's century-old furniture and housewares business, were affected by the unrest. Her uncle suffered a heart attack and died as a result of the destruction of their properties, for example. By providing copies of her grandfather's diary and notes on the break-ins, along with photographs of the family business, she was able to explain her family's decision to leave Baltimore for a new life on the West Coast.

*Are there writers or historians who have inspired or otherwise shaped your career? If so, who and how?*

EN: The work of Linda Shopes, an editor of *The Baltimore Book* and past president of the Oral History Association, who is now based in Pennsylvania, added to our understanding of this city in the mid-20th century. Linda attended "Baltimore '68" steering committee meetings and her wisdom and guidance kept us on track throughout the project. Also, the masterful books of

Taylor Branch, a resident historian that Baltimore is so lucky to have, shaped my approach to this small slice of the civil rights era. Taylor's use of narrative history reminds me constantly that stories are essential to our understanding of the past. Our choice to highlight the voices of individuals in the anthology, and not just leave the interpretation of the events to historians, was influenced by Taylor's example.

JE: Howard Gillette has been an enormous influence on my career as an historian. For years, he taught at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Then, about 10 years ago, he moved to Rutgers [University]-Camden. In both places, he showed me and other younger academics what it means to be a civically minded scholar and public intellectual. He participated in the Baltimore '68 conference and is also a contributor to the book.

*Did living in Baltimore offer any inspiration for this project?*

EN: My family and I live in Union Square and our boys attend Roland Park Elementary/Middle school and City College High School. We love the sense of history and community in this city. I saw the "Baltimore '68" project as a way to raise an issue that our city had been reluctant to discuss openly. As James Baldwin wrote, "The past is all that makes the present coherent, and further, the past will remain horrible for exactly as long as we refuse to assess it honestly." I hope that our honest assessment of this event will allow our city to move beyond our assumptions about that week in April 1968.

*What are you working on next?*

EN: I am working on a project about developing trust among diverse constituencies. Some of my ideas about this topic come out of the "Baltimore '68" work, and I am looking at the question in other contexts, including the work of the Office of War

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24



# EnergyWise: Green Cleaning

By Shannon Putman

Are you concerned about the effect of cleaning agents on your family, pets and home? Are you spending more than you would like on specific cleaning products for each unique surface? Are your products working? Do you have ants or other insects and want to eradicate them without calling a pest control service? If these are questions you have pondered, consider trying a chemical-free alternative to rid your home of dirt and unwanted pests. Many of these suggestions have withstood the test of time, having been used safely for generations. Additionally, they use ingredients you likely already have in your pantry and can be tried without spending extravagant amounts of money.

Lemon juice can be used as both a disinfectant and a deodorizer. Use it to wipe down your cutting board between uses or place a slice of lemon in the dishwasher to eliminate food odors. A paste made from a mixture of lemon juice and salt can effectively polish tarnished copper and brass.

Distilled white vinegar has long been touted for its natural cleaning abilities. You can easily remove countertop stains of coffee, tea or red wine by dipping a cloth in vinegar and then a small amount of table salt. Gently rub the stain and then wipe the area clean. Cover more stubborn marks with salt for 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse the area with a solution of one-third vinegar and two-thirds water. Apply the same vinegar-water solution directly to heavily stained clothing before washing or add a capful to your laundry as pretreatment solution. Stubborn toilet rings can be treated with a solution of one-quarter cup baking soda to one cup vinegar. Allow this to sit for 15 minutes and then scrub clean (more stubborn stains may require longer soaking time or multiple treatments).

A natural furniture polish can be made from one-half teaspoon of olive oil to one cup of vinegar or lemon juice. Windows can be cleaned with a solution of one-quart warm water and one-quarter cup distilled white vinegar. Apply to glass and rub clean with dry newspaper for streak-free and sparkling results. Make an all-purpose cleaning solution for the bathroom or kitchen with a half-teaspoon borax (or washing soda), two cups of hot tap water and a drop of liquid soap. To clean a dirty oven, make a paste from one cup of baking soda, water and a drop of liquid soap. Moisten the oven base with water, apply cleaning paste and let soak overnight. The food residue and burn marks should easily come up with a wet cloth in the morning. Mix one teaspoon of tea tree oil to one gallon of water to make a natural disinfectant for toilets, windows and floors.

Although ant infestations are an irritating and common problem in Roland Park, several natural remedies can be effective. Try one or combine several recommendations to keep your home ant-free. Apply a solution of 50 percent water and 50 percent distilled vinegar to areas of ant invasion—the odor is repellant and the solution removes their scent trail. Similarly, you can sprinkle cinnamon, peppermint oil, bay leaves and cayenne in areas where ants are present to deter further encroachment. You can also sprinkle borax powder or talcum powder along surfaces where ants are seen to deter further infestations (borax kills ants directly by injuring their gastrointestinal tract, while talcum is a natural repellant).



If your pet has acquired fleas, try cleaning the furniture and flooring around the animal's bedding with a mixture of water and lemon juice. Bathe the pet in water with the addition of 1 tablespoon of salt. Finally, try adding a small amount of yeast to your pet's food. Apparently, fleas find the odor of yeast abhorrent and avoid it.

Cotton balls soaked in peppermint or eucalyptus oil may help deter mice infestations and can be placed in areas where mice have frequented.

Finally, a natural insect repellant can be created from common oils, allowing you to remain outside on summer evenings without being overwhelmed by mosquitoes. Mix 20 drops of citronella oil, 20 drops of lavender oil, four drops of tea tree oil, four drops of pennyroyal oil and four drops of jojoba oil. Dilute in 100 milliliters of almond oil or vodka and apply to skin.

Many other natural remedies are available on the Internet and, with a little investigation, you may find a safe, inexpensive and effective way to keep your home and family clean and pest-free. ❖

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# Tree Canopy Survey

By Al Copp

You've heard of a bird census, right? Well, it's time to do a Greater Roland Park tree census. We need to figure out how many of what kind of trees we have, how old the trees are and what condition they are in. And if you would like to help, read on, for at the end of this article is a call for volunteers.

We all know that the tree canopy in Greater Roland Park is one of the defining elements of our community. It is important in both economic and environmental terms. It helps conserve and reduce energy use, reduce local CO<sub>2</sub> levels, mitigate storm water runoff, and is generally important to property values, aesthetics and the quality of life. It's no wonder that one of the goals of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan is to preserve and increase the overall tree canopy in a comprehensive, deliberate manner.

The first step is to quantify and understand the present canopy in terms of species, age and condition. That will make it possible to put together a plan for adding the right native tree in the right location, to prepare a general maintenance program to preserve what we have and to figure out which older trees should be removed (before nature decides to do it for us).

We'll start with a survey of all of the street trees in the Greater Roland Park area. The survey is expected to involve eight teams of



The Roland Avenue median is lined with zelkovas.  
Photo: Anne Stuzin

three people (none of whom need be an expert in tree identification) taking measurements in the field and sending that information to a database, and several trained tree folks (if you're an expert in tree species and problems, this is where you're needed) to decide the species and condition and identify fungal and insect damage. We expect that all involved will need a short training session to get us all on the same page and that the actual survey will be conducted over several weekends in late spring or early summer. The acquisition architecture, data entry and upload processes, and databases are being designed now.

Now, this is where you come in. If you would like to learn a bit about trees and their habits, if you already know and would like to share that knowledge with others and help the community at the same time, or if you

just feel the least bit guilty about not ever volunteering, this is your time. Volunteer by emailing me at [acopp@msn.com](mailto:acopp@msn.com). You'll be surprised at how quickly your services will be accepted. ❖

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## Baltimore Riots

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Information at the end of World War II. If any of your readers know about that topic, I would love to talk to them.

**JE:** I'm very interested in the role of "anchor institutions" (often defined as higher education and medical centers) in shaping urban communities. There's often an historical understanding about these institutions—i.e., "because they are in a community now, they have always been, and will always be, here." As an historian, I am interested in working to debunk that notion through case studies of anchor institutions that have relocated and the effects those moves have had on communities. I have begun by looking at Goucher College's move from central Baltimore to Towson in the early 1950s.

**TH:** The "Baltimore '68" website led to the realization that, as part of UB's strategic plan in civic engagement, the Special Collections had an important role in making its holdings available as a virtual archive. Staff and students have begun a systematic effort to scan the hidden resources among our 134 collections documenting post-World War II Baltimore and make them available online. Due to extent of these holdings, it will take a number of years before the digital repository is complete. In the interim, we have instituted a "documents on demand" approach, scanning records requested by researchers who are not able to come in person. As new collections are scanned, more resources are being discovered, ensuring that the website will be not only a permanent, but also an expanding resource for the foreseeable future. ❖

Henry Mortimer resides in Roland Park with his wife and children. He writes *Scribbleskiff.com*, 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](mailto:henry@mortimercommunications.com).



# BGE Tree Replacement

By Al Copp

In March 2011, a BGE contractor began removing large trees on the north side of Deepdene Road, west of Roland Avenue. A concerned citizen challenged the activity and the contractor stopped. Later, the contractor returned and began pruning limbs rather than removing trees. The Roland Park Civic League investigated and, on May 4, 2011, I met with Megan Eaves, BGE's Forester for the Greater Roland Park area. At the meeting, Eaves agreed that, from now on, BGE will provide advance email notification of all non-emergency work in the Greater Roland Park area to the Civic League and will offer to meet with a community representative before the work begins.

As a gesture of BGE's goodwill toward the community, Eaves also arranged with Danny Davis, BGE's Supervisor of Forestry Operations, to replace the trees that were removed with four

2-inch caliper Redbud trees. Redbuds are recommended in BGE's "Right Tree – Right Place" program, which seeks to raise awareness regarding the types of trees that can be planted near utility lines. The tree plantings are being scheduled. They depend on two caveats: that Roland Park Country School officials agree to the planting and that the Greater Roland Park community or the Civic League agrees to water and maintain the trees.

Residents can reach BGE's foresters by calling Danny Davis, BGE Supervisor – Forestry Operations, at 410-470-6685 or emailing him at [Danny.L.Davis@BGE.com](mailto:Danny.L.Davis@BGE.com); or Megan Eaves, Contract Utility Forester, at 443-220-4950 or emailing her at [megan.eaves@constellation.com](mailto:megan.eaves@constellation.com).

## Book Nook, Jr.

From the Staff at The Children's Bookstore

*The Last Little Blue Envelope* by Maureen Johnson. Even if you haven't read Johnson's previous novel, *13 Little Blue Envelopes*, or you aren't wondering what happened to the stolen 13th envelope, you will be amused and moved by this second book. Ginny, the receiver of the letters from her aunt, who wrote them before she



died, has a group with her this time on her search for the very last envelope. Oliver, who has found the lost letter and will not give it up or let Ginny read it until he gets something in return (you have to read the book to find out what he is after), Keith her "non-boyfriend" (heart throb) from the last book and, to Ginny's dismay, his new girlfriend, who ends up being a friend, are the well-drawn characters who go on the multi-country quest. Richard, the ideal uncle, stays in London and just in touch enough to keep things aboveboard. It's a funny, exciting, daring and romantic read.

*A Pet for Petunia*, written and illustrated by Paul Schmid. Petunia wants a pet...skunk. She begs, pleads and whines to her parents, who inform her that skunks stink. Furious at her parent's refusal to get her a pet skunk, Petunia sets out to find one for herself. This is a classic story about a child who wants a pet and the parents who cringe with concern about the actual care and feeding of

that pet. The true beauty of *A Pet for Petunia* is in Paul Schmid's playful illustrations. Using basic black and white, with rich purple throughout, Schmid flawlessly creates Petunia's world. Parents and children alike will enjoy this playful story as Petunia encounters a live skunk and comes nose-to-nose with a harsh reality, though her response is not what you might expect. ❖

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# The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

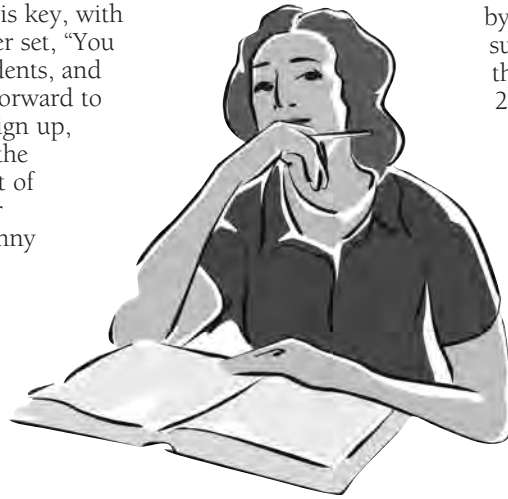
Welcome to the Book Nook! As this rather rainy spring blossoms into summer, now is the time to plan your summer vacation reading. The library will once again have reading programs for everyone in the family, each with its own theme and prizes. For all, however, travel is key, with "One World, Many Stories" for the younger set, "You Are Here" for middle and high school students, and "Novel Destinations" for adults. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you as you sign up, check in for prizes and attend any one of the numerous programs we are hosting as part of our summer activities. Keep an eye out for travel programs by local photographer Denny Lynch, who's heading to Italy and Egypt! Check the Pratt Library website at [www.prattlibrary.org/calendar/eList.aspx?type=Event](http://www.prattlibrary.org/calendar/eList.aspx?type=Event) for programs details.

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first message for any changes to hours or closings. Changes to the schedule are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt Library's website at [www.prattlibrary.org](http://www.prattlibrary.org).

Reviews are excerpted from editorial reviews found on the Pratt Library's online catalog at [pac.epfl.net](http://pac.epfl.net).

## Fiction



*Mary Ann in Autumn: A Tales of the City Novel* by Armistead Maupin (San Francisco, CA). In the sure-to-please follow-up to Michael Tolliver Lives, the bestselling Tales of the City reboot, it's been 20 years since series anchor Mary Ann Singleton left her family and headed to New York.

Maupin's San Francisco is comforting in its familiarity, and the gang is (mostly) all here, older, wiser and settled in. Michael "Mouse" Tolliver is married to Ben; Shawna, Mary Ann's estranged daughter, is a popular sex blogger who is dating Otto, an enigmatic professional clown; and grand dame Anna Madrigal, once landlady to Michael and Mary Ann, is still kicking in her late 80s. Into this milieu returns Mary Ann, who ditched her husband and the young Shawna for a career in television. Now, nearing 60, she's back with news she can't bear to tell anyone but Michael. From the haven of his tiny garden cottage, Mary Ann regroups and confronts some uncomfortable chapters in her past. As ever, Maupin's edgy wit energizes the layered story lines. His keen eye for irony and human foible is balanced by an innate compassion in this examination of the life of a woman of a certain age.

*Under Fishbone Clouds* by Sam Meekings (China). Meekings explores the inner workings of a Chinese couple's marriage before, during and after the Cultural Revolution. Told from the perspective of the Kitchen God, who has been challenged by the Jade Emperor to unravel the mysteries of the human heart, the tale begins in 1946 as Jinyi and Yuying are soon to be wed. Skipping back to 1942 and 1944 to explore formative events in each one's past, the story takes the reader on a riveting trip of unrelenting trials and tribulations ranging from the loss of three sons to enforced work camps to, in the recent past, life-threatening illness. Still, through even the longest of separations and hardships, the couple's love endures, proving that the human spirit can rebound from the most dire of circumstances. Meekings is a bang-up storyteller, and his easy handling of rich and varied material—rustic splendor, class warfare, profound anguish, drastic social changes—will keep readers rapt. This is a beautifully told love story as well as an absorbing study in Chinese folklore and history.

*Voice of America* by E. C. Osundu (Nigeria and U.S.). In "Waiting," the first story in Osundu's debut collection, Nigerians in an American refugee camp take their names from T-shirts given to them by the Red Cross, a telling detail that sets the tone for all that follows. In "Jimmy Carter's Eyes," a blind girl becomes a prophet; in "Miracle Baby," another prophet assures a childless woman that one of the fish in his pond will become her baby. A Greek chorus gives many of Osundu's tales a folkloric tone and, indeed, "Our First American" feels as if the entire village is telling the story of Mark and his girlfriend, a temperamental prostitute named Beauty. Whereas the stories set in Nigeria have the qualities of a fable, the American-set tales are poignant studies of the immigrant experience. "An Incident at Pat's Bar" is a compelling marriage of

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both worlds. Set at an expat bar in Nigeria, it explores the strained relationship between Nigerian and American oil workers. Osondu's direct and humorous insights and poetic descriptions create a captivating portrait of time and place.

*Haiti Noir* edited by Edwidge Danticat (Haiti). As Danticat (*Brother, I'm Dying*) points out in her excellent introduction to this solid entry in Akashic's acclaimed noir series, most of its 18 stories were written before the devastating earthquake of January 2010. This natural tragedy lends a strong undercurrent to the fictional takes on a country that was already ravaged by the terrible human problems of poverty, violent crime and political corruption. Powerful genre-benders include Katia D. Ulysse's "The Last Department," a stylish, Poe-inspired story about the mutual enmity of two daughters, one who "made it" in America and the other who stayed behind; and Yanick Lahens' "Who Is That Man?" in which an innocent man gets caught in the middle of drug cartel business. Other standouts are Patrick Sylvain's "Odette" and Kettly Mars' "Paradise Inn." Many selections aren't especially noir, at least not in the way that most crime fiction readers would recognize, but Danticat has succeeded in assembling a group portrait of Haitian culture and resilience that is cause for celebration.

*The Brothers Lot* by Kevin Holohan (Ireland). Taking dead aim at the hypocrisy of the Catholic Church and the atmosphere of repression that allowed abuse to flourish, this first novel uses satire to stinging effect. At the Brothers of Godly Coercion School for Young Boys of Meager Means in Dublin, the brothers are desperate to repair their crumbling school. Behind their vaunted piety, they are a sad and pitiful lot, with a pedophile, an alcoholic and a sadist among them. After the midnight ramblings of the mentally unstable Brother Boland end when the ceiling collapses, the head of the school decides to claim the mishap as a miracle, thereby drawing attention and much-needed funds. But the boys who attend the school are on to the brothers' game and, despite near-constant physical abuse, draw great satisfaction from discovering all the devious ways they can test their teachers' patience, from deftly stonewalling academic discussions to inventing profane versions of prayers. Terribly bleak and terribly funny, this skillful debut pays tribute to the irrepressible spirit of all the rebellious young boys who would not give in to authoritarian rule.

## Nonfiction

*Hellhound on his Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin* by Hampton Sides (U.S., Mexico, and Europe). The counterpoint between two driven men—one by a quest for justice, the other by an atavistic hatred—propels this engrossing study of the King assassination. Sides, author of the bestselling *Ghost Soldiers*, shows us a King all but consumed by the flagging civil rights movement in 1968 and burdened by presentiments of death. Pursuing him is escaped convict James Earl Ray, whose feckless life finds a belated, desperate purpose, perhaps stimulated by George Wallace's presidential campaign, in killing the civil rights leader. A third main character is the FBI, which turns on a dime from its long-

standing harassment of King to a massive investigation into his murder; in Sides' telling, the Bureau's transoceanic hunt for Ray is one of history's great police procedurals. Sides' novelistic treatment registers Ray as a man so nondescript his own sister could barely remember him (the author refers to him by his shifting aliases to emphasize the shallowness of his identity). The result is a tragedy more compelling than the grandest conspiracy theory: the most significant of lives cut short by the most hollow of men.

*Seasonal Fruit Desserts: From Orchard, Farm and Market (Farmers Markets)* by Deborah Madison. Madison (*Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone*) reinvigorates the possibilities of dessert by putting fruit center stage in this mouth-watering collection of recipes: apple crisp with cinnamon cream, berry and peach cobbler, nectarine and plum upside-down cake, and cherry tart with crushed amaretti. But it also ventures off the beaten path. The wild rice pudding with maple syrup and wine-soaked cherries is a marvelous twist on traditional dessert puddings, as is the sweet potato-coconut pudding. The various sauces and creams (sabayon, frangipane, raspberry coulis with muscat wine) are easy to make. Some of the most elegant recipes in the book are simple plates; they

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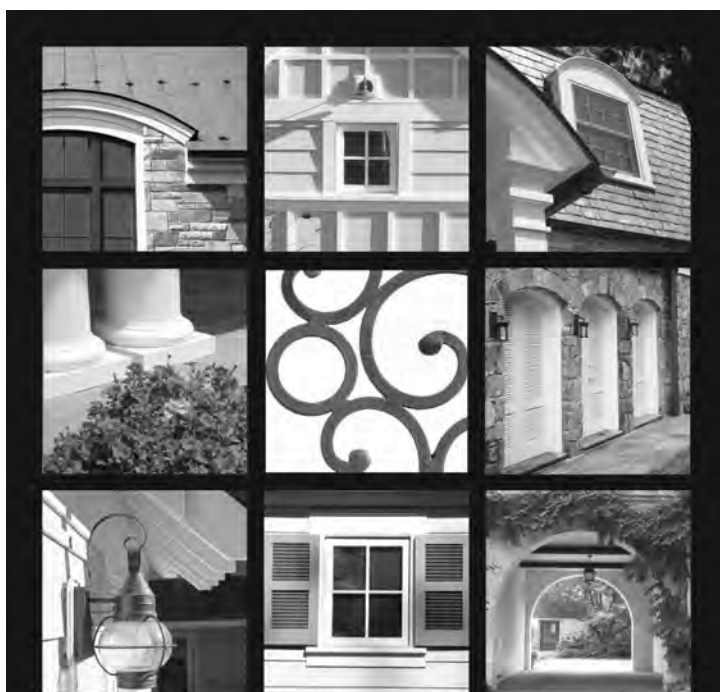
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# Book Nook

Continued from page 29

combine fruits with nuts and sauces (for example, figs with mascarpone and pine nuts); or pair fruits with cheeses (Teleme with dried fruit compote). Lovely sidebars and inserts offer a wonderful amount of information on fruit, fruit varieties, and cooking and baking with fruit to further enhance this book. Madison has a lovely writing style—clear, entertaining and knowledgeable—and with her commentary it's as if she's in your kitchen discussing every recipe.

*Paris Was Ours: Thirty-two Writers Reflect on the City of Light* edited by Penelope Rowlands (Paris). Rowlands compiles into one volume 32 works, about half of which have never been seen before, by different writers who relate their experiences of living in Paris. Although the contributors are as mixed a bag as the City of



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## Parents' Corner

Date and Time	Program
Mondays, 1:30 p.m.	<b>Mother Goose Baby Steps</b> An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement for children up to age 2 and their caregivers. Note that the July 4th program will be held on Thursday, July 7th, at 1:30 p.m.
Thursdays in June 10:30 a.m.	<b>Toddler Jumps.</b> A story time specially created for 2- and 3-year-olds and their caregivers, with books, rhymes and bouncing balls. Note that Toddler Jumps ends on June 30th.
Thursdays in June 11:30 a.m.	<b>Preschool Leaps.</b> Stories, songs and fun for children ages 3 to 5. Note that the time changes to 11 a.m. on July 7th
Thursdays beginning July 7th 11:00 a.m.	<b>Preschool Leaps.</b> Stories, songs and fun for children ages 3 to 5.
Monday, June 20, June 27, July 11, July 18, and July 25 3:00 p.m.	<b>One World, Many Stories: Summer Stories for Everyone.</b> Stories, crafts, games and fun! Ages 3 and older.
Wednesday, July 6th, 3:30 p.m.	<b>Real Birds Eat Meat.</b> Owls, hawks, a vulture, a raven and even a bald eagle call the Carrie Murray Nature Center home. Several will come visit us at the library. Ages 6 to 12.
Tuesday, July 12th, 1:30 p.m.	<b>Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay!</b> Presented by The National Aquarium. Pirates are invading the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and attempting to steal the natural treasures of Charm City! Will the Bay's native superheroes come to the rescue? Ages 6 to 12.
Tuesday, July 14th, 3:30 p.m.	<b>Sign Language: Here, There and Everywhere!</b> Presented by signing storyteller Kathy MacMillan. Put on your travelin' shoes and take a trip around the world through participation stories and games that teach basic American Sign Language. Ages 6 to 12.
Tuesday, July 28th, 10:15 a.m.	<b>Uncle Pete with Kids.</b> Come see Uncle Pete and The Invisible Band. Uncle Pete plays guitar and sings live as kids join in. Ages birth to 5.

Light's 20 arrondissements, they report universal similarities—in Paris, the customer is, if ever, only rarely right. The city's taunting, melancholy beauty is unsurpassed. And any moment passed in the Luxembourg Gardens can be considered time well spent. Rowlands does a seamless job of presenting a city as seen by so many eyes (those of David Sedaris, Stacey Schiff and Zoe Valdes, to name a few) that readers who've visited will recognize their own memories, and those who haven't will glean a globally in-depth portrait. (The piece by a Parisian single-mom, blogging about her homelessness, is particularly poignant.) Judith Thurman perhaps



# Roads & Maintenance Update: Roland Park is Green Again!

By Kathleen Truelove, President, Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation

The good news and the bad news is that Roland Park is once again green and park-like. That's good news because the whole neighborhood is a garden, with flowers standing out against all those green leaves—it's lovely! It's bad news because, with the help of a wet spring, all that vegetation that's grown so well will soon be spreading beyond its boundaries. It's a challenge to keep it all tidy and in its place, but it's easiest done if you stay a bit ahead of it. Don't wait until you can't find your house in all the shrubbery! Now is the time to prune spring-flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, cotoneaster and azalea. Pruning hard just once will permit next spring's buds to form; pruning later in the season cuts off next year's flowers.

As a property owner, it is your responsibility to keep the sidewalks and lanes surrounding your property clear. Remember that the lanes are 20 feet wide. Many of them have vegetation growing well into that 20-foot space, though it's easy not to notice if you don't use your lane much. The same goes for the sidewalks. Please trim vegetation, most particularly that aggressive bully, English ivy, well off the sidewalk. Imagine you're strolling along, minding your own business, and being grabbed at the ankle by this relentless

invader that spreads like gossip. Speaking of spreading, remember to remove English ivy from your trees; it grows up their trunks and will eventually kill them. Just cut the ivy off at the ground and it will die and then fall off. It also helps if you pull out the ivy by its roots near your trees to discourage from it climbing back up.

Now you may be asking, "So what about the public footpaths? Whose responsibility are they?" The answer is, they are the responsibility of Roads & Maintenance, which has the paths trimmed as needed a couple of times a year. If your property borders a path, please keep your plantings away from the path right-of-way, which is 10 feet wide (5 feet from the center to each side). Planting along the paths is encouraged, with the understanding that the 10-foot right-of-way is maintained and kept clear, so consider the potential size of the plants you choose. And, remember, natives are best!

Roland Park has a natural, informal look as a neighborhood and the lanes and sidewalks are well used. Keeping plants on your property and out of the public right-of-way helps pedestrians, including many school children, have safe and pleasant walking conditions. ❖

## Book Nook

Continued from page 30

sums up the whole endeavor best when she writes that one of the greatest charms of having lived in Paris is the Proustian glamour of being able to claim that one did so.

*Book Lust To Go* by Nancy Pearl (*Everywhere!*). Nancy Pearl's little gem will please many a traveler (or dreamer) who loves to read about faraway places but doesn't know where to start. With fanciful alliteration, Pearl lists titles under topics arranged from "A is for Adventure" to "Zipping through Zimbabwe." Recommendations are accompanied by brief critiques and insights. In an entry for "Las Vegas," for example, Pearl recommends Chris Ewan's novel, *The Good Thief's Guide to Vegas*. Pearl classifies her recommendations well enough so that readers can take or leave her advice. In "Africa," for instance, she includes the classic *Cry the Beloved Country* as well as contemporary mysteries such as *Wife of the Gods*. It might have been easy to stick with the country structure for a book like this, but Pearl mixed it up, to good effect, with chapters like "So We/I Bought (or Built) A House In," which includes books about homes in Morocco, Mexico, France, Brazil and Ireland. Pearl has produced a winner and the perfect bedside companion.

### General Information

Our phone number is 410-396-6099. Our branch e-mail is [rln@prattlibrary.org](mailto: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. The Pratt Library's web page is [www.prattlibrary.org](http://www.prattlibrary.org).

Roland Park Branch hours are Monday and Wednesday: 12 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Friday and Sunday: closed. Please note the following holiday closings for all Pratt Libraries: Monday, July 4th, for Independence Day, and Monday, September 5th, for Labor Day. ❖

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