

ROLAND PARK NEWS

Winter
2010-2011
Volume
Forty

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Village At Home: Community in Action

By Susan M. Newhouse, LCSW-C, Interim Executive Director

Village At Home, the first of its kind in Baltimore, is poised to embark on its mission of encouraging more age-friendly intergenerational living in its North Baltimore neighborhoods.

But don't worry: Village At Home is not a new retirement community or assisted living facility that's about to be built in your backyard. The Village isn't a structure at all. In fact, it's an idea.

The concept behind Village At Home is to establish a supportive community for all ages, with a special focus on providing activities and services to older adults and people with disabilities so that they may have the practical means and the confidence to continue to live full lives in their own homes and neighborhoods. Village At Home, which could begin operations as soon as March 31st, 2011, is a fee-based non-profit organization, and membership is open to anyone of any age residing in its service area, which includes these neighborhoods: Bellona-Gittings, Cedarcroft, Cross Keys, Evergreen, Guilford, Homeland, Keswick, Lake Evesham, Lake Roland, Mt. Washington, North Roland Park, Oakenshawe, Poplar Hill, Riderwood, Roland Park, Ruxton, Sabina-Mattfeldt, The Orchards, Tuscany-Canterbury, Villages of Homeland and Wyndhurst.

How It Works

Village At Home will organize neighbor-to-neighbor volunteers to help with door-to-door transportation as well as smaller or intermittent tasks — anything from simple technology assistance, to leaf raking and snow shoveling, to changing a hard-to-reach light bulb.

We have absolutely no requirement that members volunteer, yet, typically, about half of volunteers are Village members who choose to volunteer. With its intergenerational focus, Village At Home will draw on volunteers of many ages, including service-learning students from the local schools.

Discounted vendors will help with larger tasks, such as home repairs and modifications, computer and appliance repairs, personal concierge services, and

home health care. Members are encouraged to ask for what they need. The Village will follow up with the member after every service call to ensure quality of services, and will advocate for the member if there are any issues to be resolved.

Village At Home will facilitate access to existing cultural and educational activities, as well as offer member get-togethers, like wine and cheese gatherings at a local restaurant or special tours of a museum exhibit. Walking groups and yoga classes will help members stay fit.

Others besides older adults have already expressed interest in joining Village At Home. A person of any age might find the Village useful and discounts from vendors might pay for a year's membership, especially when serious home repairs or renovations are involved. A young adult who has been in an accident might take advantage of door-to-door

transportation to physical therapy. The family of a child with a chronic illness might find both vendor discounts and volunteer services useful. Other people will join simply to support the concept in their neighborhood.

Progress

Village At Home has been hard at work on many things in preparation for the launch.

We conducted extensive research, including structured interviews with eight existing villages to define key operations and best practices. We held nine local, small group "community conversations" (thank you to our hosts!). We found strong interest among area residents.

Our initial Neighborhood Ambassador volunteers already are at work, helping us reach out to residents. We are ready to accept more volunteers.

We have a vendor committee working on policies and procedures for vetting vendors and we soon will begin to approve our initial vendors.

For potential members, we have a brochure describing member services, as well as a membership



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calendar items, are February 1st for Spring issue,
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issue, and November 1st for Winter issue.

Editors' Notes

By Anne Stuzin and Martha Marani

The Twelve Days of Holidays in Roland Park

On the first day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

A cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the second day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the third day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the fourth day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the fifth day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the sixth day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the seventh day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Seven gifts from Gundy's, six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the eighth day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Eight walks down footpaths, seven gifts from Gundy's, six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and

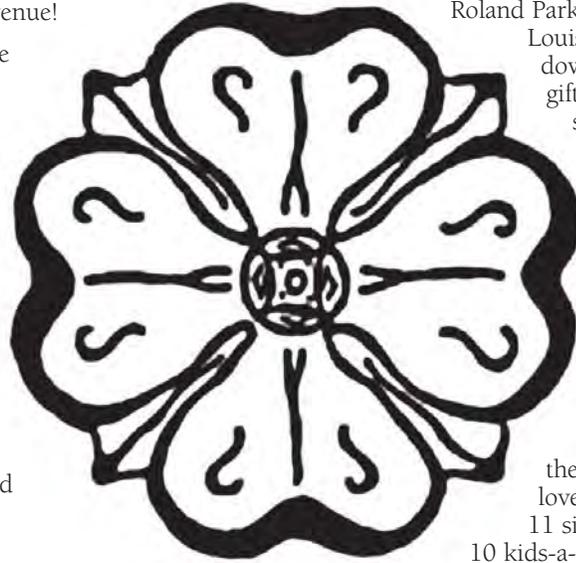
a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the ninth day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

Nine Petits Louis, eight walks down footpaths, seven gifts from Gundy's, six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the 10th day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

10 kids-a-swimming (at the Roland Park Pool), nine Petits Louis, eight walks down footpaths, seven gifts from Gundy's, six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!



On the 11th day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

11 signed covenants, 10 kids-a-swimming (at the Roland Park Pool), nine Petits Louis, eight walks down footpaths, seven gifts from Gundy's, six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!

On the 12th day of the holidays, my true love gave to me:

12 Civic League meetings, 11 signed covenants, 10 kids-a-swimming (at the Roland Park Pool), nine Petits Louis, eight walks down footpaths, seven gifts from Gundy's, six wreaths from Schneider's, five fire trucks! Four Tuxedo prescriptions, three Starbucks' lattes, two Eddie's sandwiches and a cyclovía up Roland Avenue!!!

As always, we are thankful for your readership and support of the *Roland Park News*. Here's to a festive holiday season and a prosperous New Year for all! ❖

Art Happenings

Celebrating its 45th season, **Baltimore Choral Arts** will perform the following concerts:

■ December 17th, 7:30 p.m., **Sing-Along Messiah**, Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium (1021 Dulaney Valley Road). Music Director Tom Hall will lead the Chorus, Orchestra and you, the audience, in the magnificent choruses of Handel's "Messiah." Enjoy the surround-sound of this exhilarating experience. Parking is free.

■ December 18th, 11 a.m., **Christmas for Kids**, Kraushaar Auditorium. An annual family favorite, this fun-filled holiday program features an all-new show with the ever-popular Ronnie the Reindeer and a special visit from Santa. Parking is free.



The Cathedral's Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas is a holiday favorite.
Photo courtesy of Daniel J. Sansone

The Baltimore Choral Arts Society is one of Maryland's premier cultural institutions. The Symphonic Chorus, Full Chorus, Orchestra and Chamber Chorus perform throughout the mid-Atlantic region, as well as in Washington, DC, New York and Europe. For tickets and more information, call 410-523-7070 or visit www.baltimorechoralarts.org.

The **Cathedral of Mary Our Queen** (5200 N. Charles Street) hosts several musical events throughout the year. Upcoming events include:

- December 5th, 5 p.m., **Canticle Singers**. Canticle Singers, a select women's chamber choir under the direction of Wendy Wickham, will perform a varied program of seasonal choral music from throughout the ages. For further information about the program and to purchase tickets, call 410-374-9312.
- December 12th, 5 p.m., "**Ceremony of Carols**," Benjamin Britten. The women of the Cathedral Choir will present Benjamin Britten's popular Christmas work, "Ceremony of Carols." Set in the Cathedral's intimate St. Joseph chapel, the work will be accompanied by harpist Jacqueline Pollauf. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.
- December 19th, 5 p.m., **A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas**. The service, reminiscent of its English heritage, will be sung in a candlelight setting by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Director of Music Ministry Daniel J. Sansone. Traditional carols and anthems celebrating the joy of the Christmas season will be performed. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.
- January 23rd, 5 p.m., **U.S. Naval Academy Band**. The U.S. Naval Academy Band will perform a program of festive selections in the grand acoustics of the Cathedral. For more information

about the band, please visit www.usna.edu/USNABand. This program is free and open to the public.

■ March 13th, 6:30 p.m., **Lenten Procession**. The choir of St. John's Huntingdon, under the direction of Thomas Hetrick, will perform works celebrating the season of Lent. Mirroring the Lenten journey, the procession will begin in the Narthex of the magnificent Cathedral, continue to the Sanctuary and finally proceed to the steps of the High Altar. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.

■ March 20th, 5 p.m., **Cathedral Choir Concert**. The Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Sansone, will perform a program of varied choral repertoire

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For 15
Wonderful
Years!**

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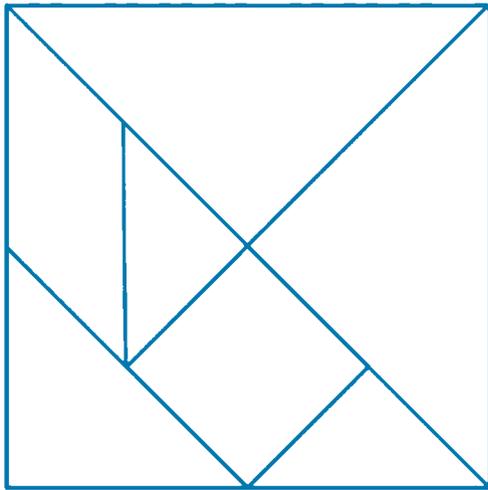
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KidsView

by Julianne McFarland

Tangram Fun!

Tangrams are a fun way to make things out of shapes! Cut out the Tangrams below and see how many different things you can make from the shapes! Some popular Tangram examples are swans, rabbits and people.



A Maze

How fast can you get out?



The Stream

By Julianna Brown

The stream gurgles and licks its lips.

The water flows past you and tadpoles dodge your feet.

Bright green arms hang over the water,

While little umbrella leaves flutter on their branches.

Kids Helping Out

Harriett Engelke, Carrie Couch and Grace Walsh-Little submitted their community service projects to KidsView! Here's what they did:

Harriett, 6, donated her Halloween candy to a dentist, who sent the goodies to troops overseas and paid Harriett a dollar for every pound! "Now I am going to donate that money to my favorite charity, which is the SPCA," she says. "I am also in a club at school called 'Save the Animals' and we are going to sell pizza to help the animals at the shelter. I am having a great time and it really makes me feel good."

Carrie, 6, sold her unwanted books outside of The Evergreen Café to raise money for the National Wildlife Federation and Luna's House, a small animal rescue organization. She explains, "It made me feel very good to help animals. I'm going to do it again soon."

Grace asked friends invited to her 9th birthday party to bring donations to the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS) animal shelter instead of gifts for her. "They brought great dog and cat toys, treats for cats and dogs, and money donations," she enthuses. "Then, I went to BARCS with my Mom and grandparents to bring the donations there. They were very glad to get them, and they were nice enough to take me on a tour of the animal shelter to see the cute dogs. I was so happy. It was a great birthday!"

As an interesting "Small-timore" coincidence, Grace, her sister and her mother started the club, "Save the Animals," that Harriet has joined.

Awesome job, girls! Thank you so much for helping out!

Harriett, Carrie and Grace received \$5 gift certificates to The Children's Bookstore.

Send Kids View submissions to Anne Stuzin, 206 Ridgewood Road,
or email to Anne@stuzin.com.

Note: February 1st is the deadline for Spring!

Art Happenings

Continued from page 3

celebrating the season of Lent. The program will feature the *Quatre Motets pour les Temps de Penitence* by Francis Poulenc. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.

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. 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 March 27th, 2011, **Edward S. Curtis: Photogravures from The North American Indian**. More than 25 photogravures by American photographer Edward S. Curtis (1868–1952) drawn from the John Work Garrett Library will be featured in this special exhibition presented by the Evergreen and the Johns Hopkins Sheridan Libraries. Curtis produced the most recognizable images of Native Americans in the early 20th century. These famous photographs were published as part of a 20-volume series of photogravures and texts, *The North American Indian*, today recognized as one of the most significant records of Native culture ever produced. Originally organized by Shannon Egan, director of the Schmucker Art Gallery at Gettysburg College and a Johns Hopkins Ph.D., the exhibition has been adapted and expanded by the Evergreen for presentation in the museum's North Wing Gallery. Free admission to the grounds; regular admission fees for museum tours. Reservations are requested. Call 410-516-0341 or send an email to evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu.

■ December 4th through 30th, **Season of Celebration at the JHU Museums**. During the Johns Hopkins University Museums' Season of Celebration, see two of Baltimore's most beautiful historic houses decked out in their annual holiday best. With exciting events and programs planned, there's no excuse not to come take a peek. Groups of 15 or more are invited to schedule holiday group tours of Homewood and Evergreen, with options for tea, box lunches and add-on tours at Mount Clare or Hampton National Historic Site. For information, call 410-516-0341 or email museums@jhu.edu.

■ December 4th and 5th, 12 to 4 p.m., **Dollar Days Weekend**. Visitors to the Johns Hopkins University Museums are invited to



Erik Johnson, master portraitist, will create silhouettes at the Homewood Museum in December. Courtesy of Homewood Museum, The Johns Hopkins University.
Photo: Will Kirk/homewoodphoto.jhu.edu

enjoy seasonal music and decorations, light refreshments, shopping in the Museum Shops and special \$1 admission as part of Baltimore's Downtown Dollar Days. Free for members.

■ December 9th through January 30th, 2011, opening reception on December 9th, 6 to 8 p.m., **"Evergreen as Muse."** The third annual *Evergreen as Muse* student art show is the culmination of a semester spent looking at, learning about, drawing

inspiration from and creating art at Evergreen Museum & Library as part of the Johns Hopkins undergraduate course, "The Artist in the Museum: Making Books," a unique collaboration with the Homewood Arts Workshops and the Krieger School's Program in Museums and Society. Free with museum admission and on view as part of the regular guided tours.

■ December 9th, 6 to 8 p.m., **An Ever Green Evening**. Evergreen Museum & Library will host its annual holiday open house, featuring themed trees inspired by Evergreen's unique collections and created by some of Baltimore's great interior and landscape designers, architects, and furniture makers. The event will also include the opening of the third *Evergreen as Muse* Johns Hopkins student art show, and a silent auction for one-of-a-kind, hand-decorated dollhouses. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$6 for the general public and free for members.

■ December 11th, 1 to 3 p.m., **Make and Take Holiday Card Workshop**. Evergreen director-curator James Abbott will lead a workshop on the art and craft of card making in the Victorian era. Reflecting the 19th century fascination for souvenir albums and collage, participants will use an array of colorful papers, ribbons, fabrics and printed illustrations to create holiday and gift cards. Open to all ages. Tickets are \$6 for the general public and free for members, and include materials and museum admission. Advance registration required. Call 410-516-0341.

■ December 14th, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **Come Home for the Holidays Bus Tour**. Get into the old-fashioned holiday spirit and visit four of Baltimore's premiere historic houses decorated in their holiday finest. Get a glimpse of how four of Maryland's most prominent families celebrated this special time of year. Tour Mount Clare Museum House (1760), Homewood Museum (1801), Carroll Mansion (1811) and Gramercy Mansion (1906), each decorated in period style. Museum gift shops will be stocked with unique holiday gifts. The tour starts and ends at Gramercy Mansion (1400 Greenspring Valley Road). Tickets

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Art Happenings

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are \$55 for the general public and \$50 for members of participating institutions or the Greater Baltimore History Alliance, and include bus transportation and lunch at the Carroll Mansion. Advance, pre-paid registration is required. Call 410-605-2964 or visit www.carrollmuseums.org.

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



Homewood exudes a festive spirit that is best witnessed at the museum's annual Homewood by Candlelight open house. Courtesy of Homewood Museum, The Johns Hopkins University. Photo: Will Kirk/ homewoodphoto.jhu.edu

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. 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:

■ December 4th through 29th, **Season of Celebration at the JHU Museums** (see above).

■ December 4th, 1 to 3 p.m., **Making Paste Papers Workshop**. Paste paper designs have been used for centuries to decorate book covers and endpapers. A close relative of

finger-painting, the paste paper technique involves dampening a sheet of paper, coating it with colored paste and then drawing various implements through the paste to create deceptively sophisticated designs. In this simple and fun hands-on workshop led by Homewood Museum program coordinator Judith Proffitt, participants will learn how to create Homewood-themed paste papers for use as unique holiday wrapping paper. Tickets are \$1 for the general public and free for members, and include materials and museum admission. Advance registration is required. Call 410-516-5589.

■ December 5th and 6th, 12 to 4 p.m., **Dollar Days Weekend** (see above).

■ December 6th, 5 to 7 p.m., **Homewood by Candlelight**. Decorated for the holidays with garlands and boxwood by the Homeland Garden Club, Homewood exudes a festive spirit that is best witnessed at the museum's annual *Homewood by Candlelight* open house. Glittering candlelight throughout the museum make Homewood appear as it might have in the early 19th century. Rooms will be set for entertaining, the reception hall will be filled with the sounds of live music performed by student musicians of the Charles Street Quartet and David Hildebrand, and the museum shop will offer a wide variety of holiday gift-giving ideas. Eggnog and cookies will be served in the wine cellar. Tickets are \$6 for the general public and free for members.

■ December 12th, 12 to 4 p.m., **Silhouettes for the Holidays**. Watch the magic scissors of Erik Johnson, a master portraitist in the tradition of the silhouette artists of the 18th and 19th centuries, create a perfect gift for the holidays. One of the few remaining cut-paper artists still practicing in the Mid-Atlantic, Johnson will create an image of your little ones to treasure forever. Silhouette sittings take approximately 10 minutes.

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Framing available at additional cost. Tickets are \$40 for two copies of each portrait silhouette. Advance, pre-paid reservations are required. Call 410-516-5589.

On October 17th, people gathered at the studio at the **Potters Guild of Baltimore** (3600 Clipper Mill Road) for food, wine and a lesson in pottery at an Art to Dine party hosted by the Creative Alliance. Attendees were treated to warm soups, pies and wine, all served in pottery that was handmade by members of the Guild. The food and spirits were followed by a lesson in wheel working and guests were invited to try their hands at the wheel



Potters Guild of Baltimore member Judy Frederick shows guests how to take a turn at the wheel at the Guild's Art to Dine party in October. Photo: Jeffrey Reynolds

under the direction of experienced potters.

The Guild 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 or visit www.pottersguild.org. For more information about the Creative Alliance, visit www.creativealliance.org. ❖

After School

By Sally Foster

In the late afternoon
the family walks
along Ridgewood Road.
The mother is in front
with two dogs on leashes.
The young girl follows closely behind.
She holds out her arms...like she
is balancing.
Each hand holds a very large white
mushroom gathered from the woods.
A small boy holding a stick trots
along behind.
"You found a treasure," a passerby
says to the girl.
She turns. She trips. She falls.
The smashed mushrooms look
like mashed potatoes ... no longer treasures.
"Mommy...Mommy," the little girl cries.

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Calendar & Announcements

The **Roland Park Deli & Bakery**, a neighborhood favorite, will be moving in late January 2011. Pending zoning approval, owner Anita Ward will reopen in her new location at 3500 Chestnut Avenue in Hampden. In addition to her many Roland Park fans and supporters, Ward is pleased to have the support of the Hampden Merchants Association, which approves of the zoning change.

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 Sunday, December 5th, at 4 p.m., *Baltimore Sun* columnist and host of WYPR's daily public affairs program, Dan Rodricks, will moderate a roundtable discussion at **Bolton Street Synagogue** (212 W. Cold Spring Lane) on "The Future of Baltimore." The discussion will include an eclectic group of distinguished leaders from various disciplines, from politics to education and more. Rodrick's guests will include the Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, mayor of Baltimore; Lester Spence, assistant professor of Political

Science and Africana Studies at the Johns Hopkins University; Madison Smartt Bell, author of *All Souls' Rising: A Novel of Haiti*; Freeman Hrabowski, III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Joe Ehrmann, former Baltimore Colts player and president of Coach for America; and Janet Marie Smith, vice president of Planning and Development for the Baltimore Orioles. The live event will be taped and will air on *Midday with Dan Rodricks* the following day. To RSVP, please e-mail Debbie Barnes at dbarnes@boltonstreet.org. To learn more, please visit the synagogue's website at www.boltonstreet.org or call 410-235-5354. Bolton Street Synagogue is an open Jewish community rooted in tradition, and dedicated to fostering Jewish culture, learning, spirituality, prayer and social action in a participatory and intimate environment. ❖

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

brunch (X2)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SATURDAY *and* SUNDAY

New for Saturday brunch: SANDWICHES

CHOPTANK OYSTER FRITTER // ramp tartar,
pullman loaf, red cabbage slaw

ENGLISH MUFFIN BURGER // Lettuce, tomato,
fried egg, crispy onions, skillet potatoes

SMOKED PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH //
Gouda, cole slaw, fries, trencher

... and more



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Knowing the Rules of the Road: Marked Crosswalks

By Martha Marani

In Maryland, drivers must stop for pedestrians in a marked crosswalk (e.g., one with painted stripes). Violators are subject to a maximum fine of \$500 and, if an accident results, can be jailed for up to two months. Drivers who pass a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection are subject to the same penalties.

My children and I are in a school walkpool. As with a carpool, I share the responsibility of getting a group of children to school in the morning with other Friends School families. Rather than driving, though, we walk.

On our designated days, each parent gathers the children and walks the safest route to the school. This involves the occasionally unsafe crossing of Wyndhurst Avenue at Wyndhurst

Station. While there are two marked crosswalks, we often have trouble getting cars to stop for us. There have been times when drivers have yelled at us, sometimes using profanity, for getting in their way or slowing them down. One driver, likely a mother driving her own child to school, actually “flipped off” (used an obscene gesture) the walkpool parents and the children. Worse than that was the time when a high school student was walking his younger sister to school and had to pull her out of the way of a car that actually drove around the car that had stopped for them!

I’m sure many other parents who walk their children to school — using crosswalks at Roland or Wyndhurst avenues, Falls or Keswick roads, University Parkway or Cold Spring Lane — have experienced the same problems. And there are likely many other pedestrians — including people walking dogs and jogging — who have trouble as well. Some of us, frustrated and afraid for our safety and that of our children, are “mad as heck and not going to take it anymore.”

Sharing this information through the newsletter is just one of the actions we are taking to combat the problem of drivers ignoring the rules of the road. Others include noting the license plate number of a violator’s car and calling 311 to report them, and asking the leaders of Roland Park schools to take a stand with us. We are also asking everyone who sees a problem to report it. Call 311 and ask the City to improve crosswalk signage and marking. The more people who call, the more likely it is that the City will respond. In fact, calls from Betsey Todd, one of my fellow walkpool parents, have already resulted in new crosswalk signage on Wyndhurst Avenue (well done, Betsey!).

If you’re one of the many people who know and obey the crosswalk laws — or who simply stop out of courtesy or a desire that pedestrians (particularly children) have a safe experience — on behalf of all of us walkpoolers, “Thank you.” If you’re one of

the people who regularly ignore the law and speed up and down Roland or Wyndhurst Avenue without regard for pedestrians, be forewarned. There are those of us who feel that the safety of our children and the prevention of what could be a horrible accident far outweighs your need to get where you’re going 60 seconds sooner. ❖

Roland Park’s Marked Crosswalks

Falls Road and Cold Spring Lane
Falls Road and Northern Parkway
Roland Avenue and Northern Parkway
Roland Avenue and Gilman/Roland Park Country School entrances
Roland Avenue and Deepdene Road
Roland Avenue and Wyndhurst Avenue
Roland Avenue and Upland Road
Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road
Roland Avenue and Cold Spring Lane
University Parkway and Somerset Road
University Parkway and Keswick Road

University Parkway and Tudor Arms
Keswick Road and Cold Spring Lane
Keswick Road and University Parkway (north- and southbound)
Keswick Road and 40th Street
Keswick Road and 37th Street
Wyndhurst Avenue and Wilmslow Road
Wyndhurst Avenue and Lawndale Road
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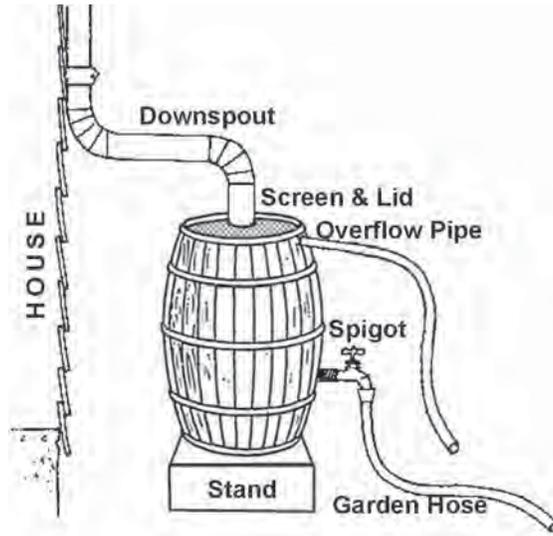
Rain Garden

By Vincent Vizachero

Residents of Roland Park are fully aware that our homes have roofs — the bills for repairing or replacing them tend to be far too large to go unnoticed. But, in addition to being a maintenance expense, our roofs play an important — and often negative — environmental role.

Most homes in Roland Park were designed so that rainwater flows off the roof, into a storm sewer and, ultimately, into the Chesapeake Bay. In many cases, the rainwater first flows along streets or lanes before entering a storm drain and ending up in Stony Run or the Jones Falls.

In a natural environment, this water would simply soak into the ground, with soil and vegetation acting as filters for the water. Instead, the water flows across lawns, sidewalks and streets, picking up sediment, debris, chemical pollutants and excess heat. Stony Run and the Jones Falls are already compromised by their urban setting and simply cannot healthfully handle the high volumes of over-heated, polluted water we allow to flow into them during rainstorms. The streams are, in



many ways, quite literally lifeless because of this.

Stream restoration — like the recent highly visible work done in Stony Run — can play an important role in bringing streams and rivers back to life, but there are also steps that individual homeowners can take. One method that almost any homeowner can undertake, often for free, is called “downspout disconnection.” Essentially, this means directing rainfall from your gutters not into the storm sewer system but into your yard.

To that end, we recently consulted with Dana Puzey of the Baltimore Water Alliance (the temporary name of a recently merged coalition of watershed associations) to examine our situation and come up with a plan for mitigating the stormwater impact of our property. We worked with the Alliance and

Employ the Earth, a local rain-friendly contractor, to install two rain barrels and a rain garden.



This rain garden is designed to capture what's not contained in the rain barrels after a typical Baltimore rainstorm.

Photo: Vince Vizachero

Our house has four downspouts, each of them traveling underground and emptying directly into Hawthorne Road, which, for our block, serves as an aboveground storm sewer. For each inch of rainfall, our house used to deliver nearly 1,000 gallons of water from our roof, into the street and then into Stony Run. That's more than 40,000 gallons in a typical year from our house alone.

Disconnecting our downspouts from the standpipes was the first step. In many ways, this was the easiest and most immediately beneficial part of the solution. Approximately half the runoff that flows from our roof now goes into the rain barrels, which are recycled oak whiskey barrels (an attractive alternative to the more common white, brown or green plastic barrels), which capture the first 100 gallons or so of runoff. We use the water in these barrels to for houseplants and flowerbeds. Any water that overflows the barrels goes into our rain garden.

Our rain garden is nearly 200 square feet, and is designed to



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Attending Washington University in St. Louis

Billy Collins '10

- Sustainability Club, head
- Varsity Tennis, Cross-country teams
- Guitar
- Participated in environmental service project in Haiti

Attending Bates College





This Roland Park rain garden is filled with native grasses, flowers and shrubs. Photo: Vince Vizachero

capture what's not contained in the rain barrels after a typical Baltimore rainstorm. At its most basic, a rain garden is simply a planted low spot in which rainwater accumulates and is absorbed into the water table.

In our installation, we excavated the existing soil from the garden area to a depth of about 18 inches, and replaced it with a custom soil mix produced by Hollins Organics that consists of 60 percent coarse sand, 20 percent Leafgro and 20 percent low clay content topsoil. This mix allows water to infiltrate the ground relatively quickly.

We used the excavated soil to create small berms — or earthen wall— around the garden so that, during heavy rainfalls, the water can form a very shallow and very temporary pond. During a heavy rainfall in late September, when we got nearly 6 inches of rain in 24 hours, for example, the rain garden was a 3-inch “puddle” during the heaviest rainfall, yet was gone within eight hours.

Rain gardens are typically planted with native grasses, flowers or shrubs, and our garden is no different. We filled it with tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*), white turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*), Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), ‘Red Sprite’ winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) and more. These beautiful native plants are easily found at nurseries like Green Fields, and they play important roles in the garden — their deep roots facilitate water absorption, and they serve as host plants for native birds and butterflies. The “mixed border” approach of our design, in which a combination of shrubs, grasses and perennials are planted together, was aimed at optimizing the hydrology of the garden.

The Baltimore Water Alliance has a number of different programs, many including rebates, that can be combined into a tailored solution for nearly any property. The Alliance is interested in working with Roland Park residents to improve the water quality of Stony Run and the Jones Falls, and I can say from experience that the process need not be painful or expensive. While installing a rain garden at this time of year may not be practical, it is not too early to begin planning for spring. ❖

For more information about the Baltimore Water Alliance, visit their website at www.baywatersheds.org, or contact Dana Puzey at 410-746-4170 or dpuzey@jonesfalls.org. For information about Employ the Rain, visit their website at www.employtherain.com or contact Mark Lutz at 301-775-5998.

Welcome New Neighbors! (August through October)

Sarah Deannehan, 3907 Keswick Road
John Antony Foreman, 206 Longwood Road
Thi and Courtney Bui, 123 Hawthorn Road
Steven Conti and Victoria Lancelotta, 4316 Roland Avenue
Robert Nye, IV, and Whitney Nye, 119 Beechdale Road
Jack Stout, Jr. and Lynn Cazabon, 114 Woodlawn Road
Kathleen Nolan, 3815 Beech Avenue
Christopher Brown, 564 W. University Parkway
Theodore Holder, 313 Overhill Road

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.

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Halloween in Roland Park

By Anne Stuzin

A trio of Gangsters, the Mad Hatter, Dracula and a Beauty Queen were among the many happy and excited trick-or-treaters that took to the streets for Halloween.

Artfully carved pumpkins greeted all on neighborhood steps, and ghosts flowed from trees.

Another spirited night in Roland Park!! ❖



Photo: Martha Marani, Anne Stuzin, Andy Weaver



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Bookends in Giving: Pam Corckran and Christie Coe

By Kathy Hudson

The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle (BWGC) is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Two Roland Parkers have been instrumental in its success: Pam Corckran and Christie Coe. Each grew up in "the 'hood," graduated from high school in 1965, went to college, married and had two children. They bought homes in Roland Park and became involved in area non-profits, most recently BWGC — Corckran as its visionary founder and first co-chair, and Coe as an active member and current co-chair.

BWGC was born from a magazine article that Corckran had carried around for years. "It was an article about a small group of professional women who decided to pool some of their money and give it back to the community," she remembers.



Pam Corckran (left) and Christie Coe work together to ensure the success of the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle. Photo: Anne Stuzin

"They chose a program where they thought their money would make an impact."

In 2000, Corckran, a professional social worker, chaired a committee organized by the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers (ABAG) to look at promoting philanthropy in Baltimore. ABAG had also just hired someone to run the Baltimore Giving Project to promote philanthropy directed at women. "Based on the article, we started talking about giving circles and, with great support from ABAG and a dedicated committee of women, we put together the concept and structure that exists

today, 10 years later," says Corckran.

The concept was simple: each woman would make an annual contribution of \$1,000. The contributions would be pooled and, after careful research, given as grants to existing non-profits benefiting Baltimore women and their children. The \$1,000 annual contribution was chosen so donors would pause and think about what they were giving.

With \$10,000 provided as seed money and staff support from the Baltimore Community Foundation, Corckran and founding co-chair Shelley Goldsecker officially launched BWGC at a luncheon in May 2001. Their plan was to sign up 35 women, but the number almost immediately grew to 52. Much of the appeal was that funds would come in, go out and quickly be put to work in the community. Another draw was the thorough investigation of potential non-profits by BWGC members. It was the first organization of its kind in this area.

Ten grants were given the first year, for a total of \$52,000, to organizations like the Caroline Center, Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity, New Song Urban Ministries, INNterim Housing Corporation and The Women's Housing Coalition.

"This year, \$317,245 in grants went to 20 Baltimore area non-profits," says Coe, a fundraising professional who, having learned "through the grapevine" about BWGC, joined in 2004. After six years on the grant committee, reviewing and evaluating proposals, Coe co-chaired the new visioning committee, which looks to the future so BWGC can learn about changes in Baltimore and prepare.

Coe points out that BWGC changed its mission some years back to include women and their families, rather than women and their children, to allow greater flexibility in grantmaking.

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M H I C 1 8 4 2 1

Butternut Squash Soup

By Ben Lefenfeld, Executive Chef, Petit Louis Bistro

- 1 large butternut squash
- ½ gallon chicken stock*
- 1 quart heavy cream
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ T. allspice
- 2 T. honey
- 2 Spanish onions
- 2 T. butter
- ¼ cup dark rum

Cut the squash in half and remove the seeds. Season with salt and a little bit of olive oil. Place the squash on a sheet tray and roast in a 375-degree oven until soft, about 1 hour. Remove the flesh and discard the skin.



Sauté the onions in butter until lightly caramelized. Add the rest of the ingredients. Slowly simmer for 1 hour. Puree and strain. I usually garnish this soup with Parmesan cheese and rosemary, but you can get creative with the garnish and try different things.

This also works well as a vegetarian soup. You simply have to replace the chicken stock with a vegetable stock. ❖

**If you use store-bought chicken stock, make sure it is low or no sodium so you can control the salt level.*

Bookends in Giving

These efforts to be flexible and foresighted are emblematic of an organization where education is key. Members learn about issues impacting Baltimore through panel discussions at three general meetings a year. Smaller meetings feature one or two speakers on issues of importance, like education and juvenile justice. Site visits to funded organizations provide further opportunity for education.

Members, however, are not required to do committee work. The only requirement is an \$1,100 annual contribution (\$100 was added a few years after BWGC began to cover administrative expenses).

BWGC also promotes the education of grant recipients with a program started three years ago called Grantee Connect. “Past grant recipients come together three times per year, about 25 in each meeting, to discuss topics of mutual interest among themselves — things like technology or board development,” says Coe.

Over the past 10 years, 107 organizations have received a total of almost \$2 million in grants. Membership has gone from 52 to 325, with members ranging from stay-at-home-moms to sitting judges.

“I find this organization such a joy,” says Coe. “In essence, it is intelligent women educating themselves about the serious problems in our city and supporting solutions with an optimistic attitude, while staying flexible to a changing environment.” ❖

The Baltimore Women’s Giving Circle welcomes new members. For more information, call 410-332-4171 or go to www.thebwgc.org.

The advertisement for Foreman Wolf Charleston features a central logo with the name 'Foreman Wolf' in a cursive script and 'CHARLESTON' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo are three small images: a dining table with a white tablecloth and glassware, a close-up of a hand holding a fork over a plate, and a chef in a white uniform working at a station. The main text reads 'Celebrate the Season' in a large, serif font. Below this, the menu options are listed: 'Lunch Tuesday through Friday' with '3 courses \$44 w/wine \$69' and '5 course tasting menu \$68 w/wine \$98'. The dinner service is listed as 'Monday through Saturday' from '5:30pm to 10:00pm'. At the bottom, the address '1000 LANCASTER ST | BALTIMORE, MD 21202 | (410) 332-7373' and website 'WWW.CHARLESTONRESTAURANT.COM' are provided, along with the Foreman Wolf logo.

Village at Home

Continued from page 1

application/service agreement. We are working on a member handbook.

We have satisfied a multitude of legal, insurance and IRS requirements.

We are implementing an integrated constituent management system. Available to us through the Village-to-Village Network, a national consortium of Villages, this system is specifically designed to help Villages manage day-to-day operations. This will include, around the beginning of next year, a new website to facilitate member sign-up and online contributions.

Call to Action

Community members can participate in Village At Home in a variety of ways. Please call 410-235-3171 and leave a message for any of the Board members or staff. Or email any of us at info@villageathome.org.

Small “community conversations” proved very effective in creating a dialogue between area residents and Village At Home and in finding prospective members. If you would like to host such a gathering, please call Bob Hearn.

If you have a terrific plumber, electrician, computer repairperson, handyman, housecleaner, personal trainer, or any other service provider whose name you would like to share, please contact Brett Cohen.

We are accepting pre-paid memberships, which are offered at a discount prior to launch of services (see sidebar). Although we will not use the funds from pre-paid memberships until services are launched, each pre-paid membership helps us toward our goal of 100 memberships at launch and shows potential donors that we have community support. If you want to join now or think you might be interested, please contact Susan Newhouse.

Sign on as a volunteer. We need more Village Ambassadors now to help us spread the word. We will need volunteers later to work directly with member service requests. If interested, please contact Melissa Spevak or Mary Page Michel.

Charter memberships are available for those who wish to take a leadership role in launching Village At Home services. While we have received several modest grants and more foundation applications are pending, Villages raise the majority of their funds within their own communities, from individual donors and small family foundations. Village At Home is a 501(c) 3 organization and all contributions are tax-exempt. Please contact David Blumberg if you are interested in a Charter Member opportunity.

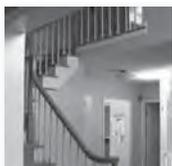
“We are following a national model,” explains Blumberg, president of the Board of Directors. “Yet each Village is unique — a homegrown project. This means we need homegrown support — the support of everyone in this community — to make this a reality. These are tough times and that is all the more reason that we need this organization. We are confident that our community will support this wonderful initiative.” ❖

For more information on the Village At Home, visit the website at villageathome.org.



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Annual Membership Fees (2011)

Individual Membership	\$399
Household Membership	\$749
1st 50 Memberships	
Prior to Launch of Services	\$100 discount
Additional Memberships	
Prior to Launch of Services	\$50 discount

Since Village At Home's modest fees cover less than 50 percent of the cost per person to operate the Village, we ask members to consider a donation in addition to the membership fee.

Board of Directors (2010 – 2011)

David Blumberg
Brett Cohen
Jake Eldridge
Catherine Gearhart
Robert Hearn
Donald Kann
Steven Lutzky
Mary Page Michel
Mary Ann Mears
Melissa Spevak

Village Voices: Why We Need Village At Home

“What I love about Village At Home is its great potential for fostering intergenerational connections, which will build community and enrich our lives.”

Catherine Gearhart, Intervention Teacher, Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

“While I will continue to use our trusted contractors, I will join for the vendors alone. It will be a relief, on new problems and projects in this old house, to know that I will not be overcharged and that they’ll do a good job.”

Kathy Hudson, freelance journalist.

Village At Home was featured in Kathy’s blog “Hudson’s Corner on the Web” on September 9th (www.explorebaltimorecounty.com/blog/hudsons-corner/218/village-at-home)



“I enjoy the comforts of being in my own home, on my own schedule, cooking in my own kitchen and in the good company of my cats. Village At Home would allow me to continue my life on my own terms.”

Ellie Wang, physical therapist and freelance actor

“What matters to me most about Village At Home is that it not only offers practical services but, more importantly, it builds community and strengthens our ties to each other. I love the idea that Village volunteers might drive me to the airport and, on the way, I will meet interesting people and expand my community. In turn, I will help with Village organization, which is my strength.”



“As I grow older, I want to sit on my back porch and watch the neighbor’s children play. I want that sense of continuity. Village At Home will help me to stay in my own home and be a part of the community.”

Bob Hearn, retired political scientist and administrator, the Johns Hopkins University

Ann Irvine, retired U.S. State Department Foreign Service officer

“Village At Home will strengthen our neighborhoods for years to come.”

Mary Ann Mears, artist and arts advocate



“Village At Home is an idea that needs to happen now! It would entice immediate membership from many area residents and certainly would coax me to stay in my beloved home in the woods.”

Sue Hess, founding member of Maryland Citizens for the Arts



“I am at the point where I need to make a decision. I am reaching the point where I cannot stay in my house unless I have additional support. For many older people, the market is preventing the time-honored solution of selling our homes and moving into a retirement community. Village At Home would be a god-send.”

Joan Bromberg, retired historian and author

Villages in the News

On July 26th, USA Today’s Haya El Nasser wrote a feature article, “Villages’ let elderly grow old at home” (www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-07-26-aging26_ST_N.htm).

On August 23rd, NPR’s Jennifer Ludden did a segment called “Villages’ Help Neighbors Age At Home” (www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=129086737).

EnergyWise: I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas

By Shannon Putman and Lynn Heller

The holidays are a great time to be green. Here are a few suggestions:

Holiday decorations and wrapping

- Buy light-emitting diode (LED) tree lights and outdoor lights. Though more expensive than conventional holiday lights, LED lights use 90 percent less energy, saving money over time, according to the Sierra Club (www.sierraclub.org/tips/holidays/asp). They are sold online, and locally at Stebbins Anderson (802 Kenilworth Drive, Towson) and Home Depot, among others.
- Buy your Christmas tree from a local, preferably organic, farm, ensuring that you'll get a tree that was raised without pesticides. Feezers Farm in Baltimore County (3700 Wards Chapel Road, Marriottsville) specifically advertises organic Christmas trees on its website (www.feezersfarm.com). Other local tree farms include Applewood Farm in Harford County (4435 Prospect Road, Whiteford, applewoodfarm.org), and Gaver Farm (5501 Detrick Road, Mt. Airy, www.gavertreefarm.com) and Pine Valley Farms (1150 Fannie Dorsey Road, Sykesville, www.pinevalleyfarms.com) in Carroll County.

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- Consider making your own menorah out of household materials.
 - Be creative with your holiday wrapping. According to the Sierra Club, most wrapping paper that is mass-produced is not recyclable and ends up in landfills. If every American family wrapped just three gifts without traditional wrapping paper, enough paper would be saved to cover 45,000 football fields. Here are a few ideas for how to avoid using traditional wrapping paper:
 - Use a reusable grocery bag
 - Use extra children's artwork or school papers
 - Use old newspapers — the comics and other colorful sections work best, particularly if you can highlight a story of particular interest to the gift recipient
 - Decorate (or have your children decorate) those brown paper grocery bags you've collected when you (oops!) forgot to bring your reusable bag
 - Hanukkah lasts for eight nights, so reuse wrapping from the previous night's gifts
 - Save wrapping paper from gifts you receive this year so you can reuse it next year
 - Write a letter to Santa asking him not to use wrapping paper on small gifts, like stocking-stuffers
 - Use as much organic, locally grown food as possible in your holiday cooking.
 - For those holiday parties, use reusable gift bags for host gifts.
 - Recycle all gift packaging that is recyclable (note that packing peanuts can be recycled at most mailing and shipping stores).
 - When the holidays are over, recycle your Christmas tree. The City will mulch your tree. Keep an eye out for the location of drop-off sites. You can either drop your tree and take some mulch home with you to use in your garden, or let the City use the mulch for community gardens. For more information, visit the Department of Public Works website and search on "Christmas tree" (www.baltimorecity.gov).
- ### "Green" Gift Ideas
- For the gardener, consider the Norpro 1-gallon stainless steel compost keeper. This posh 10.5- by 8- by 8-inch container looks great on the counter and its replaceable charcoal filter in the lid helps hide odors for more than 6 months at a time. It's a perfect way to conveniently save vegetable scraps, eggshells and coffee grounds for the compost bin. You can find it at Amazon.com for \$41.28.
 - For the shopper, buy a set of reusable bags. Waste-less Bags hold up to 25 pounds and can carry twice as much as plastic grocery bags. They are durable, waterproof and, at \$20.27 for six at Amazon.com, a real bargain.
 - For parents of school-aged children, lunchskins make a fabulous

Continued on page 19

Energy Wise

gift. These BPA-free, dishwasher-safe, reusable lunch sacks easily pack sandwiches and snacks and, at \$8.95 per bag, pay for themselves within a month or so. Pick from their adorable assortment at www.lunchskins.com or buy them at Stebbins Anderson.

Another great gift is the Fleebags insulated oilcloth lunch box. You can find them at Gundy's Gifts (739 Deepdene Road) or online at Fleebags.com.



- For the caffeine junky, a wide variety of organic teas can be found at www.arbortees.com or www.choiceorganictes.com. These teas are grown without the use of pesticides and chemicals, making them safer for the farmers and wildlife. For the coffee drinker, www.groundsforchange.com offers 100 percent Fair Traded coffee beans for purchase that have also been grown organically and in the shade. A three-month sampler is available for \$62.95.
- For the explorer, the Hybride Lite solar-charged LED flashlight is sure to come in handy. Buy it at www.hybridelite.com for \$24.95.
- For the entertainer, consider beeswax candles, cloth napkins and recycled glassware. Wonderful varieties are available at www.vivaterra.com.
- For someone in need of a day of pampering, buy a gift certificate to Baltimore's own organic salon, Sprout, located on the Avenue in Hamden (925 W. 36th Street). For a list of their services, visit www.sproutsalon.com.
- For the trendsetter, consider purchasing vintage at one of the local consignment shops, such as Re Deux (5002 Lawndale) or Myrtle Dove (5006 Lawndale) in Wyndhurst Station, or Lilly Pad of Towson (6907 York Road, Towson).
- For the commuter, buy credits on a carbon-offset website, such as Terra Pass (www.terrapass.com) or the Carbonfund.org (www.carbonfund.org) to neutralize the carbon dioxide created during an average day by supporting a variety of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- For the water conscious, buy a rain barrel. An elegant and user-friendly model is available at www.eartheasy.com for \$148.95 or locally at a variety of hardware stores, including Schneider's Paint and Hardware (700 Wyndhurst Avenue).

- For the chef, consider buying a membership to a community sponsored agriculture (CSA) farm for seasonal local and organic produce. One Straw Farm in White Hall, Maryland (www.onestrawfarm.com), and Spoutwood Farm in Glen Rock, Pennsylvania (www.spoutwood.org), are excellent options.
- For children, www.childtrek.com is an excellent site for safely crafted and creative toys, from wooden trucks, to organic cotton dolls, to science kits. Green Toys, a new product line available at Amazon.com, make plastic trucks from 100 percent recycled milk jugs. The recycled truck is a bargain at \$14.75 on Amazon.com.
- For the athlete, a stainless steel water bottle will be well used, and they are available in many local stores, such as Wegmans (122 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley) and Whole Foods (1330 Smith Avenue and 1001 Fleet Street), or online for \$8.95 at www.eartheasy.com.
- For the chocolate lover, introduce endangered species Chocolate, which combines gourmet chocolate with the goal of saving threatened or endangered animals. It's available at www.chocolatebar.com.
- For the game lover, National Park Monopoly, available at Amazon.com for \$35.95, will likely fuel a passion for America's natural spaces.
- For the backyard enthusiast, a native plant will provide a happy habit for local wildlife and allow for low-maintenance yard care. For a complete list of resources, check out the Maryland Native Plant website at www.mdflora.org.
- For the beauty buff, check out Bert's Bee's products, including the new acai berry lip balm, the peppermint and rosemary body bar, and the citrus ginger root body wash. Available online at www.bertsbees.com or locally at many retailers, including Whole Foods.
- For the museum lover, membership to a local museum is a wonderful gift.
- For your neighbor, the gift of time (to wash their car, bake them some cookies, rake their leaves, shovel their snow, etc.) would be terrific.
- For the nature lover or environmentalist, support one of the many projects offered by the Environmental Defense Fund (www.edf.org) or the Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org), or plant a tree in a rainforest through Trees for the Future (www.plant-trees.org) or in a National Forest through Trees for Change (www.treesforchange.com).
- For the person who needs nothing or wants to help people overseas, a donation to an international aid organization can be valuable and educational. For those without a favorite organization, ours include OxFam America (www.oxfamamerica.org), Save the Children (www.savethechildren.org), Water for People (www.waterforpeople.org) and the Heifer Project (www.heifer.org).

Whatever your gift choices, happy holidays! ❖

Introducing *The Guide to Greater Roland Park*

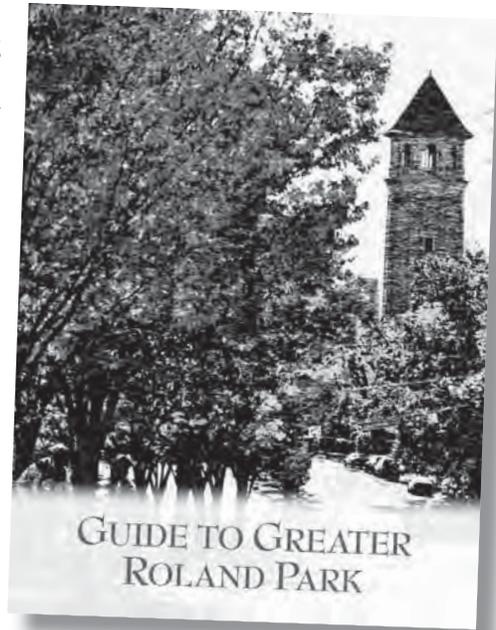
Next summer, the Roland Park Community Foundation will launch an exciting new publication — *The Guide to Greater Roland Park*. Targeted to newcomers and current residents of Roland Park, Evergreen, Keswick, Tuxedo Park, Embla Park, the Village of Cross Keys and beyond, the *Guide* will include valuable information on local restaurants, shops, banks, schools, houses of worship, recreational opportunities, and much, much more. The *Guide* will also feature:

- Historic and current photographs
- Maps of the footpaths, including walking tour highlights
- Recommended contractors for home renovation, roofing, plumbing and more

Advertising Opportunities: Reserve advertising space for your business now! With a targeted distribution to the Greater Roland Park community and a long shelf life, the biennial *Guide* will provide a unique opportunity to reach your customers.

Publication is planned for June 2011. For more information on how you can build your local business through *The Guide to Greater Roland Park*, contact Meg Rice at 410-377-8869 or by email at Guide@rolandpark.org.

Greater Roland Park residents, stay tuned for details on how you can get your copy of The Guide to Greater Roland Park.



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Neighbors In the News

The addition to the Roland Park home of Allen and Amanda Hance is featured in the November issue of *Style Magazine*. The Hances hired Polly Bart of Greenbuilders Inc. to help them build in an environmentally sensitive manner. “Green” features in the family’s new kitchen include a responsibly harvested Bolivian rosewood floor, energy-efficient radiant hot-water heating system, domestic soapstone countertops and high-efficiency windows. In addition, the new appliances have earned the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy Energy Star rating. Along with Greenbuilders, the following contractors were also involved in the project: Place Inc., architects; RTS Home Improvement Inc., carpenters; Campbell Designs Inc.; Kenwood Kitchens, cabinetry; Alberene Soapstone Co., countertops; and JG Architectural Supply, flooring.



This Roland Park kitchen has been updated with many “green” features.
Photo: Kirsten Beckerman, *Style Magazine*

Please send all Neighbors In the News items to Newsletter@rolandpark.org.

Roads & Maintenance News: Getting Ready for Winter

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

Leaves

As the beautiful colors of fall give way to the dreary gray of winter, we are left with the cleanup. When rounding up the leaves, don't forget to clean up those on the sidewalk all around your property and along the edges of the street, especially around storm drains. In addition to clogging storm drains, leaves left in the street get wet, freeze and form a hazardous surface for walkers and drivers that can last all winter — not a happy legacy of the fall. After raking up the leaves and filling your compost bin to overflowing, bag those that remain to be picked up by the City. Here's the deal:

Bagged Leaf Season: Monday, November 1st, 2010, through Friday, January 28th, 2011, with the exception of December 27th, a mandatory furlough day, and January 17th, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

- Scheduled pickup: 15 bags from each address; call 311 before Friday at 10 a.m. for pickup on the following Monday
- Regular pickup: Five bags from each address every week on regular trash collection day

Drop-off: Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Northwest Transfer Station, 5030 Reisterstown Road; and Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at these Bureau of Solid Waste locations:

- Quarantine Road Sanitary Landfill, 6100 Quarantine Road
- Western Sanitation Yard, 701 Reedbird Avenue
- Eastern Sanitation Yard, 6101 Bowleys Lane
- Northwest Sanitation Yard, 2840 Sisson Street

Put leaves in clear or labeled bags, and don't leave them in the public right-of-way.

Snow

After the leaves are raked, we look forward (or not) to shoveling snow. We hope (or don't) there will be less of the fluffy stuff to shovel than there was last winter. By City ordinance, shoveling the sidewalks on all sides of your property is your responsibility. It's also the neighborly thing to do (clearing a path from your front door to your car is not!). After the snow has been walked on, melted and refrozen, it becomes treacherous and is virtually impossible to shovel, so it's important to shovel as soon as the last flake falls or, in the case of a heavy snow, several times during the storm. Your neighbors will thank you as they walk their dogs, children or themselves to Eddie's, Starbucks, the library, Petit Louis or Schneider's (all great snowstorm destinations!). Help keep Roland Park as pedestrian-friendly in winter as it is in every other season.

Please remember that Roads & Maintenance (R&M) is responsible for clearing snow from lanes (alleys) when 4 inches or more falls. The lanes must remain passable for fire, trash and utility trucks

(not just so that homeowners can get to their garages). Clearing public streets is the City's responsibility. A call to 311 is the best action to take if your street hasn't been cleared.

Organic Debris

You may have noticed brightly colored tags attached to organic debris piles around the neighborhood. This is a new initiative for R&M to ensure that people who pay eight times their basic fees have their debris collected, and that our contractor knows which debris piles to collect. Simply providing the contractor with a list of addresses doesn't work, since some people put their debris in front of their property, some in the back, and some on the side. In addition, some houses don't have numbers on them.

With an updated map of Roland Park, including the lanes, Vince Vizachero, vice president for Maintenance, is working with the contractor to streamline this service. Only debris piles with the colored tags will be picked up. ❖



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Crime Watch

By Heather MacGregor

During a neighborhood crime prevention meeting on October 6th, police encouraged residents to call 911 to report suspicious activity, as suspects are often spotted before an incident but the police usually only get involved if a crime has occurred.

This was true in the armed robbery of a couple on Longwood Road in August, explained Deputy Major Richard Worley, who spoke to the estimated 60 residents who attended the meeting. Before the robbery, neighbors saw the suspects, wearing ski masks, sitting in a car parked on Longwood Road, yet they didn't call the police, Worley said.

"This is your neighborhood," Worley explained, encouraging residents to report anything that appears out of the ordinary. Calls are prioritized by the police dispatcher, and it's important to get the information on the record, he said.

One way to address neighborhood crime is to create a neighborhood crime watch, encouraged Officer Douglas Gibson, who heads community policing in the area and who also attended the October meeting.

Resident Peter Savage, who spearheaded a civilian patrol immediately after the Longwood Road robbery, agreed to organize a neighborhood watch. Savage said he would work with the police to identify a pattern of problems and to create a plan based on their recommendations.

"We can help police by extending their reach, by having more eyes

and ears on the street," said Savage, who organized a neighborhood watch in the 1970s and has an extensive background in security.

The Longwood Road robbery was one of three reported in Roland Park in 2010 (as of October). Only one was reported in 2009.

(Note that robbery involves the criminal taking or attempting to take something of value from the victim(s) by use of force, threats or intimidation. Burglary involves the criminal unlawfully entering a structure to commit a felony or a theft.)



Worley said police are convinced the suspects in the Longwood Road robbery were later arrested for a home invasion on York Road, yet they are unlikely to face charges for the Roland Park incident because the police can't put them at the scene of the crime. If the neighbors had called 911 when they saw two men in ski masks in the middle of summer, it could have been a different story.

The increased crime in Roland Park is contrary to the trend in Baltimore, where 404 fewer robberies (a nearly 17 percent decrease) were reported, which brought the number down to 1,980 citywide.

"The general trend is downward," Gibson explained.

The numbers of robberies decreased by 18.4 percent in the

Crime Prevention Tips

Provided by the Northern District

Vehicles

- Remove all items (e.g., GPS device, laptops, radar detectors, cell phones, etc.)
- Lock all car doors
- Use anti-theft devices and vehicle alarms
- Park in well-lit areas

Burglary Prevention

- Secure doors and windows at all times
- Lock garages and sheds
- Have adequate outdoor lighting (including motion-activated lights)
- Trim trees and shrubs away from windows and doors

- Leave porch lights on
- Keep drapes and shades in a normal position
- Don't leave easily movable valuables in sight (close to windows)

General Prevention

- Record serial numbers of your property (e.g., bicycles, computers, etc.)
- Engrave your driver's license number on your property
- Be observant of suspicious activity
- Report suspicious activity by calling 911

Holiday Organizing

By Mary Cate Slay, Owner, Charm City Organizers, LLC

Feeling overwhelmed going into the holidays? Reduce your stress with these top five ways to get (and stay) organized for this busy season!



Basement before.



Basement after. Photo: Mary Cate Slay

1. Purge and donate. There are so many things in your home that others can use this winter. Get a head start on the spring cleanout and donate some of that clutter to charity now. You'll immediately feel that sense of calm and clarity during a busy time of year and you'll be able to claim the deductions in 2010!
2. Schedule the guest area set-ups. Pick a random weekday night and get one bedroom ready for a guest. Set a timer for 20 minutes. You'll be surprised that that's all it takes for one room. If you don't have anyone staying in them until your guests are due to arrive, why not do it this week?
3. Shop online. You can find great deals by doing your shopping on the Internet, not to mention the time you'll save having someone else do the delivering. And, please ... don't wait until mid-December!

4. Pre-clean. One of the worst things we can do to ourselves is save all of the house cleaning until the week our guests arrive. If you're not a squeaky cleaner every week, just spot clean and keep clutter from building from now until the big day. The job will be much easier later on.

5. Plan your menus. Pick some time-friendly dishes and grocery shop when the stores are less busy, if possible. With exception of the main course, no dish should require longer than 25 to 30 minutes of preparation time. You can still have a tasty sit-down meal without being in the kitchen or grocery store for a straight 48 hours.

Happy organizing and happy holidays! ❖

For more information on Charm City Organizers, visit their website at www.charmcityorganizers.net.

Crime Watch

Northern District, where Roland Park is located, to 213 as of October. The Northern District covers roughly 14.5 square miles, and runs from the Baltimore County line to the north, 22nd Street to the south, the Alameda to the east and Pimlico Road to the west.

Burglaries have also increased in Roland Park. There were nine more burglaries in 2010 compared to same period in 2009, when there were 17. Of the 26 that have occurred this year, 12 break-ins took place in garages or sheds, 10 in homes, and four in either commercial or school properties, Gibson said.

Citywide, burglary is down, but it's up about 7.5 percent in the Northern District, to 933.

Roland Park Civic League President Ian MacFarlane said the organization would meet to discuss the best way to support the neighborhood crime watch.

Savage said a neighborhood watch gives people someone to call

if they are nervous about a situation. For example, during the October meeting, a Gladstone Avenue resident complained about drug use in a nearby residence, saying that she felt fearful when she walked from her car to the house. If a neighborhood watch phone chain was in place, she could just call someone nearby so that she didn't have to walk alone, Savage said. Police confirmed the drug activity on Gladstone Avenue.

People interested in joining the more than 5,000 crime watchers in the Northern District are encouraged to email Savage at pvsavage2001@yahoo.com or to call 410-532-6727. You can also sign up directly with the police department. For more information about the City's Operation Crime Watch program, visit www.baltimorecity.gov/Residents/HealthSafety/4StepsToFightingCrime/PreventCrime/OperationCrimeWatch.aspx.

In addition to participating in the neighborhood watch, police said residents can schedule a home safety inspection with police, and can patrol the district with officers either on foot or in cars. ❖

Roland Park's 2nd Annual Ciclovía

By Rita Walters

I offer a heartfelt thank you to all those who were instrumental in this year's ciclovía, but it hardly seems enough.

To Mike McQuestion, the visionary leader, tireless advocate and head cheerleader for sustainability in our community, who moved this project along with breakneck speed ...

To the Roland Park Civic League, the



The ciclovía organizers enjoy the day. Photo: Susan Griisser

To the many volunteers who passed out leaflets, served as crossing guards, hauled chairs and tables, arrived early, left late, moved your cars to the other side, walked or biked to religious services, purchased cookies from the Girl



A participant shows his skills on his penny-farthing bicycle. Photo: Sally Foster



Slaloming down Roland Avenue is a rare treat. Photo: Sally Foster

Scouts and chalk for the kids, invited friends to join us, and made phone calls on our behalf ...

leading organization and catalyst in the funding of this project ...

To our elected officials, Mary Pat Clarke and Sharon Green Middleton, who support us through every challenge and who, joining with us that day, continue to support us through every triumph ...

To all those City workers, who, like many of us, are too accustomed to the sting of criticism, and who sometimes grow weary and may even question their calling, but who, in the end, let their love for the City of Baltimore and her potential prevail ...

To our corporate sponsor and our non-profit supporters, and to Roland Park's merchants, retailers and religious organizations...



Young and old had fun at the ciclovía. Photo: Sally Foster

This event began in Roland Park but it should not end in Roland Park, so to our neighbors and friends up and down Roland Avenue, W. University Parkway, 33rd Street and beyond, who joined with us that day to celebrate the beginning of a partnership ...

To those named above, but mostly to those who've been left unnamed, I say, "Thank you." Your contribution of time and energy helped to make a stretch of Roland Avenue a vital, harmonious and happy place to spend a Sunday morning. Even if that were all it was about, it would have been enough, but, more than that, you led by example and witnessed for our leaders, friends and neighbors across the City. What would we do without you?

You have my deep and abiding gratitude. ❖

Indoor Bulbs for Outdoor Blooms

By Peter Bieneman, General Manager of Green Fields Nursery

Winter brings all gardeners inside at some point. Forcing bulbs for indoor bloom is an easy project to keep us occupied during those less than ideal gardening months. The process is easy to master. Daffodils, tulips, hyacinth and crocuses are the top choices. These are hardy bulbs from temperate areas that require a cold period to bloom. You need to get started now to ensure a timely winter display.

Selecting Bulbs

When selecting tulips and daffodils, only pick healthy top size bulbs at least 12 centimeters in circumference (these are European standard sizes) for best results. Avoid bargain bags that are really no bargain, as the bulbs are often undersized and not guaranteed to be of bloom size. The bulbs should be firm and blemish free. Pick compact varieties and experiment with color combinations. I love the Emperor tulips and Tête-à-Tête narcissus, as they are compact in habit

Materials

Choose sterilized containers with large drainage holes. My pot of choice is a shallow terra cotta bulb pan. They are the perfect scale and work very well, as they wick excess moisture from the soil.

Your potting medium is essential to healthy bulb growth. Pick a professional mix that is peat-based. I recommend Pro-Mix. You can add perlite, vermiculite or sand to improve drainage. Use a small piece of screen in the bottom of your pot to cover the drainage hole, and add broken clay shards, again for drainage.

Dusting your bulbs with cinnamon, a natural fungicide, helps prevent fungal diseases.

Planting

Fill your pots about three-quarters full with your potting medium. Tulip bulbs should be planted flat side against the edge of the pot, as this is where a large leaf will later emerge. The bulbs should be relatively tight, but not touching. Tops of tulips and daffodils should show above the soil slightly. Minor bulbs and corms, including snowdrops and crocus, should be covered with no more than an inch of soil. It is important to label your pots with the variety and date planted; you'll thank yourself later. Give your pots a good deep watering over the sink, enough so that you see water dripping out.

The Forcing Trick

Forcing bulbs in pots differs from common potting techniques. Pot storage is vital to successful blooming. The pots must have a minimum of 10 weeks of cold storage between 40 to 50 degrees. This period mimics what is happening when we plant in the ground and allows for root formation. Pots can be buried outside and covered with a material that will not freeze solid, such as leaves, peat moss or straw. To discourage squirrels from raiding your pots, sprinkle powdered cayenne pepper on top. An unheated shed or garage is also acceptable. Storage in a loose, opaque plastic bag in the refrigerator also works well. Be sure to keep ripening fruit separate; it interferes with the embryonic development of the flower buds.



Forcing bulbs for indoor bloom is an easy project. Photo: Peter Bieneman

Back Inside

After proper cold storage, you should see evidence of yellow shoots. Move your pots to a sunny warm inside location, keep them well watered and rotate them toward the light for even growth. Remember, the warmer you keep them, the faster they bloom out. A cooler environment will lengthen their beauty once they bloom.

After Care

Plant hardy bulbs outside after bloom and always leave foliage up to help nourish the bulb. Many forced bulbs fail to re-bloom, but some, like Darwin Hybrid and Fosteriana tulips, may.

Bulbs That Need no Cold Storage

There are bulbs, native to warmer climates, that don't need cold storage. Paperwhite narcissus and Amaryllis dominate this category for good reason; they are very easy to cultivate. Follow the above directions for indoor bulb planting, not forcing. These bulbs need warm indoor temperatures to grow. These are reliable and provide winter blooms, while their cold hardy cousins are still chilling. Look for Chinese sacred lilies, a form of narcissus — which is not Chinese, sacred nor a lily — to force as a yellow alternative to paper whites.

Top Picks for Forcing

Tulips: Red Emperor, Angelique, Apricot Beauty

Daffodil: Tête-à-Tête, Rip Van Winkle, Erlicheer

A Composer Who Creates Musical “Sound Portraits”

An Interview with Vivian Adelberg Rudow

By Henry Mortimer

Roland Park resident Vivian Adelberg Rudow is an award-winning composer and performance artist whose music has been performed and recorded locally, at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, as well as globally, at venues in Australia, Austria, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Puerto Rico, Spain, South Africa and The Netherlands. Despite her international standing, the trio of compositions on her latest CD, Love, Loss, and Lawyers, which has been called “poignant, whimsical, deeply musical,” and “outrageously entertaining,” is firmly rooted in her north Baltimore neighborhood.

Describe the idea behind Love, Loss, and Law. What inspired you to compose music on these three seemingly disparate topics?

The CD is comprised of three different compositions. *With Love*, a fantasy for live



cello and decorated cello cases, was composed in memory of Myrtle Hollins Adelberg and completed in 1986. It is a “sound portrait” of two women, the warm and sweet “Electronic Mom” (with dialogue) and “Electronic Woman,” an instrumental piece about a spirited career woman with no children.

The idea for the piece came from Amalie Rothschild, a prominent Baltimore artist who asked if cello cases reminded me of women. I replied, yes, and suggested that if she could turn them into women, I’d compose music to go with them. So Amalie created two hysterical-looking women “statues” using two cello cases, and I planted Polk speakers inside and directed the sounds for each woman to the cello case it represented. I noticed right away that one statue kind of looked like Amalie, so I decided to make it a musical self-portrait for “Mom.” What I did not realize at the time was that the

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other cello case woman wore glasses and was probably a portrait of me!

With Love has been performed around the world, both live and recorded. The first performance, at the Baltimore Museum of Art by Res Musica Baltimore, featured [Baltimore Symphony Orchestra] cellist Paula Childress, who sat between the two women cello case statues and engaged in a delightful musical conversation. When Res Musica performed With Love live on tour, I could always count on the silver-haired men in the audience to be in tears by the end of the piece. While it's true that women love their mothers, men do too, and greatly so! *With Love* won a first place prize in the 14th International Electroacoustic Music Competition in Bourges, a very rare win for a woman. But my name, Vivian, is also a man's name in Europe and they didn't know I was a woman.

What about the other compositions? How did they come about?

Portrait of a Friend was conceived in a different way. I needed a logo for stationary and asked an artist friend to create it for me; as payment, I offered to compose music for him. He agreed, and I began interviewing his family. But they were so quiet, I could barely get any recorded material to use. Finally, I realized he might be getting a divorce. So, with his permission, I incorporated only his conversations about the divorce, interweaving his thoughts about when he was happily married, as a racetrack driver, and a garden enthusiast. I added the music for songs later, and Grace Cavalieri wrote the lyrics. On the recording, Howard Carr performs as tenor.

Portraits of Lawyers, in memory of Harry Adelberg, features conversations with lawyers and non-lawyers about the practice of law. My goal was to inspire people to become honest lawyers of integrity, engaged in helping people. A huge variety of law practices are mentioned, including "Family," "Lawyers Out West," "Native American," "General," "Tax," "The Drone," and "Stress." "Cuban Lawyer," the last one composed, was released as a single and received numerous radio performances.

The liner notes call the CD "a collection of music documentaries." What does that mean?

Each of the three pieces is a unique, strong, engaging set of "sound portraits" that includes recorded dialogue mixed with my music. Because it's a different music technique, I thought "music documentaries" helped to explain that there was discussion and oral history in each piece. I used these elements to create a change in textures, dynamics and emotions.

Did living in Baltimore, more specifically Roland Park, offer any inspiration for your compositions? Are there any local connections in the music?

Each composition incorporates some dialogue by Roland Park or nearby residents. Some of the words spoken about mothers or being a mother in *With Love*, for instance, were contributed by the late Amalie and Randy Rothschild; Roland Park residents Gail, Rachel and Sara Bendit; Debby Hudson and her newborn son, Patrick, Jr.; Kathy and Ed Layne; plus Bill, Steve and Lenny Rudow.

Many of the pieces on the CD were composed separately, at different times. Do you notice any differences?

I can tell the difference in composition technique between the earlier pieces, from the late 1980s, and the more recent ones. Early on, I took my time with the music and words, developing slowly.

Later, I used the material as quickly as possible. Which is how I compose today.

Why are you releasing these compositions now?

The earlier compositions were released on professional music labels, so I wanted the music to reach the everyday music lover, people who enjoy something different.

What are you working on next?

My new CD, *Vivian's Garden of Music*, which does not incorporate dialogue, is the kind of music people love to hear. It will include my music recorded by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, along with cello music recorded by the late Stephen Kates, a Tchaikovsky Silver Medal Winner, and "Johns' Song," performed by Edward Hoffman, trumpet, and Jonathan Jensen, keyboard.

Visit Vivian Rudow's website at www.vivianadelbergudow.com to hear samples from Love, Loss and Law, including the voices of Debbie and Patrick Hudson, Jr., from *With Love*. ❖

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.

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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

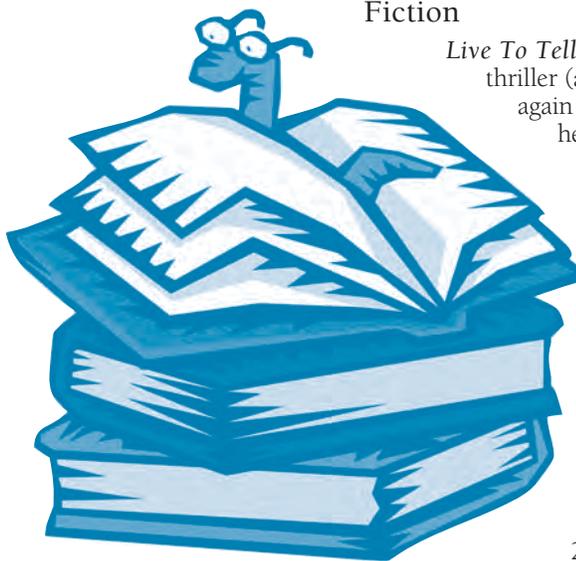
Welcome to the Book Nook!

I hope you were one of the 51 people who attended our program given by author Michael Lisicky on his book *Hutzler's: Where Baltimore Shops*. It was our best-attended adult program ever — so many came, we had to move from the meeting room to the children's area. Check out the branch blog for photos (www.prattlibrary.org/locations/rolandpark/).

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

Editorial reviews are excerpted from those found on the Pratt Library's online catalog (pac.epfl.net).

Fiction



Live To Tell by Lisa Gardner. In her newest thriller (after *The Neighbor*), Gardner once again successfully borrows from the headlines. Detective D.D. Warren is called to the home of a family of five — four of whom are now dead and the fifth, the dad, is lying comatose in the hospital.

What initially appears to be a simple, if horrifying, case of murder/suicide quickly turns into something else when a second family is found dead at home. Warren's investigations run parallel to the stories of two other women. Danielle Burton is the lone survivor of the murder of her own family by her father 25 years ago, while Victoria Oliver is living in near isolation as she cares for her severely mentally disturbed 8-year-old son. The connections among the three plot threads become increasingly clear as both women are drawn into Warren's investigation ... This will strongly appeal to suspense readers, especially for fans of Tami Hoag, Karin Slaughter and Tess Gerritsen.

Stay by Allie Larkin. Larkin debuts with a funny and touching story about love, loss and dog ownership. Twenty-something Van Leone, fresh from serving as maid of honor at the wedding of her childhood best friend and the man Leone's been in love with since college, impulsively buys a German shepherd puppy on the Internet while drowning her sorrows in vodka and a late-night Rin Tin Tin marathon. She's surprised to discover, however, that the "little ball of fuzz" she's expecting is an enormous Slovakian police dog that she names Joe. The expected furniture-destroying and neighbor-terrifying antics ensue, but Joe quickly becomes Leone's family, chief confidant and romantic catalyst.

Emily and Charlotte: A Novel of the Brontës by Jude Morgan. The haunting Brontës bloom like heather on the rain-drenched moors in this feverish recreation of the Victorian English family by Morgan (pseudonym for the U.K.'s Tim Wilson), who has mined literary icons like Byron, Keats and Shelley (*Passion: A Novel of the Romantic Poets*) before tackling the sisters. The Brontës of lonely Haworth, a rural town with a mortality rate to rival the worst of London's slums, are daunting as subjects because of their constant struggle to survive. The novel doesn't just focus on Charlotte and Emily, celebrated scribes of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*, but also on Branwell, their egocentric brother whom their father, the Rev. Patrick Brontë, doted upon. Sharp glimpses of the talented youngest sibling, Anne, and elder sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, both of whom died after falling ill at a nightmarish girl's school, complete the family picture. Branwell's profligate ways can seem excessive, and although coltish Emily remains a blurry conundrum, this memorable ode to the Brontës and their impressive contribution to world literature, despite relentless trials and early deaths (only Charlotte reached 40), is bitterly exquisite.

Sourland: Stories by Joyce Carol Oates. Oates is a master of the dark tale stories of the hunted and the hunter, of violence, trauma, and deep psychic wounds. Brilliant in her disclosure of the workings of minds under threat, Oates also possesses a heightened sense of the body's expressiveness, from a man's gait, to the smell

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of his breath, to the strength of his grip, to the intensity of his stare. Oates grows more insightful, virtuosic and audacious in her confrontations with fear, pain and death. Her latest stories of sexual mayhem, family crisis and shattered identity are barely contained beasts of narration, snorting, pawing and pulling against the confines of the page ... This is a trenchant book of cruel fairy tales in which people are severely tested, profoundly punished and tragically transformed.

Deadline by Stella Rimington. In Rimington's fine fourth spy thriller to feature MI5 officer Liz Carlyle (after *Illegal Asset*), the 35-year-old counterespionage agent takes the lead in unraveling disturbing intelligence received from MI6 regarding a plot to disrupt an upcoming Middle East peace conference in Scotland. According to a Syrian source, a Lebanese businessman living in London and a freelance journalist are suspected of planning to lay the blame for the projected attack on Syria. With the high-profile conference quickly approaching, every clue raises more questions for Carlyle, who begins to wonder if the intelligence wasn't all just disinformation. Her intuition proves correct when she uncovers an ingenious conspiracy that, if successful, could throw the entire Middle East into chaos. Rimington, the former director general of MI5, can be a bit methodical at points, but the impressively Ludlumesque plot will keep readers blissfully turning the pages until the end.

Nonfiction

Mentor: A Memoir by Tom Grimes. Grimes' candid and finely wrought memoir is at once a self-portrait of the writer as an anxious Master's of Fine Arts student and an homage to his guiding light, Frank Conroy, the legendary director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the crucible from which so many extraordinary writers emerged, from Flannery O'Connor, to Kurt Vonnegut, to Marilynne Robinson. Grimes was in his thirties when he arrived, weary of waiting tables and writing in grim isolation. Conroy had unshakable faith in him, and the two formed a profound bond Grimes' staggering self-critique, keen tribute to Conroy as writer and mentor, and hard-won insights into the true demands of writing, and the deep resonance of literature are arresting and cautionary, inspiring and affecting.

The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum. Blum's spine-tingling thriller about early 20th century poisoners, their innovations in undetectable killing methods, and New York City's first medical examiner and toxicologist who documented the telltale signs of poisoning is given a theatrical twist in Coleen Marlo's reading. Her voice is smoky and tinged with humor, irony and light mocking as she revisits the rudimentary methods of the murder and equally rudimentary science of the Jazz Age. She's an able guide to the science and her voices are pitch-perfect — especially her humorously masculine characterizations of Blum's male subjects.

China's Megatrends: The 8 Pillars of a New Society by John and Doris Naisbitt. John Naisbitt, author of the 1982 bestseller *Megatrends* — an analysis of the economic, political, social and cultural transition taking place in the U.S. — collaborates with his wife and turns his focus to our competitor to the east. Why, the authors ask, has "autocratic" China succeeded while many democratically governed states have failed to make economic progress? He tells a compelling story of a country that is maturing in hyperdrive, and can concentrate on economics partially because it isn't distracted by election cycles and national soul searching. The book runs down the eight "pillars" of a new society, the strategic moves that have maneuvered China forward, and examines Chinese values, artistic and intellectual ferment, freedom

and fairness, media, and the swift changes that have brought a country in which wealth was unthinkable and education derided into a place that values entrepreneurship and boasts a business school enrollment comparable to middle-income countries. A thoughtful, ambitious overview sure to be of interest to all those curious about world economics.

The Only Game in Town: Sportswriting from The New Yorker edited by David Remnick. Remnick's thoughtfully curated selection of *New Yorker* essays spans the gamut of the sports conversation. From sketches of Tiger Woods, to contemplations of the branding prowess of Michael Jordan, to examinations of how "the choke" differs from panic, Remnick's choices display a deep affinity for a variety of sports and an understanding of their importance in the modern discourse. The essays, written by wildly different authors ranging from Henry Louis Gates, Jr., to Malcolm Gladwell, make for an enjoyably diverse reading experience. While readers may not be fans of a particular sport or athlete, the essays are universal; covering decades of sports writing, they speak to certain ineffable qualities of athletics and explore every facet of the games we play.

The House at Royal Oak: Starting Over & Rebuilding a Life One Room at a Time by Carol Eron Rizzoli. Organized in an order that follows its own meandering logic (in much the same way one would restore an old house), Rizzoli's tale is full of insights and quiet humor. Along the way, she finds time to talk recipes, local resources, habitats, wildlife, small town life, learning a new business, family, friends and, of course, her guests. "A bed-and-breakfast done right is an idealized kind of home, more homey

Continued on page 30

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Book Nook

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somehow than a real one.” As she and her husband learn the ropes of running a cozy B&B, the author finds herself collating wedding programs for a complete stranger, searching for local produce, and learning “safe” and “unsafe” topics of conversation in her new home town [of Royal Oak, on Maryland’s Eastern Shore].

General Information

Our phone number is 410-396-6099. Our branch e-mail is rln@prattlibrary.org. When e-mailing us, please make sure the subject line indicates that you have a library question by using BOOK REQUEST or something similar as your subject. The Pratt Library’s web page is www.prattlibrary.org. Our branch blog is available at www.prattlibrary.org/locations/rolandpark. Please take a look and let us know what you think!

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 and furlough closings for all Pratt Libraries: December 24th through 26th, Christmas holiday; Monday, December 27th, furlough day; December 31st through January 1st, 2011, New Year’s holiday; Monday, January 17th, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; and Monday, February 21st, Presidents’ Day. ❖



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Parents’ Corner

Date and Time	Program
Mondays, 1:30 p.m.	Mother Goose Baby Steps An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement for children up to age 2 and their caregivers.
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.	Toddler Jumps. A story time specially created for 2-year-olds and their caregivers, with books, rhymes, and bouncing balls.
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.	Preschool Leaps. Stories, songs and fun for children ages 3 to 5.
Wednesday, December 8th 1:30 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Chanukah. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of the holiday Chanukah.
Wednesday, January 19th, 3:30 p.m.	Black-Eyed Susan Bookopoly. Conquer challenges and answer trivia based on the Black-Eyed Susan nominee, Masterpiece, by Elise Broach and Kelly Murphy.

Spiced Pecans

From Woodberry Kitchen

- 4 cups whole pecans
- 1 ½ tsp. Old Bay
- 2 ½ tsp. Aleppo pepper
- 1 ½ tsp. Marash pepper
- 1 cup plus 1 T. brown sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 2 egg whites



Set oven to 350 degrees. Spread pecans on cookie sheet and place in oven. Toast pecans for 10 minutes until they become a little darker and highly aromatic. Cool pecans. In small bowl, combine spices. Melt sugar and butter in a 2-quart saucepan, and add spice mix. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Put egg whites in large mixing bowl and stir in toasted pecans until thoroughly coated. Add cooled butter mixture to coat evenly. Spread pecans in a single layer on cookie sheet and bake in oven for 15 minutes, stirring twice. Place on cooling racks and stir while cooling.

Beehive Fizz

- 2 oz. gold rum
- 1 oz. local Cybee’s Honey
- ¾ oz. fresh lemon juice
- 2 shakes The Bitter Truth Jerry Thomas Bitters
- Half of a fresh egg white

Combine ingredients in a shaker packed with ice. In a tall and narrow Collins glass, add 2 ounces of soda water. Do your best shake for 10 seconds and strain the mixture into the soda water in the Collins glass. Garnish with fresh thyme and enjoy! ❖

Native of the Season: Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

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

Few shrubs native to Roland Park have as powerful a combination of beauty and wildlife value as our native highbush blueberry. Although many people think of blueberries primarily as an agricultural crop (the fruits are, after all, very tasty and nutritious), the native blueberry plant hosts an incredibly diverse array of wildlife, not just because of its fruit.

Blueberries tend to remain a manageable size in the garden, and their burgundy-red fall color is absolutely stunning. *Vaccinium corymbosum* makes a great native hedge, with many varieties and cultivars maturing at five to seven feet.

Highbush blueberry does best in acidic soils, with lots of organic matter and good drainage. Liberal use of compost as a soil amendment will help your plants along. Fruit production and fall color are improved in full sun, but *Vaccinium corymbosum* is perfectly happy in partial shade as well.

There are many cultivars of highbush blueberry available at garden centers, and planting multiple varieties will increase the amount of fruit your plants produce. 'Blue Jay,' 'Blueray' and 'Northland'



Image courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service Plants Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 2: 700.

varieties are typically easy to find and have better-than-average ornamental value. ❖

For more information and links, visit www.rolandparknative.org.

Home Sales

(August 2010 through October 2010)

	List Price	Closing Price
4401 Roland Avenue No. 209	\$125,000	\$120,000
501 W. University Parkway No. 3B	\$205,000	\$195,000
114 Woodlawn Road	\$439,000	\$385,000
206 Longwood Road	\$455,000	\$415,000
4316 Roland Avenue	\$460,000	\$425,000
3 Longwood Road	\$549,000	\$460,000
203 Deepdene Road	\$475,000	\$475,000
605 Edgevale Road	\$525,000	\$510,000
313 Overhill Road	\$845,000	\$800,000
119 Beechdale Road	\$995,000	\$995,000

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Information provided by Magan Marie Drane, Realtor®, ABR® Coldwell Banker of Roland Park- Roland Park Realtor and Resident. Direct: 410-493-6854. Office: 410-235-4100. Magan@MaganDrane.com Website: www.HomeFindBaltimore.com

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