Winter 2013-2014 Volume Fifty-Two

# ROLAND PARK NEWS Stony Run: The Hidden Path That Connects Us All

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Our Friend, Kevin Spacey St. John's Road House In "House of Cards"

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Home Sales

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Donor Profile: Keats Smith Page 30 There is a love affair happening in our neighborhood. No, this is not a mid-life crisis or a passing fling, but a longstanding relationship with a beloved park. The number of people who adore Stony Run will surprise you.

The Stony Run Path is a woodland trail that follows a stream running parallel to Charles Street and Roland Avenue. The stream begins below ground, on the property of the Elkridge Club north of Lake Avenue, reemerges across from the Bryn Mawr School north of Northern Parkway, and flows 3.3 miles south before emptying into the Jones Falls,

Many residents consider Stony Run Path a secret because there is no official entrance, but this hidden highway connects 15 neighborhoods, five schools, three colleges and three city parks.

near the Kirk Stieff Building on Sisson Street. Many residents consider Stony Run Path a secret because there is no official entrance, but this hidden highway connects 15 neighborhoods, five schools, three colleges and three city parks. Walkers, runners, birdwatchers, an occasional biker and plenty of dogs enjoy the scenic trail, which follows the stream through communities, under bridges and behind schools.

The Greater Roland Park Master Plan (Master Plan), approved by the City in 2011, suggested dozens of Open Space improvements, but three soon rose to the top of the list. Improvements to Stony Run, the restoration of the Roland Water Tower and the purchase of the surplus Baltimore Country Club land became the campaign's foremost projects. So why is Stony Run so important to our community?

To love Stony Run, one must really understand its place in history. The Stony Run Path replaced the rail bed of a train line that predated most of the surrounding neighborhoods. The Baltimore and Delta/Maryland Central first began a train service to Towson in 1882, becoming the Baltimore and



Fall color in Stony Run. Photo: Mary Page Michel

Lehigh Railroad through a merger in 1891. By 1894, due to bankruptcy, the line was split in two, but in 1901, Alexander Brown and Company purchased the two portions to form the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad, affectionately

referred to as the "Ma and Pa." Until 1958, the Ma and Pa ran from Baltimore to York, Pa., taking roughly four hours to transport passenger and freight cars from one city to the other. The two cities are only 49 miles apart, but with an astonishing 476 curves in the route, the rail line measured 77 miles long. What an amazing sight it must have been to see a steam locomotive cutting through the neighborhood! Roland Park resident Anne Perkins remembers as a young girl being dropped off at Wyndhurst Station and taking the Ma and Pa train out to her grandparents' store in Towson or to their home in Bel Air. There are also reports of Gilman students jumping on the back of the Ma and Pa to get quickly to and from home.

> Another wonderful historical note involves the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons. In 1904, the Olmsted firm was commissioned to create a report on how to develop the park system in Baltimore City. The Olmsted's drew attention to Stony Run in their vision of stream valleys connecting parks and parkways. The report states that "here (Stony Run), as well as on Gwynn's Falls and Jones Falls, it is of the greatest importance that some way should be found for preserving for public enjoyment and passage this natural channel of

communication with the adjacent territory. Smaller in scale than either of the other valleys, it has a great deal of charm of its own."

When competition from cars, trucks, buses and other railroad lines forced the Ma and Pa to close



"Ma and Pa" train between Wyndhurst and

T. Mahan. Photo courtesy of Roland Park Revisited.

Belvedere, circa early 1950s. Photographer: Charles

# Roland Park News

### Volume 52 Winter 2013-2014

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# Editor's Notes

#### By Hilary Paska

As we celebrate the holiday season, this issue reflects on long-standing neighborhood traditions and future plans for Roland Park. The cover story, "Stony Run: The Hidden Path That Connects Us All," highlights the history of this scenic park and plans to improve it. Without community leadership and dedicated volunteers, however, Stony Run would

As you plan for the new year, consider how you can support your community's goals in 2014.

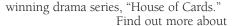
not be the gem it is today. As you plan for the new year, consider how you can support your community's

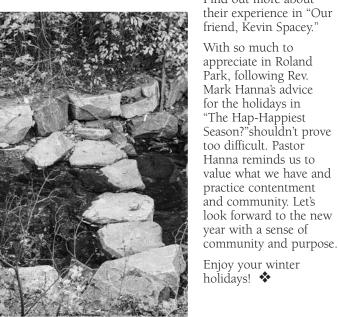
goals in 2014. Improvements to Stony Run, the restoration of the Roland Water Tower and the purchase of the surplus Baltimore Country Club land are the primary goals of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan. Perhaps now is the time to make a commitment to the community with a pledge to the Open Space Campaign and invest in projects that will enrich our quality of life.

Eddie Dopkin, owner of Miss Shirley's Cafe and partner of The Classic Catering People, recognized the importance of building strong communities. A valued friend, who was consistently generous to our neighborhood, we pay our final respects to Eddie, who passed away this fall.

Eddie's example reminds us of the vital role that Greater Roland Park's merchants and businesses play in our neighborhood, strengthening our local economy and creating new opportunities. Let's ensure their continued success by patronizing them during the upcoming "Think Local First" weekend and throughout the coming year.

Even as we work toward new goals, Roland Park continues to enjoy many long-standing traditions. In "Candles Gleam in Windows," historian and Guildford resident Ann Giroux explores the delightful holiday customs that make Roland Park and Guildford so festive at this time of year. Whatever the season, our neighborhood has broad appeal, as one family discovered when their home on St. John's Road was featured in the Emmy Award-





A stepping stone bridge in Stony Run. Photo: Sally Foster



# December 6-8, 2013

Take a break from the mall and online shopping this holiday season to support our neighborhood businesses!

Discover the unique and practical gifts available in our neighborhood

Appreciate the fine dining in Roland Park

Enjoy special discounts and services at participating merchants

For a list of participating businesses, visit **www.RolandPark.org** and spot the posters throughout the neighborhood.

Sponsored by the Roland Park Civic League

# Art Happenings

**Cathedral of Mary Our Queen** (5200 N Charles Street) **Winter Music Series** includes:

- December 3, 7:30 p.m., Holiday Brass. The International Women's Brass Conference, Maryland Chapter, presents its 10th Annual Holiday Brass Concert. The program will feature seasonal music for brass, organ and choir, as well as familiar carols and sing-a-longs. Performers include brass players from the Baltimore and National Symphonies, and the nation's premier military bands. The choirs of Towson Methodist church and the Emmanuel Lutheran church will join together to make this a beautiful concert. Back by popular demand, bagpiper Jean Gould will perform Highland Cathedral. For more information or to order tickets, please call 410-337-7539 or visit www. holidaybrass.com.
- December 10, 7:30 p.m., Baltimore Choral Arts Christmas Concert. Christmas with Choral Arts features Tom Hall and the Full Chorus and Orchestra of the Baltimore Choral Arts Society performing classical favorites, familiar carols, and audience singa-longs. Concluding with Handel's iconic Hallelujah Chorus, the festive program includes music from the great oratorios, as well as popular classics by John Rutter and local premieres of music by American composers. For ticket information, please contact Choral Arts at (410) 523-7070 or www.baltimorechoralarts.org.
- December 15, 5 p.m., A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas. The service, reminiscent of its English heritage, is sung in a candlelight setting by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Mr. 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 4, 5 p.m., **Suspicious Cheese Lords**. The Suspicious Cheese Lords will perform a concert of sacred choral literature celebrating the season of the Epiphany. Included on the program are works by Palestrina and others. This program is free and open to the public, however a free-will offering will be received.
- January 22, 5 p.m., United States Naval Academy Band. The United States Naval Academy Band will feature festive selections in the grand acoustics of the Cathedral. This program is free and open to the public.

For the Cathedral's complete 2013-2014 music schedule, please visit **www.cathedralofmary.org** 

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

- December 5, 8 p.m., **Dave Koz & Friends**. The eight-time Grammy nominee performs, featuring Oleta Adams, Jonathan Butler and Keiko Matsui.
- December 6, 7 p.m., and December 7, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m., Disney Junior Live! Pirate & Princess Adventure. Join Mickey and Minnie for this never-before-seen live show filled with new music, amazing effects and endless surprises.
- December 12, 8 p.m., Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, by Chip Davis. The new sounds of Christmas music, combining a mix of Renaissance instruments with rock and roll beats.
- December 20, 7:30 p.m., December 21, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.,

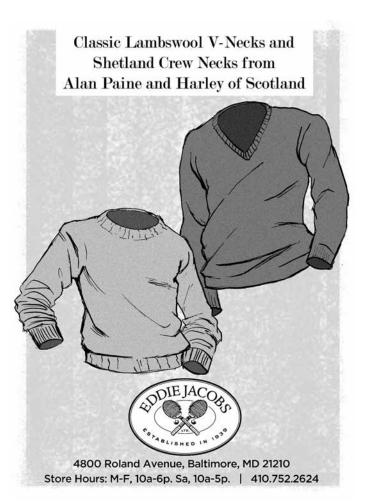
December 22, 3 p.m., **The Nutcracker**. The BSO, Baltimore School for the Arts, MICA, and The Modell Lyric come together for Tchaikovsky's full-length holiday classic.

- January 16 and 17, 7:30, p.m., January 18, 2 p.m., 7 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., January 19, 2 p.m., **Shen Yun**. Reviving five thousand years of civilization through breathtaking music and dance with live orchestra.
- February 22, 8 p.m., **Alton Brown Live!** The Edible Inevitable Tour. Quirky humor and culinary–science antics on stage. Things WILL get messy!

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

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

Continued on page 5



# Eddie Dopkin: A Champion of Our Neighborhood

### **By Phil Spevak**

Eddie Dopkin was a champion of our neighborhood. Until I attended his funeral, I thought I knew him well since I had met with him many times over the six years I was president of the Roland Park Civic League. But I guess I had an incomplete understanding.

#### He helped build coalitions and find creative solutions to complicated problems. He was not afraid to act and to take risks when there was something important to accomplish.

Eddie was consistently generous to our neighborhood, from the little stuff like donating cookies and lemonade to our annual community meetings, to the bigger stuff like hosting fundraising dinners for the library at Miss Shirley's restaurant. Few probably knew, since he never talked about it, that on his dime he plowed the snow off city streets and collected the trash near the restaurants along Cold Spring Lane. As we implemented our Master Plan

in Roland Park, we could not have asked for a better partner and advisor than Eddie. He helped build coalitions and find creative solutions to complicated problems. He was not afraid to act and to take risks when there was something important to accomplish.

At his funeral, though, I better understood how many were

touched by Eddie Dopkin. I was not surprised that Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and the Ravens organization all attended. But as hundreds came to pay their respects, the traffic jammed for miles in the approach to the funeral home. Many seemed to be regular folks like the bus driver

in his MTA uniform and the mom who brought her small child. I came away wondering about their personal connections to Eddie Dopkin, and how he had impacted so many families.

As a physician, I was amazed to learn that Eddie lived such a full life while knowing for nearly half of his 61 years that he had cancer. He kept this quiet from most of us, and perhaps this knowledge made him realize how special life is. Knowing that some day he would probably die from his malignancy clearly did not slow Eddie down. This is something important that Eddie has taught all of us.

He died seemingly in the same way he liked to execute all of his efforts, quietly and with little public face. I hope he knows how much he helped

so many and how this neighborhood, along with others, will miss him. I can see Eddie smiling and hear him saying, "Come on Phil, it's no big deal, just go ahead and work with David and Brandy (his son and daughter-in-law) and Stanley (Stanley Fine, his zoning attorney). What are you waiting for? There is a lot to be done." �

# Eddie, We will miss you! Love always, The Miss Shirley's Cafe Family



www.MissShirleys.com

Hours Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Marc Summerfiel

# Art Happenings

Continued from page 3

to register for museum tours, events, and programs visit **www. museums.jhu.edu** or call 410-516-5589.

Exhibitions include:

#### December 10 through May 25, A Tale of Two Houses: Homewood, Clifton, and Historic Preservation, free with guided museum tour or exhibition only is free for members, \$3 non-members. Built as country houses in the opening years of the 19th century, Homewood and Clifton both tell fascinating

stories about some of Baltimore's first families who once called them home. The estates are related through their mutual association with famed philanthropist Johns Hopkins. Clifton was his country residence from 1838 to 1873, yet it was Homewood that would be selected as the suburban location for his eponymous university nearly 30 years later. Curated by Johns Hopkins University students, this special exhibition of photographs, maps, manuscripts, and objects related to the Carroll, Thompson, Hopkins and Wyman families explores alternate histories and futures for both houses.

Upcoming events include:

- December 7, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Silhouettes for the Holidays, \$40 for two copies of one silhouette (includes museum admission). Experience the magic scissors of historical artisan Lauren Muney, a master portraitist in the tradition of the silhouette artists of the 18th and 19th centuries. One of the few remaining freehand-scissor artists still practicing in the Mid-Atlantic, Muney will create a traditional profile-portrait of your little (or big) ones to treasure forever—in just minutes. Custommade oval mats and rare frame styles will be available for sale on site. Advance registration for appointment time is strongly recommended. Please call (410) 516-5589 to register.
- December 9, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Homewood by Candlelight, free for members, \$8 for non-members. Decorated for the holidays with garlands and boxwood, Homewood exudes a festive spirit that is best witnessed at the museum's annual open house. Glittering candlelight throughout the museum makes Homewood appear as it might have in the early 19th century. The reception hall will be filled with the sounds of live music, the museum shop will offer a wide variety of holiday gift-giving ideas for people of all ages, and seasonal snacks and beverages will be served in the wine cellar. The event also marks the opening of the museum's special exhibition, A Tale of Two Houses: Homewood, Clifton, and Historic Preservation.

**Evergreen Museum & Library** (4545 N. Charles Street, Johns Hopkins University) is at once an intimate collection of fine and decorative arts, rare books, and manuscripts assembled by two generations of the B&O's philanthropic Garrett family, and a vibrant, inspirational venue for contemporary artists. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the hour, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$5 for students (with ID), youth (6 to 18) and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5

and under). Parking is FREE. For more information or to register for museum tours, events, and programs visit **museums.jhu.edu** or call 410-516-0341.

Exhibitions include:

Through February 23, Lasting Legacies: Recent and Promised Gifts to the Permanent Collection, free with guided museum tour or exhibition only is free for

members, \$3 non-members. Spanning three



Over 100 objects acquired through gifts to Evergreen Museum & Library are on view in the exhibition Lasting Legacies, including this covered tureen by Richard Riemerschmid from 1905 given by Michael and Anis Merson. Photo courtesy of the Evergreen Museum & Library/IHU.

centuries and encompassing four continents, the more than 100 works of fine and decorative art on view in this special exhibition enhance and expand on Evergreen's founding collection of American and international art assembled by Baltimore's philanthropic Garrett family and reflect the museum's important mission as an educational and cultural resource.

Continued on page 6

### "It matters to us that scientific research matters to our school"





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# VISITING DAYS through January

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during Evergreen Museum & Library's Holiday

Family Day on December 14. Photo courtesy of the

Evergreen Museum & Library/IHU.

December 12 through February 23, JUST Jacks!, free with guided museum tour admission. Artist Phil Sultz has been making his version of a jack-in-the-box for more than 40 years out of ordinary household materials. Far from actual toys, each

of the 50 unique constructions on display in this installation in Evergreen's Bakst Theatre has a life of its own, a personality emphasized by expression and seeming action and sincerity of understanding. Sultz, who is represented in New York by the Allan Stone Gallery, has exhibited extensively in the United States and internationally.

Upcoming events include:

December 12, 6 to 8 p.m., An Ever Green Evening, free for members, \$8 for non-members. Evergreen Museum & Library's annual holiday party features creatively themed seasonal decorations; a silent auction for one-of-a-kind faux book boxes hand-decorated by some of Baltimore's best designers and crafters; and after-hours viewing of the special exhibitions, JUST Jacks! and Lasting Legacies: Recent and Promised Gifts to the Permanent **Collection**. Johns Hopkins students will showcase work-in-progress for an upcoming group exhibition of art books; festive light fare and



One of Phil Sultz's "Jacks" on view in the Evergreen Museum & Library exhibition JUST Jacks! Photo courtesy of the Evergreen Museum & Library/JHU.

beverages will be served; and a variety of unique gifts and fresh greens harvested from Evergreen's grounds will be available for sale in the museum shop.

December 14, 12 to 4 p.m., Holiday Family Day, \$12 adults, \$8 children, \$6 members (includes guided tour, activities, all materials and a 3 p.m. performance). This family-friendly afternoon of festive activities themed around the holiday season includes a Victorian-inspired card making workshop and cookie decorating from 12 to 3 p.m., followed by a performance of Hans

Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl" by the Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. Guided tours of the seasonally decorated Gilded Age mansion will be offered hourly, with the last tour departing at 3 p.m. Limited space. Please call (410) 516-0341 to register.

December 14, 3 p.m., The Little Match Girl. \$4 adults and children. free for members. Come see the Baltimore Shakespeare Factory

perform Danish author Hans Christian Andersen's iconic winter fairy tale, "The Little Match Girl," in the whimsical Bakst Theatre. Limited space. Please call (410) 516-0341 to register.

# Seasonal Events

December 7, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Belvedere Square's Holiday Market, bringing unique and festive outdoor shopping to the "Square" and featuring local artisans, crafters and Belvedere Square merchants. More information available at www.belvederesquare. com

Winter events at Robert E. Lee Park include:

December 1, 2 to 4 p.m., Wreath Making. Ages 14 and up, \$10 per person. Make a decorative wreath from natural materials such as pine, spruce, and holly. Inside the ranger station, we'll have everything you need to make a masterpiece and brave the coldincluding hot chocolate, cookies, and holiday tunes!

December 13 and December 15, 6 to 8 p.m., S'mores, Stars & The Winter Solstice. Ages 5 and up, \$3 per person, \$2 for members. On December 13 and 14, The Geminid meteor shower will be visible throughout the night. Gather around our campfire to learn about the solstice and the stars and warm up while roasting s'mores.

December 20, 6 to 9 p.m., Kids Night Out. Ages 6-12, \$10 per child, \$8 for members. Drop off the kids for a few hours while you shop. Children can make wonderful nature crafts, look for nighttime creatures, make gingerbread houses and gingerbread people, and participate in holiday activities. To register, call (410) 887-4156 or visit roberteleepark.org. �



for the Open Space Campaign. The Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys has generously offered to host the event in their newly renovated facilities. Chase away February's chill and root for your favorite "chef-lete"!

Tentative Date: February 22, 2014.

For more information, please visit the Roland Park website at www.RolandPark.org or contact Martha Marani at marthamarani@gmail.com.

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# Calendar & Announcements

The **Roland Park Civic League** monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Avenue). For more information, call the Civic League offices at 410-494-2525.

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

The **Baltimore Police Department Northern District Community Council** meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at the Northern District Headquarters (2201 W. Cold Spring Lane). All members of the community are welcome. The Council maintains a liaison relationship between Council communities and the police, keeps Council neighborhoods informed of relevant crime prevention measures and establishes an effective communication network for dealing with problems in Council neighborhoods. To receive updates on the Council via email, join the Yahoo group at **groups.yahoo.com/group/ northerncommunitycouncil**.

**Bagged Leaf Collection** season continues through Monday, January 6, 2014. Solid Waste crews will collect **20 bags of** 

# Roland Park Runner Wins Silver Medal at 2013 National Senior Games

Roland Park resident Glen Allen turned his passion for running into national success this year when his 4x100m relay team won the silver medal at the 2013 National

the silver medal at the 2013 National Senior Games in Cleveland, Ohio. The Games, a 19-sport, biennial competition for men and women 50 and over, is the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors, and over 15,000 people competed in Cleveland.

Mr. Allen, of Edgevale Road, qualified for The Games by winning the gold medal for the 400m Dash, 60-64 category, at the 2012 Maryland Senior Olympics. After a strong performance in the 400m Dash in Cleveland, he was invited to join the four-member relay team who earned the silver medal with a time of 52 minutes. 41 seconds.



L to R: Tucker Taft, Jim Schoffman, David Walker, Glen Allen. Photo courtesy of Glen Allen

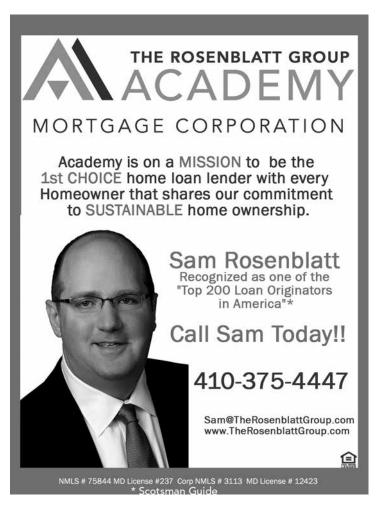
Sporting ability runs in Mr. Allen's family. At the age of nine, his son Stefan competed in the 2003 Junior Olympics, winning the fourth-place medal in the 1500m run. Mr. Allen also cites his recent conversion to a vegan diet as a significant factor in his success. "After becoming a vegan 18 months ago, I noticed that my running speed improved and this motivated me to increase my training."

The 2015 National Senior Games are expected to take place in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Mr. Allen isn't sure if he'll participate, but he plans to compete in the 2014 Maryland Senior Olympics.

**leaves from each address every Monday**. Residents must call 311 before 10 p.m. on Sunday to schedule a pickup for the following Monday. Bagged leaves will continue to be collected on the regularly scheduled trash collection day. Solid Waste crews will collect **5 bags of leaves from each address every week**. Residents need to put leaves in clear or labeled bags. With Monday collections and regular mixed refuse collections, the Bureau of Solid Waste will collect, in total, 25 bags of leaves per week per resident.

The **Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys** is pleased to announce the opening of Scoozi, a Mediterranean-themed new restaurant serving stone hearth oven-baked pizza's, panini's, fresh pastas, delicious entrees and daily specials. Check out the extensive wine list on our digital tablet menus, featuring over 60 wines. The new restaurant also houses a living gallery from Renaissance Fine Arts. Scoozi is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The hotel's entire renovations are slated for completion by the end of December. Please stop in and see our new look! For more information, call (410) 532-3246 or visit **www.Radisson. com/Baltimoremd**.

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



# Natural Selections: Cylburn Arboretum's Winter Programs

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

Cylburn has an extensive and expanding collection of trees and shrubs, including groves of magnolias, hollies, conifers and Japanese maples. The grounds include 13,000 square feet of greenhouse space, more than three miles of walking trails, wildflowers and natural habitats. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

### Winter events include:

■ December 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., **Boxwood Wreath and Kissing Ball Workshop**. \$40, Greenhouse Classroom. Create unique, festive boxwood wreaths or kissing balls to usher in the holiday season in a workshop led by Cylburn gardener and experienced wreath maker, Pat Sherman. Bring clippers, 3 ½ to 4 feet of wired edged ribbon for a puff bow, and other decorative items you may wish to add. Refreshments will be served.

# Hear and see every detail.



# 

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- December 8, 3 p.m., Holiday
   Champagne Tea. \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members, Cylburn
   Mansion. This holiday favorite is back!
   Bring your friends and join us for a festive tea with champagne in the historic Cylburn Mansion. Cylburn's only 2013 fundraiser will boast a
   Holiday wreath and gift auction, entertainment and catered tea treats by Bettina Isabella.
- December 15, 5 p.m. The Food Market's "Cozy Winter Wine Dinner." \$150, Cylburn Mansion. The Food Market's Chef Chad Gauss is serving a multi-course dinner with special wine pairings in the Cylburn Mansion. Selections from the menu include Skinny Dipper Oysters,



Enjoy a festive Holiday Champagne Tea in the historic Cylburn mansion. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.

Yellowfin Tuna Tartar, "Meat & Potatoes," consisting of Steak Diane and Lobster Tater Tots! A portion of ticket sales will support Cylburn Arboretum Association.

- February 8, 2 p.m., Victorian Valentine Workshop. \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, Cylburn Mansion. Create one of a kind valentines using natural pressed flowers and foliage with Victorian decoration. All materials and supplies are provided, and light refreshments will be served.
- February 21, 22, 23; Lecture, February 23, 2:30 p.m., David Wiesand Lecture: Cylburn Furniture into the Future. Free for members, \$10 for non-members, Vollmer Center. David Wiesand presents an exhibit and lecture connecting his family collections with many estates in Baltimore that have been dispersed over the years. David shows us how his work as an artist connects the

past to the present. A weekend exhibit (February 21 and 23) will feature furniture purchased at the Cylburn Estate auction and handmade art objects and furnishings created by David Wiesand, artist and collector.



February 23, 1 p.m. Hot Chocolate Walk - A Search

Join Cylburn naturalists for an animal tracking adventure this winter. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.

**for Winter Animals**. \$10 adults, \$5 children, \$5 off each ticket for Members (which makes member children free), Cylburn Mansion. Beat the "Cabin Fever" and join us for an animal tracking adventure! A naturalist will help us spot some signs of close-by animals living in the woods. Warm up inside the mansion with hot cocoa and friends after this fun walk.

Please call (410) 367-2217 to register for these programs in advance and check the website for late additions to our programming calendar. For more information, call (410) 367-2217 or visit **www.cylburn.org**.

# The Hap-Happiest Season? Solutions for Holiday Stress

#### By Rev. Mark W. Hanna

The holidays are supposed to bring feelings of joy and wonder, but many people wonder how they can feel joy when they are overwhelmed by the season. Unfortunately, the holidays cause the year's highest level of stress in many people. There's the financial stress of how to pay for all the food, travel, gifts and decorations. There's the emotional stress of coping with family tensions and trying to have a "perfect holiday." Families who are apart, through separation, divorce or deployment, face unique challenges. The loss of a loved one can be especially difficult during the supposedly "happiest season of all."

Rev. Mark W. Hanna, pastor of Roland Park Presbyterian Church (RPPC), warns that everyone is susceptible to holiday stress. "People need to acknowledge that the holiday season is full of tension and turmoil. That doesn't mean that it isn't filled with wonder, beauty and joy. It just means that it is not exclusively so."

Pastor Hanna suggests four practices for a less stressful, more fulfilling holiday season:

1. Practice contentment. Instead of always

wishing for things to be better, try to appreciate things the way they are. If that includes the occasional family quarrel, so be it. Do not allow "perfect" to be the enemy of good.

Ask yourself this, "Have I ever regretted being kind?" In the hustle-bustle of the season, patience and kindness are often the first things to go.

- 2. **Practice patience and kindness**. Ask yourself this, "Have I ever regretted being kind?" In the hustle-bustle of the season, patience and kindness are often the first things to go. But in order to offer these to others, we must first offer them to ourselves. Set aside some extra time this year for quiet meditation and centering, so that you can find that place of compassion within yourself for when you need it later.
- 3. **Practice resistance**. Don't buy into the idea that how much you value a friend or a loved one is determined by how much you spend on their gift. Consider other gifts of substance and meaning. Instead of buying the latest technical gadget for a friend, make a donation to meaningful causes in their honor. Instead of getting your kids a bunch of presents and filling your lives with clutter you don't really need, seek to offer the gift of your presence. Plan a family outing or vacation. Find ways to connect with those you care about without having to spend money you don't have.
- 4. **Practice community**. Too often in times of stress, grief or depression we pull away and go into isolation. But when we

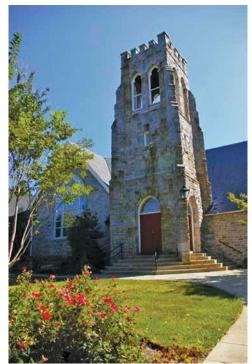


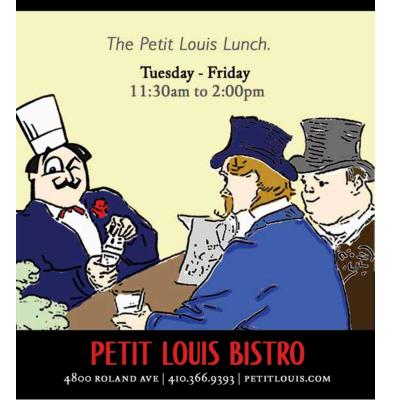
Photo courtesy of Roland Park Presbyterian Church

open ourselves up to community, we often find that we are not alone and that others are able to help us bear the load we have to carry. At RPPC, for example, we offer a service of light during the darkest time of year (December 20 at 6:30 p.m.) to acknowledge life's difficulties and provide hope.

While this advice is intended for people who are healthy but experience stress, serious cases of depression should be referred to a mental health professional. Otherwise, a little time management coupled with realistic expectations helps everyone to "be of good cheer."

Roland Park Presbyterian Church is a local community of faith that was founded in 1901. RPPC is an inclusive and welcoming member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that encourages the exploration of faith and sharing of gifts to make a difference in the world. RPPC worships together each Sunday at 10 a.m. Visit www.rolandparkchurch. org to learn more.

# Ooh La La! Cuisine Grand-Mère



# Candles Gleam in Windows

#### By Ann Giroux

Any homeowner in The Roland Park Company District knows that our homes are old. We stub toes on coal **chute** doors and bang our elbows on mysterious basement appliances. We find ourselves explaining repeatedly to out-of-town relatives, "Yes, I did just say I have a terracotta tile roof." Well, that is just life in The District. Wooden treads worn in the center, hand-built windows that are all slightly different in size and that strange thumping sound that starts and stops when the heat goes on in late fall, are all part of the charm. What many residents do not know is that some of our community traditions are nearly as old as, or older than, the homes in which we live.

In the days when Baltimore's population was surging, the stock market crash was yet to come and everyone was talking land speculation, the winter holidays in The District were celebrated in true Gilded Age style.

More than a century of clippings, photographs and other ephemera reveal what life was like when The District was still a new suburban development. In the days when Baltimore's population was surging, the stock market crash was yet to come and everyone was talking land speculation, the winter holidays in The District were celebrated in true Gilded Age style. November through the first of the year was a fizzy explosion of social events lit by the glow of candlelight and gas burning lamps—holiday

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banquet was faithfully described in the *Roland Park Review*, the Roland Park Company's magazine, down to the color of the shades fitted to the lit tapers.

Life in The District has changed, but there is one winter holiday tradition that remains the same after nearly a century. Visitors, not to mention new residents, notice almost immediately what many old-timers take for granted—how we decorate our homes. When the Halloween decorations have been packed up and the leaves raked, elegant greenery starts to snake around columns and beautifully fashioned wreaths appear on doors and above windows. Simple white electric lights illuminate each window facing the street at night, and occasionally strands of white lights will decorate a tree. The District is indeed beautiful and elegant during the winter months, but of course, there is no formalized requirement, nothing written anywhere that describes the greens and lighting traditions for residents. So why do we do it? Why is the custom so widespread not just in one part of The District, but throughout?

#### At the turn of the 20th century, the old customs of candle lighting and roaming carolers had largely died out in this area.

It seems Guilford is to blame. At the turn of the 20th century, the old customs of candle lighting and roaming carolers had largely died out in this area. Then, in 1914, a couple of Guilford residents decided to reclaim the old traditions for their very young community. Residents were to be asked to place one lit candle in each window facing the street at six o'clock, with the rest of the home kept dark. At half past seven, a group of residents would carol in a procession down Greenway past what is now Sherwood Gardens and eventually make their way to Bretton Place and Norwood Place. The Roland Park Civic League President was advised of Guilford's plans, and Roland Park decided to join in. The Roland Park Company assisted by lighting candles in the windows of properties owned by the company along University Parkway and Roland Avenue. In Roland Park, much of the caroling took place around the community churches, but groups of carolers could also be heard in other parts of neighborhood, such as Pomander Walk. Newspapers reported on the successful revival of the old traditions. In the Roland Park Review of January 1915, an article entitled "Candles Gleam in Windows" noted that almost all the windows in The District and many porch railings were illuminated. The residents were charmed and vowed to retain the traditions—traditions that would come to be a hallmark of wintertime in Roland Park, Guilford and eventually Homeland, as well.

As part of a rather obsessive research project, I have collected, prepared and tested more than a hundred years-worth of recipes and banquet menus from The District. From this culinary endeavor, we now know that dining during the winter season included a rich assortment of delicacies.

For a 1914 wintertime supper held by residents of St. John's Road, it was reported that the "menu consisted of a small roast pig with an apple in its mouth, which formed part of the decorations, also Virginia ham and turkey as well as salads."

For a 1914 wintertime supper held by residents of St. John's Road, it was reported that the "menu consisted of a small roast pig with an apple in its mouth, which formed part of the decorations, also Virginia ham and turkey as well as salads. The eggnog was served from a large old English punch bowl which belonged to the great-great-grandmother of Mrs. Hill and which has been in her family for three hundred years." (*Roland Park Review*, January 1914). It is a wonder that anyone was able to stuff themselves into their clothing after a season of such feasting.

Over the last two years, I have worked with Oakenshawe resident Mary Gill, of Butter Catering, to recreate—and in most cases, rework—heritage recipes from The District. Many recipes from the early days have not survived the culling process and one unfortunate dish is described in my notes as simply "yucky beyond words." Fortunately we have unearthed some cookbook-



(July through October)

Jacob Amato, 3935 Keswick Road

Jennifer Berg and Erin Proctor, 4819 Keswick Road

Courtney Cass and Ryland Sumner, 807 W. University Parkway

Linda and Edward Daingerfield, 307 Somerset Road

Rachel Dawson, 4245 Wickford Road

Heather Heiman and Piotr Brzozowski, 3825 Keswick Road

Susanah Higgins and Edward Worth, 4827 Keswick Road

Joyce Mink and Geoffrey Brown, 214 Longwood Road

Gurwinder Singh, 611 W. 40th Street

Deborah and Karl Steiner, 205 Longwood Road

Howard Yang, 617 W. University Parkway

worthy recipes, including the following recipe for old-fashioned gingerbread (see page 12). Gingerbread is a quick project, easy enough to do with little ones and a great lunch box treat. In Guilford, many residents purchase their milk from South Mountain Creamery, which delivers weekly to our homes. In November and December we add their delicious eggnog to our orders. Some households make sure to save one bottle of eggnog for ice cream we just pour the entire thing into our ice cream maker. The children think it is just the thing to serve with gingerbread. I hope you enjoy this seasonal dessert.

Guilford enjoyed a special tree lighting event in Sherwood Gardens this November. Under the glow of a large tree strung with simple white lights, neighbors gathered to enjoy homemade treats, hot chocolate and apple cider, while the night echoed with beautiful caroling from the Canticle Singers. Wishing Everyone in Roland Park "Happy Holidays" from Guilford.

Ann Giroux is an avid historic home and garden enthusiast who alternates between digging in her Guilford garden and digging through dusty archival records. Both endeavors typically require a change of clothing at the end. Some Roland Park residents may have noticed a small woman with a binder and pencil, staring at their homes or wandering up and down the street. That is only me, conducting research for my new book, Roland Park: A Walking Tour in Pictures.

For more on homes and gardens in The District, visit Ann at www.facebook. com/AGGiroux and www.twitter.com/annggiroux. To contact Ann, call (410) 889-6484 or email aggiroux@girouxdevelopment.com.

Sources: The Roland Park Company archives at the Johns Hopkins University Eisenhower Library Special Collections.

Continued on page 12

### **MARRIAGE MEDIATION RETREAT**

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Amazing things happen with quality dialogue. We have seen it for 20 years in our mediation practice.

# Candles Gleam in Windows

Continued from page 11

# Gingerbread Cupcakes (Makes 18 Regular Cupcakes)

This recipe is the property of Ann Giroux and is reproduced here with her permission.

2 cups all-purpose flour
1½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground black pepper
¼ cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
¼ cup white sugar
¼ cup dark brown sugar
1 egg, room temperature
4 T. fresh ginger, grated fine with microplane grater, any fibers removed
Zest of 1 lemon, grated fine with microplane grater
¾ cup unsulphured molasses (not blackstrap)\*



### 1 ¼ cups whole milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Fill cupcake pans with paper liners. Sift flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and black pepper together in a bowl and set aside. Cream butter and sugars together using a mixer. To the creamed butter and sugar, add the egg, ginger, lemon zest, and

molasses and mix. Finally, add your dry ingredients to the batter, alternating with the milk while mixing.

Fill cupcake pans 3/4 full and bake for 20-25 minutes. You may wish to bake a small batch to see how long your cupcakes require as ovens temperatures vary. If your first batch sinks in the center while cooling, the cupcakes are undercooked and you will need to increase your baking time.

Let cool for a few minutes, then remove from pan and let the cupcakes rest on a rack. Serve dusted with confectioners' sugar, homemade whipped cream or ice cream.

\*Chef's Tip: If you find traditional gingerbread too strong, use regular molasses. If you enjoy the intense molasses flavor of traditional gingerbread, substitute a dark or robust molasses.



# Stony Run: The Hidden Path

Continued from page 1

in 1958, the city considered using the right of way for a one-way freeway or a bus-only road, but decided against it as some sections were only 30 feet wide. Instead, the rail lines were pulled up, some slivers of land were sold to adjacent homeowners, and Stony Run Path began to take shape, much of it as a thin, elevated pathway. For more about this fascinating story, read George Hilton's book, *The Ma and Pa*.

Yet difficult times lay ahead for the trail. In 1995, BGE/Constellation Properties proposed commercial development of a four-acre tract of land in the Evergreen neighborhood, adjacent to Stony Run. The Evergreen community, then chaired by Jake Eldridge, fought the requested zoning change with letters, petitions, lobbying and an excellent land use attorney, John Murphy. Their efforts succeeded and this property was later sold to the Bolton Street Synagogue, which worked closely with the Evergreen neighborhood to negotiate the terms of the agreement. In 2002, the Synagogue sold the north meadow to the City for use as a community park for \$150,000 of Program Open Space funding.

The \$10 million Federal Stormwater Management Project from 2006 to 2008 was another stressful period in Stony Run's history. Baltimore City needed to comply with state and federal guidelines to prevent the discharge of pollutants from the stormwater management system into the waterways. Stony Run, with a watershed of 2,112 acres, was one of the priority streams. The City of Baltimore Department of Public Works, under the direction of William Stack, partnered with the Jones Falls Watershed Association to host several community meetings and presentations. Residents were concerned about the plans to remove 150 trees and significantly reshape the stream, but erosion was taking a terrible toll on Stony Run, with trees washing into the water. The work began and the stream was raised up in some spots from underground pipes, wider curves were introduced, trees were



removed, steep banks were flattened, u-shaped dams were constructed and boulders were added. All of these efforts aimed to slow the flow of water, resulting in less flooding, reduced erosion and more filtering of the stormwater to reduce pollution. After the stream reconstruction, more than 200 trees were planted, as

Gilman students study the stream for science class. Photo: Mary Page Michel

well as thousands of native shrubs and wetland plants. Residents were happy with the stream's appearance and the environmental benefits.

Ongoing community involvement has made Stony Run the gem it is today. For decades, volunteers have helped with clean-ups and plantings; individuals have lobbied in City Hall and written grants; teachers have taught local students about the health of the stream; and artists have enacted plays, created sculpture from the trash found in Stony Run and displayed art throughout the path. The Wyndhurst and Evergreen neighborhood associations have formed Parks Partnerships with the City Department of Recreation and Parks. This allows community maintenance of their portion of the trail and provides an opportunity to compete for a special pool of grant funds from the Parks & People Foundation.





Exploring the stream. Photo: Sally Foster

exemplifies our neighborhood's love for Stony Run. A Johns Hopkins biochemistry professor, Dr. Beer moved to Roland Park in the 1960s and made it his passion to improve Stony Run. He has planted and maintained trees, researched and introduced native plant species to the park—carefully logging and tracking every species to monitor their progress. He also lobbied the Mayor's office, starting with William Donald Schaefer, and recruited volunteers. His wife, Margaret, shared his love of the park and after her death, members of the community placed a bench in her honor near the Oakdale Road entrance. Although Dr. Beer has now moved a few miles away, he still meets a loyal crew at 8:30 a.m. every Monday to pull invasive plants off the trees. Without Dr. Beer and scores of dedicated volunteers like him, Stony Run would not have achieved its current beauty.

Continued on page 16



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# Energywise: The Great Wall of China and Other Mysteries

### By Polly Bart

The Great Wall of China is as much as 30 feet thick in some places at its base. It was wide enough for an army to walk along the top and it was too massive to suffer erosion or other weakening by

the forces of nature. Our ancestors in the United States also favored thick walls made of whatever material came to hand — on the prairies, it was sod; in the forests, logs. The logs were chinked with whatever was available, including mud, stones, cloth or paper.

In recent times, however, many American homes have been constructed using a building technique called "balloon framing." Machines made "dimensional" lumber in standard sizes and the modern wall, constructed with 2-by-4's at regular intervals, came into existence. This technique is fast, cheap and uniform, creating millions of homes in a short time.

Oil, coal and electric heating, as well as relatively peaceful communities, made thick walls seem unnecessary. If desired, a thin brick veneer gave an appearance of stability and wealth but there was nothing substantial behind it. Those of you who live in Roland Park, however, probably have a very different type of wall. You may have plaster, stone, several layers of brick, post and beam,





or wood framing made with older lumber of different sizes. If you renovate, save that old lumber! It is of very good quality and has many uses.

Let's look at the function of your walls. Besides keeping out the

cold and giving you a sense of privacy, your walls have lots of things inside them. When designing new work, it is helpful for builders if the architect leaves strategically located space for running wires, plumbing supply and drains, heat and air conditioning lines. The modern open look, where some of the house appears to float, is very difficult for builders. We need walls!

A note on switches. Some Roland Park homes have very unusual arrangements of switches, due to the difficulty of locating wires and switches in a very solid wall. If you have a steel post, plumbing or an HVAC duct running where you plan to put the switch, you are out of luck. Even if there are only wooden studs in the way, you cannot generally cut them without weakening the structure. The best

thing to do is to test first with tiny drill holes where you want to locate the switch. There are also shallow switch boxes, which can be used if needed.

Turning to structure, your wall has headers (pairs or triples of beams running horizontally) over windows and doors. It's hard to change a header, but it's easy to make alterations if you don't move the header. If you have a small window, for example, it is much easier to make the wall taller than it is to make it wider, especially if you don't move the header. It's also much easier to create a new opening if you don't mind a header below the height of the ceiling (a bulkhead). If you require an invisible header, i.e., a window or door opening which goes all the way to the ceiling, the project becomes much more complicated, requiring all the structural material to be pushed up into the ceiling. It can be done, but it will cost more.

Green building practices for walls have changed dramatically in the past five years. City and County building codes reflect

#### Green building practices for walls have changed dramatically in the past five years.

this—standards for insulating walls, for example, have recently gone from R-13 to R-19, and to a hefty R-49 for attics.\* In most cases, this means that new walls must be built with 2-by-6 lumber instead of the traditional 2-by-4, so there will be room for enough insulation to meet the standard. If you're planning an addition, you will benefit from the new codes.

Codes are also moving towards requiring "advanced framing," a different way of spacing and connecting wood stud framing. Conventional wall framing uses too much wood, making insulating difficult and creating thermal bridges, which carry unwanted heat and cool temperatures into the building. New framing techniques space the studs further apart and don't fill the corners full of wood studs, allowing insulation to be more continuous. Building codes

Continued on page 15

# Marinated Seafood Antipasto

### Eddie's of Roland Park

A flavorful, vibrant, do-ahead appetizer for holiday entertaining.

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Cook Time: 5 minutes

### Serves: 6

- 3/4 lb. raw sea scallops
- 3/4 lb. raw large shrimp, 21-25 count
- 1 cup milk

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup olive oil

- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup white wine vinegar
- 3 T. fresh lemon juice
- 2 jalapenos, seeded and minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 lemons, sliced, then sliced in half again
- 1 small red onion, peeled, sliced in half, then sliced vertically
- 1 yellow bell pepper, roasted
- 1 red bell pepper, roasted

# Energywise

Continued from page 14

don't yet require advanced framing, but you can request it.

What about insulating existing Roland Park walls? It may be difficult to make changes in an older building, but some options exist. If possible, make a small test drill into the wall to find out if there's an air cavity. If the wall is made of plaster and lath with brick, there may be only a very small air space and you cannot blow insulation into such a wall. You can, however, inject foam into a very small cavity, even from the outside through the brick grouting. This is not as complex or expensive as you might think, and can be well worth it.

If you have a significant air cavity (for example, 2-by 4-stud framing), it's possible to blow cellulose insulation into the walls. This requires holes between studs—the insulating contractor will fill the holes with foam plugs, but they are visible until you repaint or wallpaper.

Just a last word in praise of the wall. We builders love them, and they also serve the homeowner by providing a place for furniture and art. Whether solid or nothing but a paper screen, they give us a sense of privacy and comfort, defining home for us.  $\clubsuit$ 

\*R-value is a measure of resistance to heat flow through a given thickness of material.

Polly Bart is owner and CEO of Greenbuilders, Inc., an eco-friendly general contracting firm. Please write pbart@greenbuilders.com or call (410) 833-4814 with your suggestions for this column and questions about being "Energy Wise." Also visit **www.greenbuilders.** com for more information.

Soak scallops in milk for 20 minutes. Rinse with cold water, then drain. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add scallops and boil for 2 minutes until opaque. Using a slotted spoon, transfer scallops to a bowl of ice water. Maintain boiling water. Allow scallops to cool for 3 minutes, then transfer to another large bowl and set aside.

Add shrimp to the boiling water and allow to boil until opaque, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a bowl of ice water and allow to cool for 3 minutes. Drain, then peel and devein the shrimp. Add

to the bowl of scallops. In another bowl, whisk together olive oil, parsley, vinegar, lemon juice, jalapenos and garlic. Pour marinade over shrimp and scallops. Slice roasted peppers and add to the seafood. Add onion and lemon slices. Cover and refrigerate for 2-4 hours. Serve on a chilled platter.

> Eddie's Tip: To create a dynamic antipasto presentation, place the marinated seafood in the center of the platter and surround with Italian cheeses, shaved prosciutto and focaccia.

Pair with Vernaccia Di San Gimignano.

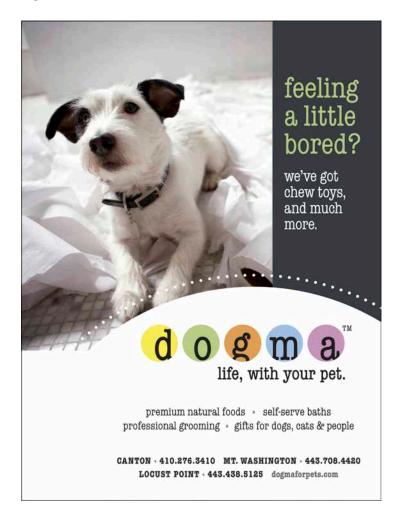


# Stony Run: The Hidden Path

Continued from page 13

The Greater Roland Park Master Plan seeks to build on these decades of commitment. The Master Plan's first Stony Run effort included a partnership with the Bolton Street Synagogue. As part of a larger sustainability initiative, the Synagogue agreed to convert 17 parking spaces at their lower parking lot, behind the old bank building on Cold Spring Lane, to a woodland path. Workers removed 3,400 square feet of asphalt and the Stony Run path, which previously ended at the back of the parking lot, was allowed to continue. The \$24,000 project was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Roland Park Community Foundation, \$10,0000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and \$4,000 from Blue Water Baltimore. Led by the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, Blue Water Baltimore coordinated the construction, with volunteer support from the community.

In 2011, the Master Plan Committee, led by Phil Spevak, met in Annapolis with elected officials from the 41st and 43rd districts to ask for help with funding improvements to Stony Run. Coincidentally, a group from the Lower Stony Run was also asking for funds. The Lower Stony Run Group, which later changed its name to the Friends of Stony Run, submitted a joint request with Roland Park for \$600,000 from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which was approved by the state legislature in the 2012 session. An additional \$600,000 was then





A park for all ages. Photo: Sally Foster

approved in the 2013 session. Delegates Sandy Rosenberg and Maggie McIntosh deserve special thanks for their assistance with this process. The Friends of Stony Run has been an important partner as they have worked hard to gather all 15 neighborhoods adjacent to Stony Run to reach consensus on the goals for the path.

So what do these funds pay for? There are four major goals:

First is to create safer crossings to connect the Stony Run Path at Wyndhurst Avenue and Cold Spring Lane. Spend a few minutes at any one of these intersections, and you will realize the number of pedestrians and runners using the trail, as well as the volume of cars speeding by. The crossings will narrow the roadway, by making the sidewalk bigger, and shorten the crossing distance. The crosswalks will also be made out of a

different surface to help slow the traffic.

Second is to acquire the privately-owned rights-of-way that intersect Stony Run. When the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company closed, they sold these slivers of property to the adjacent homeowners. Understandably, the city is not interested in investing in the park if it is not a public space. In 2007, for example, the Wyndhurst Improvement Association was disappointed to discover that some portions of Stony Run were not included in the Federal Stormwater Improvement Project because they were not public lands. To date, the three most critical parcels have been donated or sold to the City, including two in Wyndhurst. We particularly appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Adam Cockey, who was the first owner to donate her property, and Hank and Beth Ratrie for agreeing to sell their parcel at a major discount. These land transfers are appreciated and necessary to create a true community path.

The final major goals concern bridges. The existing bridge that crosses the stream south of Linkwood Road is precarious and urgently needs to be repaired. Also, the Master Plan aims to build a new bridge just north of University Parkway, linking the two sides of Stony Run. This will allow people to access Wyman Park without having to go up and over the Parkway. The DNR funds will cover the design work on this bridge, which the Tuscany-Canterbury neighborhood has dreamed of for more than 15 years, but more funds will be needed to complete the work.

In order to truly appreciate the beauty and value of Stony Run to Greater Roland Park, one must understand the history of how it was formed and the challenges it has faced. But the most exciting chapter in this story has yet to be written. The Roland Park community will continue to partner with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, as well as the new Friends of the Stony Run group and the other neighborhoods with which we share this stream. There is still much to be done, including the completion of the new bridge, the creation of a master plan for the park, improvements to the entrances from congested side streets and ultimately to create a maintenance endowment. With a history of dedication by so many, and a record of success and measurable progress, the future looks bright for our hidden treasure.

Special thanks to Amy Bonitz, Greater Roland Park Master Plan Stony Run coordinator, and Trudy Bartel, Chair of the Friends of Stony Run, for their contributions to this article.

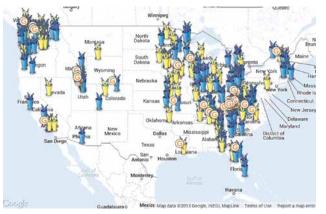
# Competition Matters! Join the Baltimore Broadband Campaign

The Roland Park Civic League wants to bring fiber optic cable to our homes to allow cheaper, faster Internet service. We are partnering with other north Baltimore communities to convince

alternative fiber providers that there is sufficient market demand in Baltimore for them to consider supplying service.

- If you are unhappy with existing prices, Internet speed or service, back this campaign. You are saying you want a change. We ask you to donate \$10 to support campaign efforts.
- Legal barriers do not prevent other providers from entering Baltimore but we must demonstrate sufficient potential demand.
- Competition brings lower prices. In Baltimore you have one choice for fast Internet service. If you lived in Philadelphia or Boston, you would have four.

**Price Check**. On November 10, if you purchased new service in Roland Park for Internet, telephone and television, you would pay \$159.99 per month. In Annapolis, where there is competition, you



This map shows show cities with some fiber (blue); city wide fiber (yellow); and cities achieving gigabit speeds, i.e. 1000 Mbps ("G"). Source: Community Broadband Networks

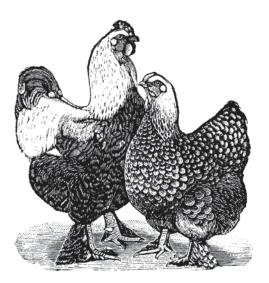
would pay only \$99 per month. Add up your bills and see what you pay.

**Speed Check**. The above prices are for Internet speeds of 50 Mbps (megabits per second download), which are likely, faster than what most residents in Baltimore achieve. Test your speed and see if you are getting what you are promised by going to **www.speakeasy. net/speedtest**.

Fiber is present in many communities, yet Baltimore remains in the slow lane. To back the campaign, go to **www. RolandPark.org** and click on the Broadband link. For questions or if you have any difficulty with backing, write to **BetterBroadbandBaltimore@rolandpark.org.** 

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# Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Architectural Review Committee Update

#### By Paula Dubé, President, Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation

Good news from your Architectural Review Committee! We have now completed instructions that will enable you to determine

We have now completed instructions that will enable you to determine your covenant status.

your covenant status. Two documents are necessary for the task: the first, "How to Determine your Covenant Status," describes the search process and the second, "Covenant Renewal Cites in Maryland Land Records (by Plat)," directs you to the locations in the Maryland Land Records to determine covenant renewal on your particular property. Both documents are available in paper form or electronically from our office manager, Marni Toop, at (410) 464-2525 or **rporg@verizon.net**.

If you have questions about whether your property is under covenant, we are now able to quickly review the land records and make that determination. With the instructions described above, you can now complete the search independently, but we always remain available to assist you.

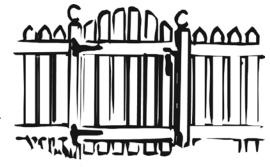


# STONY RUN HOME FURNITURE LIGHTING ART ACCESSORIES STORE MON-FRI 10-5, DESIGN STUDIO BY APPT 318 WYNDHURST AVE 410-435-4663

Prior to initiating any changes to the exterior of your property, including fences, parking pads, patios, decks, walkways, hardscape, railings, lighting, windows, painting, roofing, and, of course, additions, please make application to the Architectural Review Committee of Roland Park Roads and Maintenance.

Prior to initiating any changes to the exterior of your property, including fences, parking pads, patios, decks, walkways, hardscape, railings, lighting, windows, painting, roofing, and, of course, additions, please make application to the Architectural Review Committee of Roland Park Roads and Maintenance. In the case of repainting your house the same colors as existing or making significant repairs, please make application as well since the existing color or existing work may not have been approved. The application is available under the "Roads and Maintenance" tab on the Roland Park website, **www.RolandPark.org/roads/roadsApp. html**. Landscaping (trees, shrubs, lawns), as distinguished from hardscape, is at your own tasteful discretion.

While application is required only for those homeowners whose properties are under covenant, please assume that your properties are under covenant, as most are.



Should your

property not be under covenant, we urge you to place it under covenant. We are always available to speak with you about the benefits for you and the entire community of having your property under covenant.

Should you definitely not want to place your property under covenant, please honor the spirit of the covenants and make application anyway.

We have been prompt in reviewing applications (in most cases within the month of receipt) and seek to work with homeowners. Our difficulties have occurred when homeowners proceed with work without prior approval in violation of covenants.

**Our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month**. If we need to change the meeting date, the change is posted in the e-letter and on the website calendar. It is most helpful if applications are received at least one week before the meeting, to allow us to gather any additional information that may be needed.

We are most grateful for the ongoing cooperation of members of our community as they seek to improve their properties for their own benefit and, as a consequence, that of their neighbors. Please honor the covenants. In that way, we can preserve the beautiful neighborhood we all enjoy.

# Bookends: Writing About the Raj Era, from Roland Park

# An Interview with Sujata Massey

#### **By Henry Mortimer**

Although a resident of the northern Baltimore area for a quarter century, author Sujata Massey has written nearly a dozen books about people and places that are as far away and different from her current Roland Park address as one could get. Her latest novel is no exception. *The Sleeping Dictionary* takes place in Raj-era Calcutta and explores her Indian heritage and interest in the ways that economic and social issues have shaped that culture and country. Massey says that, though she enjoys visiting foreign countries such as Japan and India for inspiration and fodder for her plot lines, there's no place like home for writing her books.

# Please briefly describe your novel, *The Sleeping Dictionary*.

*The Sleeping Dictionary* tells the story of Pom, a young Bengali peasant girl who becomes literate and rises to a position of secret power in late British Raj Calcutta. It's a saga-style novel that combines the history of Britain and India with a poignant mother-daughter story, a love triangle, and political ferment and espionage—along with some Indian recipes at the end, too!

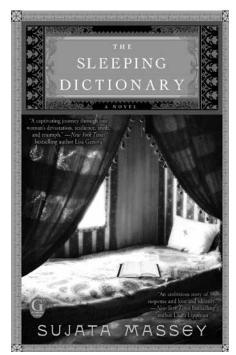
### What inspired you to tell Pom's story?

I've always felt called to write stories set in faraway places. India has had a hold on my heart since I first traveled there with my family, when I was nine years old. My father is from an old Calcutta family and shared stories about his childhood in the city and countryside during the years just before Indian independence. I've since returned for four long visits, and each time I became more compelled to find the right story to go with the place. It took years, but eventually a voice seemed to whisper in my ear about Pom. I also decided to write about Calcutta because I felt such a passion for the city's grand old, 19th-century buildings, many of which are deteriorating or being removed for modern businesses. I wondered about the people who'd lived and worked in these beautiful, Raj-era bungalows and mansion flats.

#### Your previous books are about an English teacher solving murder mysteries in modern day Japan. Why did you decide to write a rags-to-riches story set in a bygone India?

When I began writing about Japan, the most important thing for me was sharing details of culture and social challenges—like the frustrations of women shut out of good jobs, the impact of the U.S. military on communities, and so on. I also wanted to share the tiny daily culture that I found wonderful: things like, how to cure homemade tofu underneath your kitchen floor, eight-inch platform sandals worn by young people, and old proverbs told by grandmothers. Yes, there was crime in the books, but I was much more interested in bringing readers to another world where they might become fascinated enough to travel.

The India I write about in *The Sleeping Dictionary* is gone, because the British left in 1947. Still, the schools, railways, buildings, and habits of the British endure as part of the Indian landscape and culture. I feel like there's a lasting social discomfort



about the relationship for people on both sides. Many Indian novels characterize the British as vicious and selfish — and many British novels describe Indians as stupid and untrustworthy. Writing a novel about a girl who starts her life as a peasant was a wonderful way to debunk stereotypes and explore questions about whether people on either side can accept each other and have equal, happy relationships. Pom, who renames herself Kamala, experiences both the gift of literacy and the cruelty of discrimination while working as a servant at a British-run boarding school. She learns hard truths about the British class system, and later has a chance to play a role in the freedom movement. But she has to decide whether secrets in her past will keep her from security and love.

What do you hope your readers will gain most from reading *The Sleeping Dictionary*?

Continued on page 22

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(pumpkin bars) – Baltimore City Paper, Best of Baltimore 2012

# "Best Butcher"

- Baltimore magazine, Best of Baltimore 2010

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# A Healthy Start to the School Year at RPE/MS!

#### By Kurt Overton, Trish Pilla and Caroline Wayner

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School (RPE/MS) began the 2013-14 school year with a new permanent principal at the helm.

Nicholas D'Ambrosio is not a new face at the school. He taught middle school physical education at RPE/MS for three years before being appointed as sixth grade assistant principal in 2008. He left Roland Park for the 2011-12 school year to become interim principal at Francis Scott Key Elementary/ Middle School in Locust Point and returned to RPE/MS as interim principal for the 2012-13 school year after the retirement of former principal Carolyn Cole.

Mr. D'Ambrosio, who earned a master's degree in education from Loyola University Maryland, will host the annual Principal's State of the School Address at RPE/MS on Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend— please use the school's main entrance facing Roland Avenue. Parking

is available on Roland Avenue or in the parking lot behind the school.

On September 30, RPE/MS was recognized as a National Healthy School by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a group founded



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by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation. The school's elementary physical education teacher, Luke Hollis, who also serves as the co-chair of the school's Wellness Committee,

flew to Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept the award on behalf of the school.

RPE/MS parents Maiju Lehmijoki-Gardner and Peter Beilenson formed the school's Wellness Committee in 2011. The Committee and the school's Annual Fund recently partnered to form a charity team for the Baltimore Running Festival on October 12. The team was comprised of over 160 teachers, administrators, students, parents, and friends of RPE/MS, and collectively they raised over \$40,000 for the school to help maintain and improve current wellness programs. The leading

fundraiser was Principal Nicholas D'Ambrosio with over \$12,000. David and Jessica Lunken led the way among RPE/MS families with \$2,619. The school will use the funds to implement new recess programs, create a wellness newsletter, improve the drainage and overall condition of the playing fields behind the school, among other important projects. RPE/MS was featured on WBAL-TV as one of the leading charity teams in the Baltimore Running Festival.

The RPEMS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosted their fall fundraiser on Friday, November 22, the biennial Evening with the Arts, which celebrates the artists in the school community: teachers, parents, and friends of the school. These artists generously donated their time at live performances and their works of art for a silent auction. Sponsors of the evening included Nelson Coleman Jewelers, Fleur de Lis Florist, and the Wine Source, all of which are returning and generous supporters of the PTA's annual fall fundraiser.

# Roland Park Civic League Forms Mentoring Partnership

In November, the Roland Park Civic League partnered with RPE/MS to launch a new mentoring program for middle school students. Over 20 people from greater Roland Park volunteered to be the program's first mentors. Middle School Assistant Principal Dan Hellerbach developed the mentoring program and partnered with the Civic League to recruit volunteers. The goal of the program is to provide an additional adult in a young student's life to help him or her focus on setting a goal and achieving it over a three-month time period. The mentors will meet with their students every other Monday for about an hour during the three-month period.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact Mr. Hellerbach at **dhellerbach@bcps.k12.md.us**.



Members of the school's team at the Baltimore Running Festival. Photo courtesy of Kurt Overton

# Gilman School's Johnnie Foreman Honored for National Leadership in Diversity

### By Deborah Baum

Johnnie Foreman, a longtime teacher, coach, mentor, and current director of community and diversity at Gilman School, will be honored with the 2014 National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Diversity Leadership Award, which celebrates outstanding independent school leaders who have worked to advance diversity and inclusivity on a national and/ or international scale. Foreman will receive the award at the 2014 NAIS annual conference in Florida in February.

"Here at Gilman School and beyond, Johnnie Foreman has made a significant impact on us all with his

commitment to and passion for diversification, inclusion, and community building," said Henry Smyth, headmaster of Gilman. "Johnnie has been an important part of the Gilman community for the last 30 years and we congratulate him on this well-deserved honor."

A native Baltimorean and graduate of Morgan State University, Foreman began his education career in 1974 as a Baltimore City School teacher. After ten years of teaching in the public school sector, Foreman made the transition to independent schools where he has served, for 30 years, at Gilman School. He was the school's first associate athletic director and was appointed the head outdoor

# Twenty-Five Bryn Mawr Seniors Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Corporation and College Board

#### By Laurel Weijer

Twenty-five members of the The Bryn Mawr School Class of 2014 have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) or the College Board as either Semifinalists or Commended Scholars in the National Merit Scholarship and National Achievement Scholarship programs or Scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, representing more than 34% of the Class of 2014. Within Baltimore City, only seven girls were recognized as National Merit Semifinalists; four of those seven attend Bryn Mawr.

Sophie Freeman, Alex Saiontz, Linnea Seibel and Anne Wondisford have been named National Merit Semifinalists, and will compete for four of the 8,300 National Merit Scholarships available. Fifteen other students—Sharon Chen, Amy Chong, Olivia Davies, Cara Eisenstein, Natasha Franks, Lindsay Hexter, Alina Hong, Alizay Jalisi, Sarah Lowenstein, Alexa Philippou, Margaret Pollack, Lindsay Sanders, Tess Sheets, Darcy Watts and Molly Weinstock have been named Commended Scholars, reflecting their high achievement on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Continued on page 23



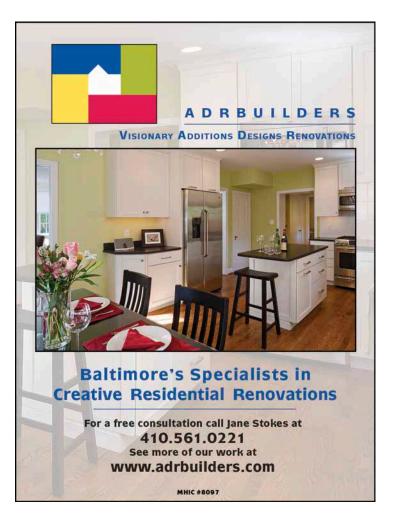
Johnnie Foreman will be honored with the 2014 NAIS Diversity Leadership Award. Photo courtesy of Gilman School

track coach in 1988. He has since coached nine championship seasons. Foreman also teaches African American literature in the upper school and is the inaugural director of community and diversity.

Under Foreman's tenure as director of community and diversity, Gilman School has strengthened its commitment to create opportunities for students to combine academic work with cultural awareness and competency. Foreman's responsibilities include hosting quarterly "Community & Diversity Gatherings" for the school community and general public, organizing the annual Cultural Arts

Festival, and bringing nationally known speakers to campus for lectures and conversations on topics including identity, race, civil rights, and affirmative action.

National Public Radio host and journalist Michelle Martin, Pulitzer Prize-winning civil rights historian Taylor Branch, and acclaimed diversity and anti-bullying expert Rosetta Lee are among recent guests at Gilman. This January, the school will host lectures and conversations with the recently retired chief judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Honorable Robert M. Bell, and Thomas J. Espenshade, professor of sociology at Princeton. The public is welcome to attend. Watch **www.gilman.edu** for details.



# Bookends

Continued from page 19

Modern books and films characterize India as a loud, colorful place, filled with injustice and too many people. I'm hoping to give an alternate vision of communities like Kolkata (Calcutta in my book's time period) that aren't as flashy but are deeply intellectual and cultured, with a strong tradition of women's education and dignity. I want readers to get hungry for a savory Bengali meal or a refreshing gin-lime in the garden. At the same time, I hope that events in this novel will help to explain why there are still big problems with Hindu-Muslim violence and difficulties in rising from poverty, and businesspeople and government officials who sometimes appear to undermine economic and social growth. When I'm frustrated, I remind myself that India is only a 56-yearold democracy. A lot of progress had been made in these years that will continue.

All of your books take place in lands far, far away from Roland Park. How does living and working in Baltimore offer inspiration for you?



Sujata Massey Photo courtesy of Sujata Massey

I specifically like Baltimore because it's not the location of my fiction. Being onsite in India or Japan is great for research, but it's too distracting to write there. I've lived in North Baltimore for 25 years. All of my past and current homes in Roland Park, Evergreen, and Wyndhurst, seem like they were built for writers. So many wonderful little rooms. I enjoy writing in my bedroom or a second-floor sleeping porch in summertime. In the fall and winter, I typically have my laptop in the dining room with its lovely Greek revival fireplace and floor-to-ceiling bookcases. If I'm restless, I take my beagle for a walk through Tuxedo Park or down the west side of Roland Avenue.

#### What are you working on next?

I hope to write two more historical suspense novels set in India, involving characters from *The Sleeping Dictionary*. I'm interested in exploring India's troubles with Pakistan in the 1950s, and the 1971 birth of Bangladesh, an independent Muslim country in East Bengal. I'm excited by the idea of creating a young woman character in each of these books who is able to

Continued on page 25



# Butternut Squash and Coconut Soup

#### Kiko Wilson, Executive Chef, Johnny's

- 4 oz. butter
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1/10 oz. garlic
- 1 lb. butternut squash, roasted 13.5 oz can of coconut milk

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Wash and split butternut squash in half.

squash in half. Remove seeds and discard. Roast butternut squash halves in light oil and salt until tender. Remove the flesh and discard the skin.

Sweat onion and garlic in butter in a soup pot. Cook until onions and garlic are translucent, then add coconut milk and season to taste. Simmer for 15 minutes. Allow the soup to cool for a few minutes then puree in a blender. Always be cautious when blending hot soup—start at the lowest setting on the blender, then gradually increase to high.

Reheat soup and serve hot.

Chef's Tip: For a vegan-friendly version, substitute extra virgin olive oil for the butter.  $\bigstar$ 

# Making a Healthy Difference in Local Kids' Lives

#### By Lindsley Dischinger Stys

A food drive with a healthy twist? Just ask students at Roland Park's Calvert School. They've been collecting healthy food items for local kids in need for three years in a row.

Their school-wide healthy food drive, supporting United Way of Central Maryland's (UWCM's) Access to Healthy Food Initiative (www.uwcm.org/healthyfood), was an even bigger success this year. Students were excited to participate in the healthy giving week, dressing as fruits and veggies to promote the drive to the morning and afternoon carpool lines. For the third year in a row, they've seen an increase in the total number of pounds of healthy food collected. This year, they totaled an impressive 2,238 pounds.

"Schools hosting healthy food drives to benefit struggling families in neighboring communities is a direct way to angene students with the yeary real local food

is a direct way to engage students with the very real local food

# National Merit

#### Continued from page 21

One senior, Hala Bailey, has been named a National Achievement Semifinalist, and will be entered into the competition for one of the 700 National Achievement scholarships given out each year. Three others—Nia Ebrahim, Stephanie Histon and Kendall Reitz were named National Achievement Commended Scholars.

Finally, Alice Sheehan and Victoria Gumtow have been named National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars, the highest award given by the program.

The National Merit Scholarship program is open to all high school students who complete the PSAT/NMSQT by the close of their junior year. Approximately 1,500,000 students take the test each year. Of those, the top 50,000 students—only 3% of all test-takers—qualify for National Merit acknowledgment.

To achieve Commended Scholar or Semifinalist status, students must meet or exceed a selection index. While the Commended Scholar selection index is the same nationwide, Semifinalist indices vary state to state, in order to allow NMSC to provide a representative sample of students. Maryland's selection index is one of the highest in the country, providing an even greater testament to the exceptional abilities of Bryn Mawr's Commended Scholars and Semifinalists.

The National Achievement Scholarship program is open to all Black American high school students who complete the PSAT/ NMSQT by the close of their junior year. In this competition, 4,700 students are selected for recognition, representing the top 3%. Of those, 1,600 students advance to Semifinalist status.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) is open to all students who are at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino, as defined by the program, and have taken the PSAT/NMSQT by the close of their junior year. This year, the NHRP is recognizing about 5,300 students, the top 2% of test-takers. Designation as either a Scholar or an Honorable Mention recipient was determined by the student's GPA.



Calvert students promote healthy eating at their recent food drive. Photo: Molly Shattuck

insecurity issues," said Molly Shattuck, Calvert School mom, founder of Molly Shattuck Vibrant Living and UWCM's Healthy Food Ambassador. " The healthy food donations collected by Calvert School students and teachers were delivered by parent volunteers to four different Baltimore City schools for immediate distribution to their students and families, as well as to two local food pantries. At a time when obesity and diabetes threaten the longterm health of many children, making healthy food accessible is even more critical than ever."

UWCM's Access to Healthy Food Initiative launched in October 2011 with a series of family-oriented volunteer harvesting events and healthy food drives. More than 325,000 central Maryland residents are considered "food insecure," meaning they lack consistent access to healthy, affordable food. With the support of the community and partners like Calvert School, UWCM has sourced and distributed more than 5.1 million pounds of healthy food across nd since the initiative began

central Maryland since the initiative began.

To learn how you can host a healthy food drive at your kids' school or with another club or organization, please contact Liz Crammond at (410) 547-8000 or **healthyfood@uwcm.org**.



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# Our Friend, Kevin Spacey St. John's Road House In "House of Cards"

### By Cynthia McIntyre

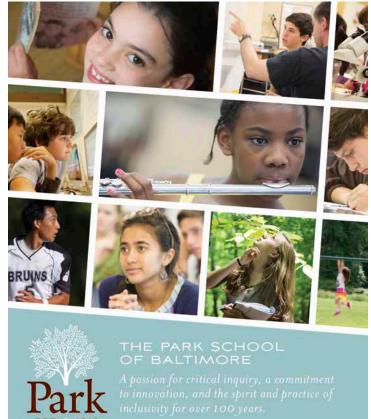
When Kevin Spacey's limo pulls up at night to a big, pleasantly shabby house in scene 4, episode 12 of the Emmy Award-winning "House of Cards," that's our house in Roland

Park. Its five minutes of fame was the culmination of months of visits and four days of filming in October 2012, by a crew of 30 cast members and stage hands, much to the delight of most, but not all, of our neighbors on St. Johns Road. Here's how it happened.

The doorbell rang in August, as we were talking about a new roof. A young, easygoing guy named Eric introduced himself as a location scout for a new Netflix series that was filming in Baltimore. Would we be interested in letting our house be used as a location? My husband Dan, whose office is just off the entrance hall, and who never looks up for visitors, looked up. Not one to be overly

impressed by celebrity, or even the possibility of celebrity, he listened and chatted with more than his usual animation, holding off on asking the question that those who know him well could see was uppermost in his mind, "Would it pay for a roof?"

Eric was invited in to look around. He walked through the main



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# TOURS WITH PRINCIPALS: DECEMBER 12

rooms—complimentary but non-committal— and said they were checking out other houses in the neighborhood as well. He would be in touch. Our hopes sank. A few days later, he called to ask if he could bring some more people to see the house. Our hopes rose

again. Finally the director, Allen Coulter,\* arrived, announcing that yes, they would like to use the house as a location.

Weeks passed, while the cast and crew filmed at other Baltimore locations, including the nearby Baltimore Country Club. By the end of September, things were heating up here. Set designers came and went, explaining the look they needed and the changes they would need to make in the house. The color palette for the show, they told us, was neutral, meaning not a lot of color. So out went the rugs, the red sofa, the curtains and the upholstered chairs. The walls were

painted, and there was a lot of discussion about removing some distinctive wallpaper in the front hall. In the end, it stayed.

In our scene, Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) takes a night flight to 'the Midwest' to visit the home of a character loosely modeled on Warren Buffet. Raymond Tusk, the Warren Buffet character, lives in a rambling, unpretentious, shingle-style house that suits his down-to-earth personality. The script describes him as "the modest billionaire." He lives there with his 60-something wife, a pet cockatoo and lots of brown furniture that's seen better days. Even our kitchen, last updated in 2001, was too modern, so the blinds were taken down and net curtains installed. Countertops were replaced by butcher block and light fixtures were removed.

Days before filming started, we were told that they would be filming in our bedroom—Kevin Spacey in our bed! Would we mind leaving the house to spend three nights at the new Four Seasons Hotel downtown? Um, sure, that would be OK with us. While we packed our bags, Eric started working the street, talking to the neighbors about what to expect. Politely, he apologized in advance for the giant trucks that would be lining narrow St. Johns Road and for the dazzlingly bright lights that would be shining on our house during night filming. He invited everyone to eat from the food truck, a gesture that went a surprisingly long way to keeping everyone happy. St. John's moment of fame had begun.

The first morning, five giant tractor trailer trucks rolled down our dead end street, taking up its entire length, with one or two more parked on Roland Avenue. Swarms of crew members arrived with microphones and walkie-talkies, bringing scripts, makeup and props for the day. A black Escalade pulled up with Kevin and his dog, a black Labrador mix, in the back. People started to gather outside the house to watch dozens of extras, handlers and crew, coming in and out, smoking and chatting about the action going on inside.

The crew had warned us that we would probably never get to meet Kevin Spacey, because when in character for a role, "Kevin is completely focused" and "doesn't even talk to us." But in the event, one afternoon, still in costume, the man himself wandered out of the house and chatted at length to neighbors, kids and local dog walkers standing outside.

He talked about dogs, about our house, about his role as Frank



Underwood the manipulative Senator from South Carolina and about his time in London, where he has long been artistic director at the Old Vic theatre. The next night he made another appearance, greeting us all—charming, witty and self-deprecating as you could wish a movie star to be. No photos were allowed sadly, because HBO/Netflix owns any photograph of him in costume and makeup as Frank Underwood.

There were a few complaints. A tree branch was damaged by a truck. Getting in and out of our dead end street was time-consuming, and neighbors had to park blocks away. Sorry guys. For us it was all good. In the end, we got the house back, better than before. We are proud owners of an 8x10" glossy signed by our friend, Kevin Spacey, some fun memories and part, but not all, of a new roof.

The film company, Knight Takes King Productions, at Dan's request, made a generous donation to the Roland Park Foundation as a goodwill gesture to the neighborhood. Something to remember, when a location scout knocks on your door!

\* David Fincher was executive producer and most often credited director of House of Cards. Allen Coulter directed Episodes 12 and 13.

Home Sales	(August th	rough Early November)
	List Price	Closing Price
5203 Falls Rd., #17	\$108,900	\$102,000
6, Upland Rd., #B-3	\$299,000	\$268,500
6, Upland Rd. #F-1	\$375,000	\$340,000
6, Upland Rd. #G-4	\$129,000	\$125,000
1040 Deer Ridge Dr., #112	\$164,900	\$161,000
1040 Deer Ridge Dr., #114	\$155,000	\$145,000
4505 Wilmslow Rd.	\$199,500	\$190,000
4527 Keswick Rd.	\$250,000	\$256,000
4616 Keswick Rd.	\$279,900	\$280,000
4819 Keswick Rd.	\$429,900	\$429,900
4340 Roland Spring Dr.	\$325,000	\$325,000
726 Deepdene Rd.	\$364,900	\$364,900
4401 Sedgwick Rd.	\$374,899	\$370,000
631 Colorado Ave.	\$399,000	\$395,000
4245 Wickford Rd.	\$408,000	\$408,000
4423 Wickford Rd.	\$499,000	\$499,000
4429 Wickford Rd.	\$400,000	\$400,000
617 W. University Pkwy.	\$425,000	\$425,000
807 W. University Pkwy.	\$725,000	\$660,000
214 Longwood Rd.	\$432,500	\$420,000
5 Beechdale Rd.	\$435,000	\$425,000
729 St. John's Rd.	\$449,500	\$451,500
1204 Poplar Hill Rd.	\$495,000	\$460,000
906 Northern Pkwy W.	\$525,000	\$520,000
5805 Roland Ave.	\$535,000	\$525,000
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# Bookends

Continued from page 22

check in with her grandmother for a cup of tea and the crucial piece of advice.

#### Any plans to continue the mystery series featuring Japanese-American sleuth, Rei Shimura?

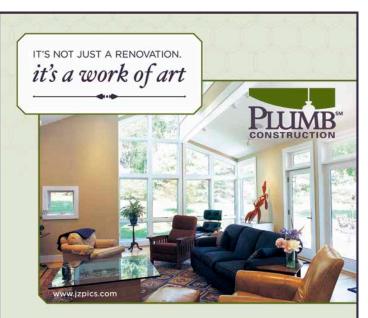
I thought I'd ended it a few years ago, but I had a change of heart, especially after the 2011 tsunami. Rei fans begged me not to stop her adventures. So I've created a novel-length Rei manuscript that I hope will be published in 2014, and I plan to write two or three more. Then, I owe my mother, who's from Germany, a historical or contemporary suspense novel set there. She has wonderful stories that would make great fiction, and I think there just aren't enough novels set in Germany.

### Will you ever write about Baltimore?

Maybe, but I might have to move to do it! 💠

To learn more about *The Sleeping Dictionary*, as well as her other novels, visit Sujata Massey's website **www.sujatamassey.com**.

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



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# The Book Nook

#### By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

Welcome to the Book Nook.

In October we enjoyed a most engaging book discussion about this year's One Maryland/One Book, *King Peggy: An American Secretary, Her Royal Destiny, And the Inspiring Story Of How She Changed an African Village* by Peggielene Bartels. Many thanks to Kim Riley for once again serving as our moderator, and all the participants.

On November 23, local author Susan Fillion and her newest children's book *Pizza in Pienza* served up a rare Saturday family program. All had fun, and yes, pizza, too!

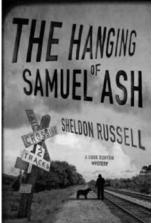
As winter approaches, I thought some armchair travel might be a pleasant way to spend a cold winter's evening. I hope you enjoy these suggestions. As always, reviews are excerpted from the reviews section of the online Pratt Catalog (pac.epfl.net).

### Fiction

The Last Camellia by Sarah Jio

In 2000, landscape designer Addison flees her New York City home (and secret past) with her English husband, Rex, for

Livingston Manor, his parents' new country estate outside London. She soon finds that Livingston Manor has secrets of its own related to a woman who underwent the same journey 60 years earlier.



In 1940, amateur botanist Flora, at the behest of an international flower thief, leaves New York to work as a nanny for the estate's owners, a wealthy family who may have been harboring a rare camellia species on their property. She discovers something far more sinister going on, involving women who have been disappearing from a nearby town. In 2000, Addison gradually realizes that the same danger Flora once faced may be closing in on her as well.

The Sleeping Dictionary by Sujata Massey

Trapped by her past and uncertain of her future, the peasant girl Kamala's journey toward independence, both personal and political, unfolds in this riveting historical novel. The award-winning author of the Rei Shimura mysteries turns to colonial India in the 1930s and 1940s, as Gandhi and others fight for freedom from British control. The setting gives new life to the familiar story of an orphan girl struggling to

make her way in a cruel world. Clever Kamala is front and center throughout, as Massey builds her coming-of-age tale around India as it moves toward independence, effectively combining personal narrative with the grandeur of a sweeping historical epic.

### The Hanging of Samuel Ash by Sheldon Russell

One-armed railroad detective Hook Runyon feels as worn out as the Santa Fe's rolling stock, essentially run to exhaustion by the



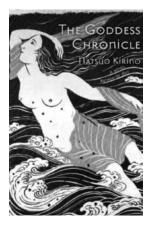
# Book Nook

Continued from page 26

demands of World War Two. Wages have been frozen since 1942 and wildcat strikes are occurring. He's also beleaguered by a skillful band of pickpockets working his lonely Texas-New Mexico right of way—the dips have even stolen Hook's wallet and badge twice. In addition, he's been assigned to train a well-intentioned but naive college boy as a yard dog (railroad detective). But Hook's problems really grow when he discovers the corpse of a young man hanging from a railroad semaphore signal. The corpse carries no identification except for a military Bronze Star with the name "Samuel Ash" engraved on the back. Refusing to let a war hero be buried in an anonymous grave, Hook resolves to return Ash to his small Oklahoma home town. What he finds there is a small town hiding nasty secrets.

#### The Goddess Chronicle by Natsuo Kirino

Kirino is best known for her award-winning crime fiction, including the teenage noir, *Real World* (2008) and the struggle of a prostitute in *Grotesque* (2007). With her latest novel to be



translated into English, Kirino steps away from the crime-fiction form to rework the legend of Japan's genesis into a tale of betrothal, betrayal and vengeance. According to myth, Izanami was killed by her husband, Izanagi, and sentenced to rule the Realm of the Dead. Similarly, Kirino's character Namima, a 16-year-old who breaks the taboos of her island home, regains consciousness to find that she's been strangled by Mahito, her betrothed. Namima meets the goddess Izanami in the underworld and the two work together to uncover Mahito's selfish motivations. While ostensibly a departure from her familiar genre,

Kirino's foray into folklore shares similarities with her earlier novels, namely, female characters who, wronged by lovers, choose to resist societal expectations and fight to rectify injustice. Readers who enjoy crime fiction or re-envisioned myth will find that this imaginative veneer works well on such reliable scaffolding.

### Nonfiction

### The Alley of Love and Yellow Jasmines by Shohreh Aghdashloo

Tehran-born actor Aghdashloo was the first Iranian to be nominated for an Academy Award (for the 2003 film House of Sand and Fog). In this memoir, she describes her dramatic journey from the Shah's Iran of her childhood to Hollywood. As a teenager in the 1970s, she had an epiphany while seeing Gone with the Wind, deciding right then to become an actor. Before she was 20, she'd married and landed her first lead role in a play, but with the changing political landscape in the country in the late 1970s and her growing vocal opposition to the Ayatollah, she decided to leave Iran. Experiencing total freedom for the first time, she divorced her husband and got an education. Eventually she moved to the United States where she found work in television and radio amid the huge Iranian community in L.A. Her success didn't happen overnight: "With my accent and jet-black hair, I was not exactly the girl next door." She got her first break on Matlock, more than a decade before her trip to the Oscars. But with that transformative moment, she explains in this heartfelt narrative, her Hollywood adventure began in earnest.

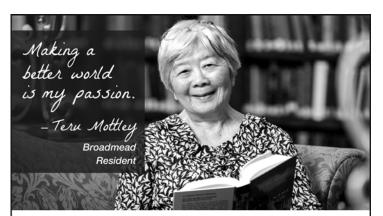
Hunting Che: How a U.S. Special Forces Team Helped Capture the World's Most Famous Revolutionary by Mitch Weiss and Kevin Maurer

The duo behind 2012's No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan team up again to recount the capture and execution of Che Guevara, America's primary Cold War-era bête noire and the world's most recognizable rebel. Along with Fidel Castro, Che helped orchestrate the Cuban Revolution and the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. His efforts would make him an idol for 1960s left-wing youth. When Che and his guerillas turned their attention to bringing communism to U.S.-backed Bolivia in the mid-1960s however, the United States decided to intervene. A U.S. military Special Forces team was sent south to guide a battalion of Bolivian soldiers through a four-month-long crash course in fighting the insurrection. Weiss (a Pulitzer Prizewinning journalist) and Maurer (coauthor of No Easy Day) focus primarily on the American operation to take down Che, detailing the tactics and personnel involved, as well as the dramatic play-byplay leading up to the rebel's execution.

# I Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls and Wars in Hungary by Marianne Szegedy-Maszák

This tragic family history weaves together the lives of journalist Szegedy-Maszak's parents and their extended families with the fate of their native Hungary during and after World War Two. The author's father, Aladar, was a Gentile civil servant in the Hungarian

Continued on page 28



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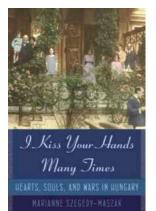
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Foreign Ministry, whereas her mother, Hanna, came from a family of Jewish industrialists who converted to Christianity. Aladar and Hanna's romance blossoms under the shadows of war and anti-Semitism, and continues to grow even after Aladar is shipped off

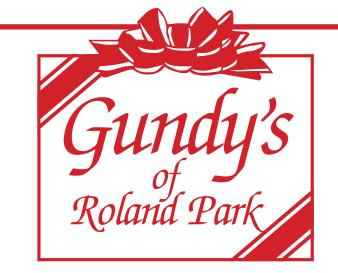


to the Dachau concentration camp for voicing his strong anti-Nazi opinions. Hanna and her family, meanwhile, strike a deal with Heinrich Himmler to trade most of the family's holdings for passage out of Hungary. In the aftermath of the war, Aladar and Hanna are reunited and the fragile Hungarian government names him minister to the United States. Despite his best efforts, he is powerless to prevent the Communist overthrow of the democratically-elected Hungarian government. Through her parents' correspondence and other sources, Szegedy-Maszak reveals a father who is by turns "luminous" and broken,

a mother who is "hilariously funny and brilliant" and a nation struggling to find its footing after decades of war and repression.

*The Price of Justice: A True Story of Greed and Corruption* by Laurence Leamer

Leamer's newest book is the riveting and compulsively readable tale of the epic battle between Don Blankenship, the man who essentially ran the West Virginia coal industry through his company Massey Energy, and two seemingly ordinary attorneys,



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#### Parents' Library Corner

Please note that there will be no Storytimes the week of Christmas. Also, beginning in January, all Storytimes will take place on Thursdays.

Date & Time	Program
Mondays, 1:30 p.m. Dec. 2, 9, & 16	Mother Goose Baby Steps. (Birth to 2) Interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.
Thursdays, 11 a.m.	<b>Preschool Leaps.</b> Stories, songs and fun for ages 3 to 5.
Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. (beginning Jan. 2, 2014)	Mother Goose Baby Steps (Birth to 2) Interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.
Wednesdays, Dec. 11 and Feb. 5, 12 p.m.	Mazel Tales (Birth to 5) Stories, songs and activities for children up to age 5. Presented by the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore.
Tuesdays, January 7 and 21, February 4 and 18, 3:30 p.m.	STEM Adventures. (6 to 12) Experience science, technology, engineering and math outside the textbook.
Wednesday, January 8, 12 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Tu B'Shevat. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of Tu B'Shevat. For children up to age 5.

Bruce Stanley and David Fawcett. The centerpiece of the story is a West Virginia mine owner whom Blankenship purposefully bankrupted, and on whose behalf Stanley and Fawcett won (in 2002) a \$50 million dollar verdict that is still unpaid. In hopes of having the ruling overturned by the West Virginia Supreme Court, Blankenship sought to "buy" a seat on the court by contributing over \$3 million to the successful campaign of a conservative judicial candidate. The U.S. Supreme Court, however, eventually found that Blankenship's contributions were too much to allow the new West Virginia justice to hear the case. Leamer has produced a Shakespearean tale of greed, corporate irresponsibility and personal hubris on the one hand, and idealism, commitment to justice and personal sacrifice on the other. Blankenship is a villain for all time, and Stanley and Fawcett are lawyers who bring honor to their profession.

America 1933: The Great Depression, Lorena Hickok, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Shaping of the New Deal by Michael Golay

Golay (*A Ruined Land: The End of the Civil War*, 1999) writes of the 1933-34 cross-country trip undertaken by Lorena Hickok to evaluate and report to the new Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) on how the Great Depression was impacting ordinary families. She had been an Associated Press reporter and her friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt helped her to create FERA reports that captured President Roosevelt's attention. Golay focuses here on the grinding poverty that Hickok witnessed and ably captures her roadwork and personality. The book's secondary theme concerns the friendship between Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt.

# *From the Ruins of Empire: The Intellectuals Who Remade Asia* by Pankaj Mishra

Indian-British historian and international affairs commentator Mishra (Temptations of the West, 2007) looks at how, between about 1870 and 1940, "some of the most intelligent and sensitive people in the East responded to the encroachments of the West (both physical and intellectual) on their societies." In particular, he focuses on Jamal al-Din al-Afghani and Liang Qichao, intellectuals and political activists. Born in a small town in Iran, al-Afghani was the ultimate Islamic cosmopolitan, living for periods of time in Delhi, Kabul, Istanbul, Cairo, Tehran, London, Moscow and Paris. Ultimately, al-Afghani anticipated today's Islamists as "the first thinker to see the concepts 'Islam' and 'the West' as violently opposed binaries." Chinese thinker Liang insightfully criticized the Western imperialism that devastated much of Asia well into the 20th century and favored Japanese authoritarianism with a modernist bent over American democracy (with its racism and corporate domination of the electoral process). Liang also remained a believer in Confucianism to the end of his life. Mishra looks more briefly at a third figure, the Bengali philosopher and writer Rabindranath Tagore, and individuals such as Ho Chi Minh and the pre-Khomeini Iranian Islamist Ali Shariati make "cameo" appearances. Well-researched and crisply written, this scintillating work will help American readers understand the political and intellectual roots of Islamism and other non- and anti-Western thought in Asia today.

### General Information

Please note that I always update the voice message on the branch phone when there are changes to our public service schedule.

# Roland Park Branch Hours:

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.

Friday and Sunday: Closed

Please note the following holiday closings for all Pratt Libraries: December 24 at 5 p.m. for Christmas Eve, December 25 for Christmas Day, December 31 at 5 p.m. for New Year's Eve, January 1 for New Year's Day, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and February 17 for Presidents' Day.

Just call (410) 396-6099 and listen to the first message for any changes to hours and openings. Changes to the public schedule are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt Library's webpage at **www.prattlibrary.org**.

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# Master Plan Update

### By Al Copp

Progress continues on several projects as we work toward meeting the goals of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan.

The plans and specifications for the repaving of Roland Avenue are now out for bid.



## Roland Park Repaving Project

The plans and specifications for the repaying of Roland Avenue are now out for bid. These include a new signaled intersection on Northern

Parkway, as well as new, permanent pedestrian crosswalks on Cold Spring Lane and Wyndhurst Avenue. Assuming an acceptable bid is received, the contract could be awarded this winter, with construction underway in early spring.

Photos: Kathleen Truelove

### Paths and Signs

The Roland Park paths continue to be well-maintained and a program to reinvigorate the path signage has begun. Six of



#### Continued on page 31

# Donor Profile: Keats Smith

My husband and I moved to 215 Club Road in 1968 with a combined family of seven children. Evans grew up at the corner

of Park Lane and Keswick Road. He and his brother, Morrow, loved skiing down the big hill at the Baltimore Country Club (BCC). As a BCC member, he also played on the golf course, which went over Falls Road to what is now Cross Keys. Our children and their friends had a ball on the big hill in the snow and we walked our dogs there, as did many other dog lovers. Years ago, there were wild raspberry bushes and lots of birds to sight. Our neighbors were friendly and welcoming. They too loved the



Photo: Sally Foster

winding roads and tall trees that make up this green community. The kids walked to the many excellent schools and hung out at the "morg," now Petit Louis Bistro.

I am a widow now, but I am staying in my home on Club Road where I have lived for the past 45 years. Where would I find another neighborhood like this? I've often been asked, "Why are you so passionate about the Greater Roland Park Open Space Campaign?" So I tell them—we must save open spaces everywhere! Buildings and cement keep spreading and it would be a great shame if we don't keep the country club property from development. As the campaign signs say, let's "keep the park in Roland Park."

A neighborhood park on the BCC property would be for all to enjoy in the Greater Roland Park community. On cold winter days, young and old come from Tuxedo Park, Homeland, Guilford, Hampden and Remington to have fun in the snow. How many of you have sledded, tobogganed or skied down the BCC hill? I did when I first moved here...what a thrill!

Living in close proximity to a park not only increases property values, it can also increase our quality of life—now that's a worthwhile incentive! So please, help us keep this land and hillside for all to savor and enjoy. Let's work together to make the Open Space Campaign a rousing success!

# Master Plan Update

Continued from page 30

twenty-five new signs have been installed and St Margaret's Path is no longer under water.

### Tree Planting and Tree Canopy

Since early 2012, well over 50 trees have been planted under a program whereby members of the Roland Park Civic League who pay eight times the basic fee receive a free tree planted in a location of their choice. The trees are 2-3" caliper and are selected from a list developed during the preparation of the Master Plan. Coincidently, this number roughly equals the number of street trees lost in Roland Park, as determined by a recent neighborhood-wide "stump count."

### Roland Water Tower Restoration

The Water Tower project has been divided into three phases: phase one will cover the exterior restoration of the Tower and removal of the chain-link fence, phase two will focus on the interior restoration and phase three will improve the park around the Tower. State, City and private funds will finance these improvements.



# Roland Park Open Space Campaign Pledge Form

Please cut out and mail this form to the Roland Park Community Foundation at 5115B Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210.

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

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

□ I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

□ I/we have donated by credit card on the Foundation's website (**www.rolandpark.org/foundation.html**) by clicking the yellow "Donate" button at the bottom of the screen.

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