

ROLAND PARK NEWS

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Conservation Landscaping: Maintaining the Beauty of Roland Park

By Kate Culotta

As I sit to write this, we're in the midst of a heat wave. You remember the one—mid-July, temperatures in the upper 90s, sky-high humidity.

It's been a wet summer for sure; shrubs and trees are doing okay, but people, pets and flowering pots are completely wilted. As I gaze across the street, I can't help but notice that two neighboring front yards look fantastic and there's not a blade of grass between the two. On closer look, I see that both neighbors have



Joan Freedman's eye-catching front porch. Photo: Kate Culotta

On closer look, I see that both neighbors have replaced the traditional grass lawn with perennial beds loaded with native plants beneath ornamental trees and shrubs.

replaced the traditional grass lawn with perennial beds loaded with native plants beneath ornamental trees and shrubs.

I stop by for a friendly front porch chat with Hawthorn Road resident Joan Freedman.

"Sure is hot!"

"How much watering have you done to keep your flowers looking like this?"

"Not a bit. Soaker hose from the rain barrel does the watering when needed."

"Whoa," I think. No mowing, no reseeding, no sprinkler.

I decided to stay for a few more questions.

Joan started her front garden last year, but she'd been living next to one for years. Neighbors Robin and David Kantor started their perennial-filled front garden 13 years ago. Robin enlisted the services of Sunshine Tree and Landscape from Timonium to help with the design and to do the initial planting. Sunshine's owner, Jennifer Heinstadt, also planned and built the stone wall. Employ the Earth's Mark Lutz and his employees help to maintain the garden.

Robin explained that, in the beginning, she didn't pay much attention

to choosing native plants, but as she's become more familiar with native choices, several plants have been swapped out. Now Echinacea, Heuchera and native ornamental tall grasses share space with the earlier plants. Robin admits she doesn't do much maintenance during the dormant season. Dead wood gets pruned a little, shrubs get a trim, everything gets a fresh coat of mulch and the garden is ready for a new season.

When I stopped to chat with Joan, I did catch her doing a bit of weeding and deadheading, but she confided that she doesn't do it often. As I mentioned, she's lived next door to the Kantors for years and in that time, plants have begun a friendly creep across the yard. When an old front yard tree died, however, and then a troublesome evergreen was removed, Joan and her family decided to take the gardening plunge.

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Fall 2013

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Editor's Notes

By Hilary Paska

Fall is a season of change, both in nature and our daily lives. For many Roland Parkers, September heralds the return to regular school and work schedules after a relaxed summer pace. Despite our dread of early mornings and increased traffic, however, this return to routine is also an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the neighborhood after summer travels and consider how to strike a balance between appreciating what we have and making changes for the better.

Fall is the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors and two related articles — "Conservation Gardening" and "Un-grass" — discuss how to revitalize our gardens with native plants, moving away from traditional grass lawns and invasive plant species to create lower maintenance, eco-friendly green spaces. Rethinking our gardens can also have wider environmental implications. Did you know that the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly, the Maryland state insect since 1973, is now in serious decline? Robert E. Lee Park is participating in statewide efforts to reserve this trend and seeks neighborhood support for these efforts.

While native plants may enhance our surroundings, good communication strengthens our neighborhood and keeps people safe. The Roland Park Civic League has recently created a

The Roland Park Civic League has recently created a community listserv to share neighborhood information and inform residents of crime events and suspicious activities.

community listserv to share neighborhood information and inform residents of crime events and suspicious activities. In light of the summer crime wave, please take this



Wildlife in Roland Park. Photo: Sally Foster

opportunity to stay well-informed and sign up for the new service, as well as the monthly Roland Park e-newsletter.

Improved communication also relates to the goals of the Baltimore Broadband Coalition, a new group leading a multi-community campaign to improve broadband services in Baltimore. As Phil Spevak's article explains, this initiative requires widespread community support to succeed, so please take time to read about the project and consider supporting their efforts.

In this issue, we also welcome Chris McSherry to her new role as president of the Roland Park Civic League and find out more about

her aims for the neighborhood, including her ongoing support for Roland Park's Open Space Campaign. The latest campaign update demonstrates how much this community can achieve when we commit to common goals. Margaret Gray Kincaid's heartwarming piece on why she made her pledge to the campaign will resonate with many readers, so as we return to our beautiful neighborhood this season, let's reaffirm our commitment to Roland Park and do our best to ensure that it remains safe and picturesque for the future. Happy fall! ♦



Photo: Sally Foster



Photo: Sally Foster

Art Happenings

Baltimore Choral Arts Society's (1316 Park Avenue) fall concerts include:

- October 27, 3 p.m., **Bach—Mass in B Minor**, Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College, Choral Conversation at 2 p.m. Tom Hall leads the Chorus, Orchestra and vocal soloists in one of Bach's most enduring masterpieces. Soloists include sopranos Hyunah Yu and Nola Richardson, alto Marietta Simpson, tenor John Wright and baritone Kevin Deas. Tickets \$25 to \$45. Call the Box Office at 410-523-7070 ext. 301 or go to www.baltimorechoralarts.org.



Soprano soloist Hyunah Yu. Photo courtesy of Baltimore Choral Arts Society.

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

- September 22, 5 p.m., **Ronn McFarlane**, Lutenist, and **Mindy Rosenfeld**, Flutist. One of the most outstanding lutenists performing today, Ronn is largely responsible for bringing the transcendent charm and timeless quality of the lute into the musical mainstream and making it accessible to a larger audience. Ronn is a former faculty member at the Peabody Conservatory and has numerous recordings on the Dorian Label. He will be joined by flutist Mindy Rosenfeld. They have recently released a new CD entitled "Nine Notes that Shook the World." This program is free and open to the public, however a free-will offering will be received.
- October 20, 5 p.m., **St. Cecelia Organ Series, Daniel Sansone**. Daniel J. Sansone will present an all-Bach recital featuring the magnificent Cathedral Organs comprising 130 ranks. This program is free and open to the public, however a free-will offering will be received.
- October 27, 5 p.m., **Solemn Choral Vespers**. The Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Daniel J. Sansone, will sing Solemn Choral Vespers. The liturgy will include the *Magnificat* (St. Paul Service) and the *Te Deum* (Collegium Regale) by Herbert Howells. Monsignor Bruce Jarboe, Rector of the Cathedral, will preside. The service is free and open to the public, however a free-will offering will be received.
- November 10, 5 p.m., **St. Cecelia Organ Series, Marijim Thoene**. Marijim Thoene will present a recital featuring the magnificent Cathedral Organs comprised of 130 ranks. Included on the program are works by Hovhaness, Teml and Dupre. This program is free and open to the public, however a free-will offering will be received.



Alto soloist Marietta Simpson. Photo courtesy of Baltimore Choral Arts Society.

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

Everyman Theatre (315 W. Fayette Street) has announced the directors attached to each of its six productions for the upcoming 2013/14 season. Renowned and award-winning director **Walter Dallas** will be making his Everyman debut with *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* next spring. **Susanna Gellert**, hot off her work with the *My America* project at Centerstage, will also make her Everyman Theatre debut this season. Founding Artistic Director **Vincent Lancisi** will direct the first and last shows of the season—*The Glass Menagerie* and *Tribes*, respectively. Two audience favorites, celebrated directors **Donald Hicken** and **Derek Goldman**, are also returning to the Everyman. For more information about Everyman Theatre, visit www.everymantheatre.org or call 410-752-2208.



Music Director Tom Hall. Photo: Steve Wilcoxson.

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

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Art Happenings

Continued from page 3

- November 1, 7:30 p.m. and November 3, 3 p.m., **Tosca**, by Giacomo Puccini. Based on "La Tosca" by Victorien Sardou and sung in Italian with English surtitles, Puccini's great masterpiece of love, lust and revenge is one of the most dramatically compelling in the entire operatic repertoire. The opera diva



Floria Tosca is in love with the painter Mario Cavaradossi, but the evil Baron Scarpia, the Roman Chief of Police, desires her as well. His nefarious plot to have her involves political intrigue, sadistic brutality and horrific torture. Tosca's dream of love is shattered by Scarpia's duplicity, and in one of the most famous endings in opera, she leaps to her tragic death. Rising American superstar Jill Gardner performs the title role, with celebrated Puccini specialist Dinyar Vania as Cavaradossi, and Metropolitan Opera Star and

Baltimore favorite Eric Owens in his role debut as Scarpia. The Baltimore Symphony orchestra will be conducted by Steven White in a magnificent production directed by James Harp.

- November 15, 7:30 p.m. and November 17, 3 p.m., **Dialogues des Carmélites**, by Francis Poulenc. Sung in French with English surtitles. This unforgettable opera, set during the French Revolution, is the story of the triumph of faith over doubt. This fully staged and costumed production will highlight the brightest vocal stars from the Peabody and feature the Peabody Symphony Orchestra.

Join us for an exciting glimpse of the 2013-14 season at a FREE Musical Preview on Sunday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

FREE parking at the Fitzgerald Garage for those purchasing two three-show subscriptions and more. 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.



Joan Phillips crafts hand-knitted clothing and accessories. Photo: Joan Phillips.

November 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Art Show in the Clubhouse at the Village of Cross Keys**. A beautiful art show just in time for the holidays! Five local artists will present their work in this lovely wooded setting. Admission is free.

- **Cynthia Brower's** prints include woodcuts, linoleum cuts, etchings and lithographs in gorgeous colors, enhancing and defining the subject matter.

- **Diane Stillman** will present jewelry that makes perfect gifts (treat yourself, too!) composed of semi-precious gemstones, resin, silver and shells, which she incorporates in bold, deeply colorful designs.



Eye-catching jewelry designed by Diane Stillman. Photo: Diane Stillman.

- Photography will be represented by **Jacqueline Slavney**, portraying images of trees and the moods of Mother Nature.
- **Joan Phillips** will present knitted and crochet bags and scarfs that will enhance your wardrobe and make great gifts for that hard-to-please relative.
- **Sidney Brower** will show his functional pottery, inspired by Japan, whose lovely glazes ensure a place in your kitchen, or make the perfect gift. ♦

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History and Heritage

Founded in 1960, **Baltimore Heritage, Inc.** (11 1/2 West Chase Street) is Baltimore's nonprofit historic and architectural preservation organization. With two staff members, 33 volunteer board members and a host of volunteers, we work to preserve and promote Baltimore's historic buildings and neighborhoods. For more information or to register for programs, visit www.baltimoreheritage.org.

September 7, 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., **Mount Vernon Place: A History of the Squares**, \$10 for adults, free for children under 16, meet on the South side of the Washington Monument, North Charles Street and Mt. Vernon Place. When the four squares of Mount Vernon Place were laid out in 1831, George Washington had only sat at the top of the monument for a few years and locals still knew the neighborhood as Howard's Woods, named after the forested country estate that long occupied the hills north of the harbor. As the city grew up around the parks, their design was shaped by two luminaries in landscape architecture. In 1876, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. was contracted to carry out improvements to the north and south squares and in 1917, the architectural firm of Carrère & Hastings designed the parks' handsome Beaux Arts fountains, stairs and balustrades. Join Baltimore Heritage & the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy on a short walking tour and discover the past and future of the historic

squares of Mount Vernon Place.

Go beyond the ramparts of Fort McHenry and join our **Defender's Day Ride and Run** for a fun and athletic introduction to landmarks and monuments that tell the stories of how the city lived and fought through the



A View of the Bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814.

Image courtesy of Baltimore Heritage, Inc.

Battle of Baltimore and the War of 1812. Register now at www.baltimoreheritage.org!

■ September 8, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Defender's Day Ride**, \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine, 2400 East Fort Avenue. Love to learn history on two wheels? Join our ten-mile ride on quiet streets and mixed-used paths from Fort McHenry to Hampstead Hill in Patterson Park and back again with local scholar and cyclist Dr. Kate Drabinski.


■ September 8, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., **Defender's Day Run**, \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members (Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine, 2400 East Fort Avenue). At a moderate pace of a ten-minute mile, our guide Dustin Meeker will take us past the site of the harbor's early 19th century fortifications up to the Battle Monument and back down to Fort McHenry on a 10K tour. Mr. Meeker is doubly prepared for the task as a former ranger at Fort McHenry and a competitive distance runner.

September 21, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **Midcentury Modernism for Giraffes? Baltimore Modernism and the Maryland Zoo's 1964 Giraffe House**, \$15 for Baltimore Heritage or Maryland Zoo members, \$25 for non-members, Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, 1876 Mansion House Drive. "The house," architect Le Corbusier famously wrote in his 1923 Modernist manifesto *Towards a New Architecture*, "is a machine for living in." But what if it's a house for giraffes? We'll hear the answer to that question from Fred Scharmen, local architect and educator with Morgan State University and the Baltimore Modernism Project, during an unusual talk and tour on the history and meaning of the zoo's 1964 modernist giraffe house. This building is a tremendous example of the complicated balancing act that all zoo buildings go through to meet the needs of visitors, zoo-keepers and of course the animals.

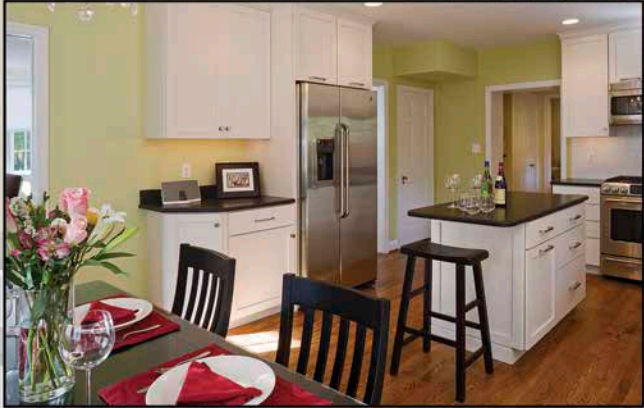
September 22, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., **Historic Home Walking Tour with Baltimore Heritage**, \$25 for Baltimore Heritage members, \$35 for non-members. A rare opportunity to explore hidden Guilford by venturing inside four of Guilford's significant homes. Experience private green spaces not open to the public. Learn about the development, architecture and prominent residents of this gracious century-old community. This two-hour tour, followed by a reception, will be an opportunity to experience Guilford intimately. Very limited space available, please visit www.baltimoreheritage.org to register.

October 13, 1 to 3 p.m., **Olmsted Walking Tour: The Golden Age of American Residential Development and Design**, \$35. Walk Baltimore City's Guilford, an influential turn-of-the-century

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KidsView

By Gaby Sequeira

Halloween Word Search

Words: PUMPKIN, GHOST, WITCH, CANDY, BOO

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

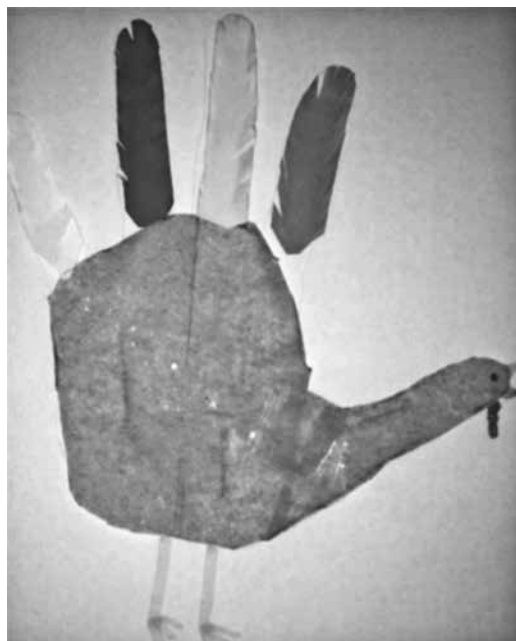


Photo: Patti Ephraim

Goofy Turkey Cookie Recipe

Nutter Butter Cookies (one for each Turkey)

Chocolate Frosting

Mini Chocolate Chips

Candy Corn

Red Fruit Leather

Fudge-stripped Cookie

1. For each turkey, lay a Nutter Butter flat on your work surface. Glue on two mini-chip eyes with frosting. Trim off the tip of a candy corn and glue that short point on as the beak.
2. Cut a little strip of red fruit leather and glue it alongside the beak.
3. Glue the back of the Nutter Butter to the striped front of a fudge-stripped shortbread cookie. Use more frosting to glue candy corn to the striped cookie, pushing the fat end of the corn up against the Nutter Butter and all around the turkey's head, letting the points of the candy corn radiate outward.
4. With a thick dollop of frosting, glue the Nutter Butter and fudge-stripped cookie upright to the chocolate back of a second fudge-stripped cookie lying flat. It helps to sort of nestle the rounded base of the Nutter Butter into the hole in the middle of the shortbread cookie.

Want to be in Print? If you'd like to contribute to KidsView, please email us at Newsletter@RolandPark.org.
Note: November 1 is the deadline for Winter!

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 further information, call the Civic League office at 410-494-2525, or check the website www.RolandPark.org.

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days will be held on September 6 and 7, and October 4 and 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northwest Citizen Convenience Center (2840 Sisson Street). City residents may dispose of hazardous household materials, such as oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, drain cleaners, gasoline, pool chemicals and many other items. Participants must show proof of residency. Trash, asbestos, ammunition, fire extinguishers, industrial and medical wastes,

and radioactive materials, including smoke alarms with a radioactive symbol, will not be accepted. For more details, visit www.baltimorecity.gov.


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

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

Home Sales (May through July)

	List Price	Closing Price
401 Woodlawn Road	\$1,147,500	\$1,135,000
604 Somerset Road	\$529,000	\$529,000
4302 Roland Avenue	\$369,700	\$375,000
6 Upland Road #J-2	\$144,900	\$130,000
419 Woodlawn Road	\$948,500	\$939,000
4526 Schenley Road	\$339,000	\$320,000
5004 Roland Avenue	\$787,500	\$740,000
4721 Keswick Road	\$629,000	\$640,000
301 Kendall Road	\$689,000	\$675,000
206 Hawthorn Road	\$575,000	\$560,000
705 Gladstone Avenue	\$419,000	\$383,000
5515 Roland Avenue	\$585,000	\$585,000
4613 Roland Avenue	\$549,700	\$500,000
560 West University Parkway	\$419,900	\$429,900
22 Merrymount Road	\$460,000	\$454,000
4418 Wickford Road	\$362,000	\$361,000
5411 Falls Road Terrace	\$445,000	\$440,000
4827 Keswick Road	\$568,750	\$570,000
6241/2 Colorado Avenue	\$447,500	\$426,500


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Autumn Leaves at Robert E. Lee Park

By Nancy Worden Horst

With cooler weather on its way, activities ramp up at Robert E. Lee Park. Park rangers and volunteers have planned programs for people of all ages and interests to enjoy. Activities include a history walk, a fall campfire, bird walks with the Baltimore Bird Club, activities for seniors, including "senior strolls," the Halloween Hike and a "pioneer life" program featuring candle dipping, log cabin building and corn husk doll-making. For more information about the programs or to register, please visit the Park's new website, www.relpnc.org.



"Hike the Serpentine," a popular organized walk through Robert E. Lee Park. Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

The popular Baltimore County Parks' program, "Nature Quest", is also in full swing. Start your quest by picking up a Nature Quest Passport at participating parks, your local Wegmans grocery store, or online at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/programdivision/naturearea/index.html.



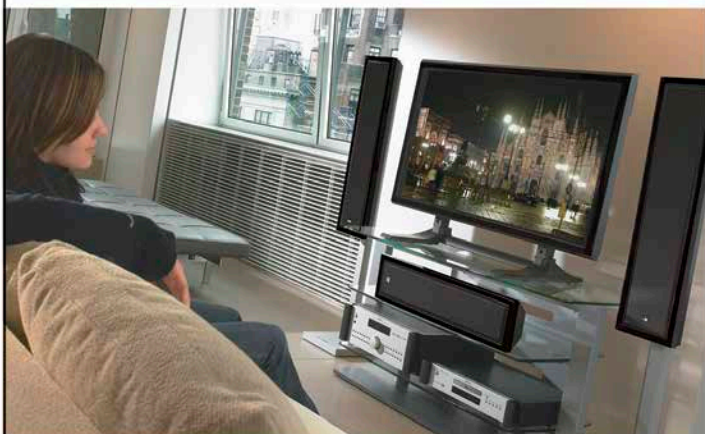
Enjoy the wildlife in Robert E. Lee Park
Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

The Passport directs participants to the various outdoor opportunities available at five of the County's parks. Travel the trails at Robert E. Lee and Cromwell Valley Parks, Marshy Point and Oregon Ridge Nature

Centers and Benjamin Banneker Historical Park. After venturing on one of the suggested hiking, biking or canoeing quests, participants record their adventures in the Passport. Two such adventures, hiking the Railroad Trail and canoeing the Willow Island Trail, take place in Robert E. Lee Park.

After completing five quests, participants gain free admission to "Nature Quest Fest" on November 2, 2013 at Robert E. Lee Park, and are also eligible to win prizes. Check the County website for more details and launch your family's quest for nature's riches right here in our neighborhood park. ❖

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Welcome New Neighbors!

(May through July)

Marin Alsop and Kristin Jurkscheit, 401 Woodlawn Road
Kimberley Bartel and Matthew Edgar, 22 Merrymount Road
Emily and Michael Boss, 4721 Keswick Road
Andrea and Christopher Cortright, 604 Somerset Road
Katherine Embry and Thomas Webb, 3820 Beech Avenue
Lauren Erickson and Christopher Caquelin, 4302 Roland Avenue
Stacie Sanders Evans and Benjamin Evans, 5004 Roland Avenue
Jennifer and Ian Guertin, 560 W. University Pkwy.
Katie and Joseph McAvoy, 5411 Falls Road Terrace
Pria Narasimham and Brian Smithling, 3930 Beech Avenue
Amber Ssazar Nestico and Philip Nestico, 419 Woodlawn Road
Shira Robinson and Joshua Kurlantzick, 206 Hawthorn Road

Natural Selections: Fall Events at Cylburn Arboretum

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



Spectacular fall color at Cylburn Arboretum.
Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum.

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.

Fall events include:

- September 4, 6 to 8 p.m., **Cylburn Sounds, Wednesday Evening Jazz: The Robert Shahid Quartet**, Cylburn Mansion lawn. Enjoy catering provided by Station North Arts Café or bring a picnic. Event and parking are FREE!
- Fall Session I: September 11, 18 and 25, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Fall Session II: October 9, 16 and 23, 10 to 11:30 a.m., **Growing Up Cylburn**, \$40 for the series for members, \$45 for the series for non-members, Cylburn Mansion. The Growing Up program introduces preschool children to the natural world and the principles of ecology and conservation. Classes are offered as a session of three programs led by Cylburn Education Manager and Summer Camp Director Lili Donnelly Levy. The series will focus on seasonally appropriate topics such as hibernation, fall leaves, bird and butterfly migrations. During the series, the group will go on nature hikes, read books, make crafts, sing songs, eat a snack and explore Cylburn together.
- September 19, 6 p.m., **Monarch Walk**, \$5 per person, Vollmer Center. Join Cylburn Naturalist Kathy Kadow for a walk around Cylburn's grounds. Look at the life stages of Monarch butterflies and learn all about their fantastic migration. Look for Monarchs flying over or resting at Cylburn.
- September 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Soup N Walk: Good Bye Summer, Hello Fall**, \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, Cylburn Mansion. Flowering perennials and woodies will be featured on this walk, including Amsonia, White Wood Aster, New England Aster, Joe Pye Weed, New York Ironweed, Goldenrod, White and Pink Turtleheads, Dittany, Black-Eyed Susan, plus Viburnum and Spicebush with fruit.
- October 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., **Soup N Walk: As the Cylburn Season Turns**, \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, Cylburn

Mansion. Fall color will be the focus of this walk, including Viburnum, Maple, Black Gum, American Strawberry Bush, Virginia Creeper, Hickory, Sumac, Willow, Sweet Gum, Sourwood, Blueberry and more.

- October 12, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., **Harvest Tea**. \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members, Cylburn Mansion. Come join us for tea in the Cylburn Mansion.

- October 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Schools' Out!** \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, Cylburn Mansion. Come join Cylburn naturalists for a day of exploration and discovery on this day out of school. Students ages 6 -11 will



Experiencing nature close up on a "School's Out" day.
Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum

Continued on page 15

OOH LA LA!

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Chris McSherry Steps Up as New Civic League President

Civic League Update

Community activist and longtime Roland Park Civic League (RPCL) board member Chris McSherry was elected to the role of president at the RPCL's annual meeting on May 22 at Roland Park Elementary/Middle School. A former land use and zoning lawyer, Chris succeeds outgoing president Phil Spevak, a transition she describes as a matter of "filling very large shoes."

Chris, her husband Fred Hopkins and son Matthew (26) moved to Roland Park in 1996. Chris and Fred had two more children, James (15) and Maggie (13). All three children attended neighborhood schools. In 2011, Matthew married Tess Jones, and Chris and Fred are now grandparents to Matthew's daughter Marian (16 months).

Chris has been actively involved with the RPCL since 1998. She acted as the secretary from 1998 to 2000 and has intermittently served on the board for 13 of the last 15 years, as both a plat representative and the vice president. While chairing the Traffic and Transportation Committee, Chris was involved in many traffic initiatives, including the addition of traffic calming measures to Cold Spring Lane, the continuation of the city's No. 61 bus line, whose route was considered for

cancellation, the creation of a residential permit parking area near the Eddie's shopping center and the scheduled improvements to Roland Avenue and Northern Parkway.



Photo: Sally Foster

For the past two years, Chris has served as the chair of the Events Committee, serving as the driving force behind the community's Spring Celebration in 2012 and 2013. She has also coordinated with the chairs of other neighborhood events such as the ciclovía, July 4th parade and chili cook-offs. She is currently working with the RPCL to develop new community events.

In addition to the RPCL, Chris has volunteered with the parents associations at Gilman, Friends, Bryn Mawr and Jemicy. She served on the Mayor's Anti-Animal Abuse Task Force from 2011 to 2013.

As RPCL president, Chris hopes to focus on Roland Park's Open Space Campaign, keeping that fundraising effort moving forward in conjunction with the Roland Park Community Foundation. She maintains her strong interest in traffic and transportation improvements

for our neighborhood, along with other quality of life issues such as crime prevention, broadband service and the implementation of the Master Plan.

"I want to do everything I can to preserve the wonderful quality of life we have in Roland Park for generations to come," she says.

For more information on the RPCL, please visit www.rolandpark.org/civicleague.html. ♦


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Stay Informed: Join the Roland Park Listserv

The Civic League has created a community listserv to share neighborhood information, and to notify residents of crime events and suspicious activities.



To join the listserv, please type "Google Groups" into your browser, and enter "Roland Park" in the search field. Click on "Roland Park Neighborhood Listserv." If you are completely new to Google Groups, you'll be asked to "sign up" and then "apply for membership." If you have previously used these Groups, simply select "apply for membership." Please include your name and address for the manager's review. Once approved, community members can begin to post and read postings. The listserv gives you various options for how you want to receive the posts.

Also, take time to sign up for the Roland Park e-letter. This monthly e-newsletter contains the latest updates from neighborhood organizations, including the Roland Park Civic League, Roads and Maintenance and the Roland Park Community Foundation. Pertinent news and events from members of the community are also included. To sign up, please visit www.rolandpark.org/ELetters.html. ♦

Interested in Improved Broadband Service in Roland Park?

By Phil Spevak

The Baltimore Broadband Coalition is a multi-community campaign to improve broadband services in North Baltimore. Spearheaded by the Roland Park Civic League, this campaign was developed in response to community input reflecting dissatisfaction with current services. While you can buy your electricity or natural gas from one of several vendors in Baltimore City, most residents have only one choice when it comes to the fastest internet service. Yet in many Baltimore suburbs, as well as Annapolis, there is competition.

Lack of competition in Baltimore City is associated with higher prices and lower levels of service (see table). Comcast, for example, charges \$74.95 per month for new internet service in Roland Park, (50 Megabites per second [Mbps] download/10 Mbps upload speeds), while in Annapolis residents pay nearly \$300 per year less for the same level of service. Moreover, Verizon offers packages in those areas for the same price, but with faster upload speeds.

Residents from several communities—Roland Park, Roland Springs, Wyndhurst, Keswick, Mt. Washington, Homeland, Guilford, Hoes Heights, Cross Keys, Tuscany Canterbury, Evergreen, North Roland Park and Orchards/Kemper/Chatham—have joined together with

the goal of convincing potential broadband providers that there is sufficient return on investment to justify fiber optic cable installation in the northern communities of Baltimore City. This would enable a range of services, including very high-speed gigabit service. Many consumers mistakenly believe that the field is limited to the large companies like Comcast, Verizon and ATT; nationwide, however, there are 858 providers of fiber optic (the necessary high speed cable) to the premises.

The campaign's objective during this initial phase, from June 18 until late September, is to have at least 20 percent of households back the campaign, since organizers believe this level of



The campaign's objective during this initial phase, from June 18 until late September, is to have at least 20 percent of households back the campaign, since organizers believe this level of the support is the necessary tipping point for potential investors.

Continued on page 23

Upgrading the Roland Park Website

The Roland Park website will be getting a fresh look and new features! Webmaster Keith Couch and board members Laura Grier and Ken Winkler will be working with a web design group (TBD) to revamp the existing website and make it more user-friendly.

We would like the finished product to be:

- Easier to use and maintain.
- More intuitive for people who may be new to the neighborhood.
- Integrate smoothly with social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

Preliminary ideas include a new section titled "Living in Roland Park," featuring links to community organizations, covenant information and neighborhood events. We are also considering a search function for the website, plus how best to integrate the online advertising into the new design. ❖

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our recent online survey (in association with the broadband survey) on how to improve our online presence. There's still time to send us your input, so please visit www.rolandpark.org and click on the "survey" link, or send suggestions to RPcommunication.org.

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Conservation Landscaping

Continued from page 1

Joan, a Brooklyn native, credits her mother, Sally Freedman, for helping with the decision. Sally kept a beautiful garden, the beauty and bounty of which Joan had long admired. Joan admitted to never feeling the pull to become an avid gardener herself. Then she attended a lecture on native plants by Hawthorn Road resident and Blue Water Baltimore nursery staffer, Vince Vizachero, which gave her additional inspiration. She knew she didn't have the knowledge to do this alone, so she phoned fellow Roland Parker and landscape designer, Jean Mellot. Joan and her husband Richard Lamson hired Jean to develop a garden plan that focuses on native plants. Mark, of Employ the Earth, provided tilling, hooked up her rain barrels and soaker hoses, and added a few raised beds for herbs and vegetables in the back. On a trip to Baltimore's Second Chance, Joan scored the old windows that now hang above window boxes on the front porch. Flowering annuals mixed with wisteria and

jasmine vines add pops of color and trellis-style privacy and shade to the front porch.

After talking with Joan Freedman, I followed up with the very gracious Jean Mellot at her lovely Roland Park home. She gave me a tour of her property, located on the winding and hilly west side with all its meandering paths, stone walls and distinctive garden beds.

Jean, a landscape designer, helped me put together a homeowners' checklist to use anytime you are considering significant landscape changes. I do feel strongly that you should inquire about the services of a landscape professional to help you make the appropriate plans, even if you are willing and able to do a lot of the dirty work.



Street view of the Freedman and Kantor properties. Photo: Kate Culotta

According to Jean, there are several important steps to take before you begin a landscaping project:



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- Have your soil tested, particularly if you've had problems with plants or trees in the past. The University of Maryland Extension can help you with soil testing (extension.umd.edu/hgic/soils/soil-testing).
- Check for water, sewer and natural gas lines. Contact Miss Utility at least 48 hours before you dig to verify utilities. This service is free to residential customers. Call 1-800-282-8555 or schedule an inspection online at www.missutility.net/Maryland.
- Have a copy of your plot ready for the landscaper. You can download and print a copy at www.cityview.baltimorecity.gov.
- If you decide to remove a large area of grass, rent a tiller or make



The Kantor's perennial-filled front garden. Photo: Kate Culotta

arrangements to have the area tilled by a landscaper. Do not try to accomplish this with a product like Total Vegetation Killer.

- Check online resources for lists of common plants that are poisonous for humans and pets. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) maintains a online list of plants that are toxic for dogs, cats and horses. For example, the American holly is toxic to dogs, as are azaleas and rhododendrons. Wisteria, which is very common in Roland Park, is toxic for children, as is the beautiful hydrangea if ingested. Most plants are only dangerous if eaten and are perfectly safe to admire.
- Make notes about sun and shade patterns and how they change throughout the year. Jean reminded me that when choosing plants, morning sun and afternoon shade is considered partial sun/shade but morning shade and afternoon sun is considered full sun.
- Consider schedule a water audit (see below) and keep copies of all receipts and paperwork.

As I researched the term "conservation landscaping," I turned to the Blue Water Baltimore website and made an appointment to talk with Ashley Traut, senior program manager of Storm Water Management and Community Outreach. Ashley has a bachelor's degree in terrestrial ecology from the University of Vermont and a

Prior to scheduling an appointment with a landscape professional, consider your landscaping needs:

- If you have children or pets, how do they use the yard?
- How much soft, open space do you need for children and pets?
- Do you need space for grilling and eating outdoors?
- Areas for outdoor entertainment and lounging, in full sun, shade or both?
- Space for outdoor meditation or exercise?
- Do you require vegetable or flower gardens, in informal gardens or raised beds?
- Would you consider water features, such as a swimming pool, fountain or pond?

master's in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida.

The first thing Ashley recommends is scheduling a water audit, which will help homeowners understand the challenges of storm water runoff, and provide options and solutions. If you decide to

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Bryn Mawr Welcomes New Children's Chorus to Campus

Beginning in September, The Bryn Mawr School will welcome a new extracurricular program to its campus: the American Kodály Children's Chorus at Bryn Mawr. The chorus will offer high-quality music training to boys and girls, ages 5-18, in the greater Baltimore area. A joint venture between Loyola University's American Kodály Institute and The Bryn Mawr School, the chorus will be in residence at Bryn Mawr's Melrose Avenue campus.



Members of "Dayseye," the Junior and Senior Chorus at the Bryn Mawr School. Photo: Stephen Bobb

Choral instruction will focus on both solo and group singing using the Kodály method, a developmental approach that introduces skills in accordance with the capabilities of the child. Play-based musicianship coursework will also be an important part of the class. Choristers will learn to sing, read and write music through engagement with a diverse repertoire of classical, spiritual, and folk music from many traditions. Students will also enjoy a range of local, regional and international performance opportunities.

The chorus is led by Dr. Alyson Shirk, the director of music at Bryn Mawr. Dr. Shirk earned her doctorate in vocal performance from Shenandoah Conservatory in 2009, where she was awarded the Dean's Graduate Scholar Award for her dissertation. She has performed and taught around the world, including in Vietnam and Argentina, and choruses under her direction have performed at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the U.S. Department of State and The Blair House.

Auditions for the chorus are open now, with rehearsals scheduled to begin in mid-September. To learn more about the chorus and to schedule an audition, please visit www.brynmawrschool.org/akchildrenschorus. ❖

The Roland Park Mighty Minds Go Global!

The Roland Park Elementary School's Destination ImagiNation team, "The Roland Park Mighty Minds," competed in the Destination ImagiNation (DI) Global Finals May 22-25, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. Over 1,000 teams from 46 states and 15 countries presented their solutions to this year's challenges at the DI Global Finals.

The team of seven fourth graders—Isaac Chang, Annie Fairall, Sam Jenkins, Ryan Kelly, Olivia Koulish, Cora Parmigiani and Juni Polansky—achieved a commendable ranking among the 50-plus

teams in the Fine Arts category, "In Disguise," elementary level. They performed a self-penned, non-verbal skit and responded to a task-based Instant Challenge involving a funnel, a bucket and 60 marbles.

To qualify for the Global Finals, The Mighty Minds demonstrated their creative



The Mighty Minds 2013. Photo: Deanna Kelly

problem-solving skills earlier in the year by winning both the North Central region and the Maryland state tournaments in their category. They were the only elementary-school team at the state tournament to win a Renaissance Medal, which is awarded for outstanding skill in the areas of design, engineering, execution, or performance.

Team managers Michele Hong and Deanna Kelly are immensely proud of The Mighty Minds. "The kids worked hard for months to put together a fantastic performance," says Hong. "DI allows kids to focus on values such as teamwork, creativity and problem-solving...they learn how to find the solution by thinking 'out of the box'."

Fundraising for the Tennessee trip was a community effort.

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Natural Selections

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learn about the wildlife of our urban oasis including salamanders, small mammals, birds, bugs, flowers and trees. The day will be filled with opportunities for hands-on-learning through hikes, games and crafts.



The "Growing Up Cylburn" program.

Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum

History and Heritage

Continued from p. 5

"suburban" development, in the company of historian and lifetime resident, Ann G. Giroux, and architect David H. Gleason, AIA. Guilford (1913) was a collaborative effort of the famed Olmsted



An historic Guilford Home. Photo: Naima Shoukat

Brothers, their client, The Roland Park Company, and some of the leading architects of the day, including John Russell Pope and Laurence Hall Fowler. The happy result is an elegant

community of important examples of residential architecture laid along tree-lined Olmstedian boulevards, hidden cul-de-sacs, and Old World circles and squares. Guilford, retaining a high degree of preservation, both architecturally and within the many parks, serves as an excellent model for the study of Olmstedian design principles. A reception follows the tour. Very limited space available. To register, go to the Kaleidoscope program on Roland Park Country School's website and download the Fall catalog, www.rpcs.org/pages/lifelong-learning/kaleidoscope-fall.

Save the date for the following upcoming & ongoing tours!

- October 5, Mount Vernon Place: Architecture, Urban Renewal & Preservation
- October 19, Mount Vernon Pride! LGBT History Walking Tour, Free! ♦

October 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., **AR-BOO-RETUM Halloween Hike**, \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, Cylburn Mansion. Celebrate the Halloween season with family and friends. Bring a carved pumpkin to enter into the first annual AR-BOO-RETUM Pumpkin Carving Contest. Your carved pumpkin will be part of the lighted pumpkin walk on the East Lawn. What a site it will be to see all the pumpkins in the shadow of the 1860's mansion! Join a Cylburn Naturalist for a Halloween moonlit hike to look for nocturnal animals found at Cylburn, with Trick or Treat stops along the path. Finally, explore the spooky Cylburn Mansion and enjoy creepy refreshments. Register early to reserve your spot.

October 25, 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., **AR-BOO-RETUM Late-night Halloween Celebration for Adults 21 and over**, Cylburn Mansion. For more details for this exciting event, please check out our website www.Cylburn.org or call 410-367-2217.

- November 1 through November 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Artist-In-Residence **Patricia Bennett Exhibition**, FREE, Vollmer Center. Come join the arboretum in celebrating Patricia Bennett's work at our FREE reception, November 1, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Except as noted, please call 410-367-2217 to register for these programs in advance and check our website for late additions to our programming calendar, www.cylburn.org. ♦

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

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Best Of
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Conservation Landscaping

Continued from page 13

implement some or all of the options identified by the audit, you could be eligible for rebates or a reduction in the new storm water fee. Visit www.bluewaterbaltimore.org for more information.

Storm water runoff is the primary source of pollutants in Baltimore. Agricultural runoff is now decreasing, due to recent policy and business practice changes, meaning that less pesticide, fertilizer and animal feces is washing into the watershed from farms, ranches and golf courses. Baltimore is also working to correct the problem of sewage leaking from old infrastructure.

Conservation landscaping is the practice of using native plants, trees and shrubs to enrich the landscape and reduce dependence on traditional green grass lawns.

I asked Ashley how city residents could positively impact the environment and improve the quality of life in Baltimore. Here's his list:

Protect and increase the tree canopy. Tree leaves disperse falling rain, allowing the soil to absorb it before it runs off. Trees also improve air quality and reduce passive solar heat on streets and roofs.

Learn more about conservation landscaping. Conservation landscaping is the practice of using native plants, trees and shrubs to enrich the landscape and reduce dependence on traditional green grass lawns. Most lawn grasses have a root depth of only 0.75 inches, are very poor absorbers of water and have a root system that isn't tough enough to avoid erosion. Grass also nurtures Japanese beetle larvae, which is not a good thing. While Ashley understands the reluctance of many homeowners to remove all grass lawns, he encourages people to look for ways to reduce the area of green grass and enlarge existing gardens or expand into new areas.



The advantage of using native plants is that they are well suited to our environment and climate, require less watering, and have root systems that help prevent erosion. Natives also provide habitats for birds, honeybees, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Baltimore falls in the Piedmont Plateau region and is challenged by soil that is rocky with a high concentration of heavy clay. Most native plants will survive in un-amended soil, but you may be able to improve their chances or add a non-native favorite if you talk with a landscape professional first. Soil tests are easy to arrange and you can check the drainage of your property yourself. Once you've chosen a spot for a new garden bed, dig a hole one foot wide by one foot deep and fill it with water. Let the water drain and fill it with water again. This time, note how long the hole takes to drain. If it takes more than 24 hours, you'll need to amend your soil to get the best from your garden, even if you stay with all-native selections. For information on plants native to the Piedmont Plateau section of Maryland, visit www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesmd/info.htm.

Install rain gardens. Rain gardens are designed to be shallow sways that collect and filter water runoff from impervious surfaces around the home, like roofs, driveways and patios. Rain gardens filter rainwater before it enters the local water system, help alleviate flooding and drainage problems, enhance the beauty of the community, provide habitat and food for local wildlife, and recharge the ground water supply. Talk with a professional about designing a rain garden to ensure proper drainage, size and plant life.

Install rain barrels or cisterns. Rain barrels and cisterns collect rainwater from the roof and store it for future use. Barrels typically use regular or soaker hoses to disperse the water to a desired site. Blue Water Baltimore encourages residents to redirect downspouts into a rain barrel to prevent the water from rushing down streets and gutters, picking up trash and contaminants along the way.

Remove or reduce hardscape. When the weather is beautiful, we all love to entertain and enjoy our outdoor space. Many residents have added or expanded outdoor patios, terraces and decks. If you're considering such a project, please consider using pervious materials as part of your design. Pervious material allows water to drain through it, so if you love the look of bluestone pavers, for example, consider setting them in sand instead of concrete.

An advertisement for 'dogma' featuring a black and white dog sitting on a bed. The text 'feeling a little bored?' is written in a green, playful font. Below it, 'we've got chew toys, and much more.' is written in white. The 'dogma' logo is prominently displayed, with each letter in a different colored circle. Below the logo, it says 'life, with your pet.' and lists services: 'premium natural foods • self-serve baths', 'professional grooming • gifts for dogs, cats & people'. At the bottom, contact information for Canton, Mt. Washington, and Locust Point is provided, along with the website dogmaforpets.com.

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Remove non-native, invasive plants. Does anyone really enjoy weeding? What about poison ivy or out-of-control kudzu? Invasive plants are non-native species that grow uncontrolled and alter natural landscapes. Some harm native wildlife or harbor dangerous pests, and some even produce dangerous toxin. Invasives should not be planted and, if they are found, should be removed.

You can view the list of Maryland invasive plants at www.mdinvasivesp.org/list_terrestrial_plants.html. Six species commonly found in Maryland are purple loosestrife, several species of honeysuckle, Chinese and Japanese wisteria, kudzu, Bradford pear and English ivy. If you suspect that you have an invasive plant on your property, contact the University of Maryland at extension.umd.edu/hgic/soils/soil-testing for removal information.

I hope this article sparks conversations that lead to action—action to expand our open green space, wisely conserve the space we already have, increase our tree canopy and to make a larger positive impact on our surrounding community, city and Mother Earth.

Install green roofs. Installing a green roof in our historic neighborhood may not be easy, but you can talk with a design professional to see if one would fit on your property for example, on porches, garages or additions. The Blue Water Baltimore website has information on green roofs at www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/green-roofs-2.

I have long admired the beauty of living in Roland Park, but

About 18 months ago, Roland Park started a program to inventory, track and add to the neighborhood's tree canopy. Volunteers have been walking the plats visually inspecting, measuring and logging trees into a satellite tracking and logging program. Residents who pay full maintenance fees are eligible to choose a free street tree from a pre-approved list, and the Parks & People Foundation will plant it on your behalf.

So far, 39 free trees have been planted in the community. and another tree planting is on the calendar for this September. Please support this initiative and maintain our impressive tree canopy.

I've lived here long enough to know that we can't take its green beauty for granted. Researching this article has shown me that we are surrounded by people, non- profits, businesses and available information that can help us improve and maintain our neighborhood. I hope this article sparks conversations that lead to action—action to expand our open green space, wisely conserve the space we already have, increase our tree canopy and to make a larger positive impact on our surrounding community, city and Mother Earth. Congratulations to three local schools who have taken giant steps forward in conservation landscaping. Please

Continued on page 18

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Conservation Landscaping

Continued from page 17

consider touring the native gardens at Roland Park Elementary Middle School, Friends School and the urban meadow at Roland Park Country School.

Suggested Reading and Resources for Conservation Gardening

Native Plants of the Northeast, a Guide for Gardening & Conservation by Donald J. Leopold

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy

Treasury of Gardening, contributing writers Wayne Ambler, Carol Landa Christensen, Larry Hidgson, Peter Loewer & Ted Maston

Mid-Atlantic Home Landscaping by Roger Holmes & Rita Buchanan

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants by C. Colston Burrell

Local resource for native plants:

Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209, 410-367-2217, www.cylburn.org.

Herring Run Nursery, 6131 Hillen Rd, 21234, 410-254-1577, ext. 104. ❖



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Roasted Cauliflower “Steaks” with Parmesan and Truffle Oil

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Serves 4

- 1 large head of cauliflower, outer leaves and bottom stem removed, leaving core intact.
- 1 head of garlic, cut in half horizontally
- 3 T. plus ½ tsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 T. fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1 tsp. white truffle oil
- Coarse kosher salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
- 2 T. freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 T. flat leaf parsley, chopped

Preheat oven to 400°. Place garlic halves on a small piece of foil and drizzle with ½ tsp. olive oil and a pinch of salt. Wrap loosely and place on middle rack of oven. Roast for 25 minutes.



Meanwhile, prepare cauliflower by vertically slicing ¾-inch “steaks.” Place steaks in one layer on a large, oiled sheet pan. Season with salt, pepper and chopped rosemary. Drizzle with 2 T. olive oil. Roast on top rack of oven for 20-25 minutes until soft and golden brown.

Remove roasted garlic from the oven—it should be soft and lightly browned. Allow to cool for a few minutes, before removing cloves from their skins.

When cauliflower is done, remove from oven. Drizzle with truffle oil and transfer the “steaks” to a platter. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, chopped parsley and roasted garlic cloves. Finish with an extra drizzle of olive oil.

Pair with Willamette Valley Pinot Gris. ❖

Bookends: Of Railroads, Redemption, and Revelations About Reality

An Interview with Douglas Folsom

By Henry Mortimer

When a mysterious stranger challenges Roger Storm to restore the Santa Fe Super Chief, the famous luxury train, for one final run from Chicago to Los Angeles, the successful ad executive must decide if he wants to risk everything to find happiness that he never knew he was missing. That's the simple plot line for local author Douglas Folsom's debut novel, *The Return of the Santa Fe Chief*. But the Roland Park resident's book is more than just a romance for train enthusiasts longing for a bygone era. Combining elements of mystery, fantasy and spirituality, and a few surprising twists at the end, *The Return* will delight anyone who believes that life is not always what it seems and, sometimes, you can get a second chance to make things right.

What inspired you personally to write *The Return of the Santa Fe Super Chief*?

I grew up with trains because my dad was the assistant general manager of the Boston and Maine Railroad and general manager of transportation for Amtrak. We built model railroad sets together and travelled across country by rail. I really appreciated those experiences, and I wanted to recreate that magic by writing something about the most famous luxury train in America, the Santa Fe Super Chief.

The story came together for me when I thought: What if a boy grew up like I did, but thought his dad had abandoned him when he was ten years old, and the boy grew up to be bitter and didn't want anything to do with trains? What would happen to him? In addition, I read a story in the news about a mother who lied to her children about why their father had disappeared—those two ideas became the nucleus of the story.

Why were you interested in writing a mystery story about the days of luxury train travel and the American West?

I traveled the Super Chief's route as a child and I've vacationed in Santa Fe, N.M., for the past 25 years. I love the New Mexican scenery and the culture. There's something about a story on a train that has always intrigued me—especially in films. But I didn't just want to write a story about a train that would only attract rail fans—I wanted to create a compelling story that would appeal to a broad audience. The story is told in a way to inspire hope and forgiveness in peoples' lives.

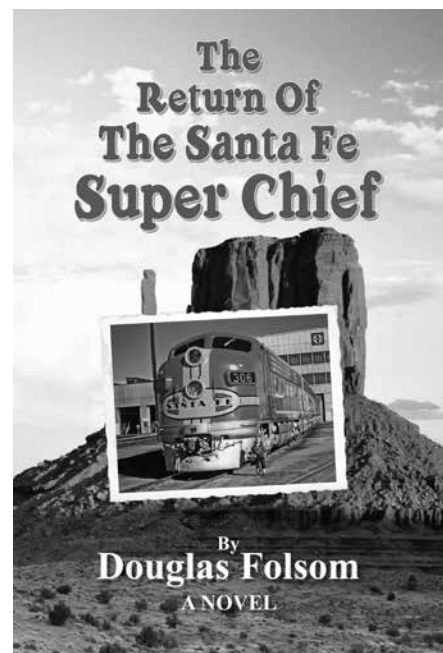
What do you hope your readers will gain most from reading your book?

I want to leave them with a sense of hope, that we can have second chances to make things right. I also want to leave them with a sense that there is more to life than what we see with our eyes and that we can be surrounded by angels unaware—that they are mysterious and unpredictable. As C.S. Lewis said about Aslan in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, "He is good, but he's not safe."

Are there writers or artists, local or otherwise, who have inspired or shaped you as an author?

As far as writers in general, I still love Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy and C.S. Lewis, and I recently enjoyed *The Light Between Oceans* by contemporary author M.L. Stedman. As far as Baltimore

artists, of course historically I respect Edgar Allen Poe. Also, being a filmmaker myself and having written the screenplay version of this story, I would say filmmaker Barry Levinson, because his stories tend to have a hopeful, nostalgic quality, but they are also very realistic and don't fall into sentimentality. For instance, I liked what he did with "The Natural," because he infused hope into the Roy Hobbs story—I



Continued on page 22

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Check Out the Baltimore Checkerspot

by Nancy Worden Horst

The spectacular Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly, *Euphydryas phaeton Drury*, is an increasingly rare butterfly inhabiting marshy areas in the eastern United States. Recognized as the Maryland State insect, the Checkerspot is responsible for pollinating a variety of local plants, but several factors have contributed to its decline. Chief among them is habitat degradation, largely



An adult Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly. Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

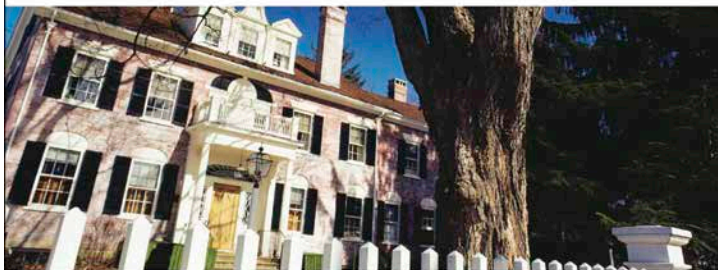
Recognized as the Maryland State insect, the Checkerspot is responsible for pollinating a variety of local plants, but several factors have contributed to its decline.



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caused by over-browsing deer, invasive plants and drained wetlands.

To promote greater public awareness of the threats to this butterfly, several local organizations have begun programs for captive breeding and release of the Checkerspot, as well as wetland restoration. Others are monitoring the Checkerspot population in the wild to ascertain their health and relationship to their habitat. Since 2012, lepidopterists (scientists who study moths and butterflies), naturalists and volunteers throughout the state have banded together under the aegis of Maryland's Natural Heritage Program to develop a practical, scientifically sound and collaborative conservation strategy to protect and sustain the Checkerspot population.

Life-Cycle of the Baltimore Checkerspot

After mating in June, Baltimore Checkerspot females deposit clusters of eggs on the undersides of the leaves of white turtlehead, *Chelone glabra*. During her one- to three-week



A caterpillar feeding on white turtleweed.

Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

lifetime, a female Checkerspot may lay multiple egg clusters, each containing hundreds of eggs. The eggs develop during the next 20 days before hatching into caterpillars (larvae).

These larvae begin feeding and building a communal web to provide protection from predators, often at the end of a turtlehead leaf. In August, the caterpillars stop feeding and enter diapause, a slow-down of their metabolisms. At the end of October, the caterpillars move out of the web and descend to the leaf litter below to spend the winter. As the weather warms in early spring, the caterpillars return to the plants and begin feeding again.

Well-fed caterpillars enter the chrysalis stage in May, develop into butterflies and perpetuate the breeding cycle. Adult Checkerspots feed on a variety of plants, including common milkweed, dogbane, oxeye and penstemons (see p. 24).

The Maryland Checkerspot Recovery Project

The Checkerspot Recovery Project involves ecologists, naturalists and volunteers throughout Maryland. With the Baltimore Checkerspot Recovery Team and other state and county agencies, participants conduct surveys of wild butterfly colonies and

Continued on page 24

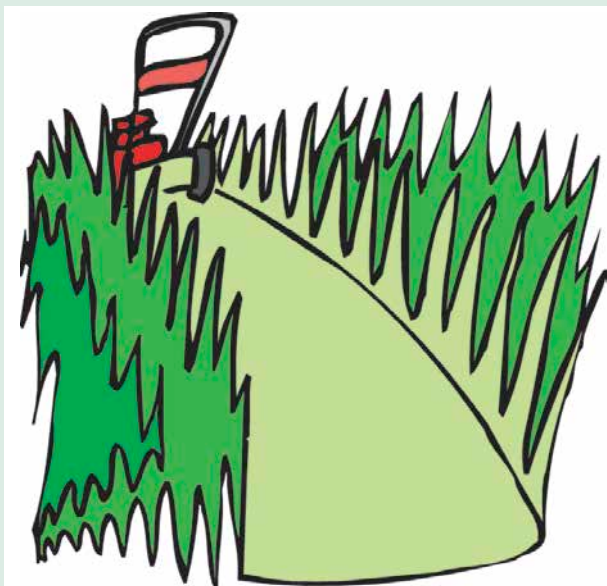
Un-Grass: Alternatives to Traditional Grass Lawns

by Lynda McClary, Executive Director, Cylburn Arboretum Association

Grass. You like to walk on it; you need it to prevent soil erosion on slopes; its verdant green color is so pleasant; and the Adirondack chair nestles so nicely. But who wants to mow? Mowing can be an onerous task, and there are many other questions posed by lawn ownership and maintenance:

- How much does your lawn mowing affect your carbon footprint? Go to the Lawn Institute website to get a feel for how different types of turf maintenance impact us environmentally www.thelawninstitute.org/environment.
 - Do you fertilize your lawn? A component of the Master Gardener consciousness, Baywise training has not only taught us the evils of fertilizers in our urban water run-off, but allowed us the freedom from costly and ruinous chemical applications.
 - Let your grass cuttings stay on the grass so they decompose there and return nutrients to your lawn. Leave your grass long instead of weekly mowing so it can help retain valuable moisture during summer droughts.
- Alternatives to grass lawns abound, so try a few of these options:
- My first choice is delicious and perfect for foodies. Plant herbs — clumps of low growing perennial herbs like Oregano or Thyme are sturdy and virtually maintenance-free. Thyme even sprouts tiny flowers.
 - Clover excites me because it is low growing, tolerates drought and even dog urine. It stays green and delivers pretty white flowers.
 - Ornamental grasses are terrific, varied in height, color and texture, and many varieties thrive in this region. Shop for them through a reputable dealer and avoid invasives like Miscanthus, unless you can be sure they are sterile and won't self seed.
 - Groundcovers are handy for remediating problem areas around the yard such as hills, swampy areas and/or dense, clay soils. Pineleaf Penstemon grows like a mat, is an evergreen perennial, tolerates drought and holds soil with its dense roots. It also flowers delightfully throughout the summer.
 - Vines make great soil stabilizers on hills and are maintenance free until you have to keep them out of other areas such as

your neighbor's yard. Be careful and seek professional advice before planting a vine. Vinca Vine and Bishop's Weed are attractive but aggressive plants, so you'll need to thin and control this ground cover.



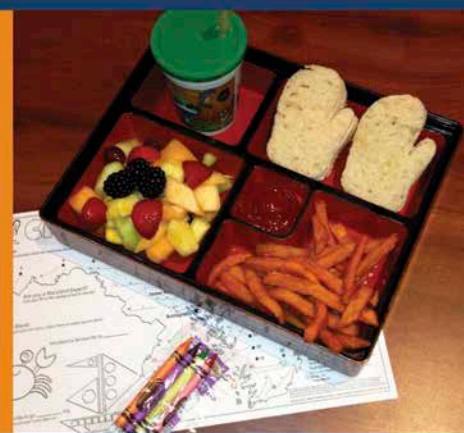
No mowing, no fertilizing, no watering and no weeding. It comes down to knowing which of these alternatives are suited to what area of your yard. Talk to a trusted landscape professional or nursery staff about shade vs. sun, hills, soggy areas, dry areas, soil composition and avoid invasives that can cause you other headaches besides mowing.

So now, consider slipping off your sandals and prancing through clover. Watch the butterflies enjoy the flowering Penstemon and sleep well knowing that soil is staying put with Vinca Vine. Nestle that Adirondack chair in a flowing bed of Thyme or Oregano and relax with their gorgeous aroma. ♦

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Bookends

Continued from page 19

found Bernard Malamud's novel to be depressing.

How did living and/or working in Baltimore offer inspiration for the book?

I'm a visual person and pretty surroundings are important to stimulating my creativity. My wife and I moved here from Los Angeles last year into a 1920s Beaux Arts-style complex in Roland Park, which has served well for my writing. It has also been helpful that there is more of a novel writing culture here as compared to LA.

What are you working on next?

My next novel, *Over the Monster*, is due out in 2014. It's the story of a top baseball prospect, "the next Mickey Mantle," who must overcome all odds to achieve his dream of playing professional baseball after he is wrongfully accused of being an accomplice to



Douglas Folsom Photo courtesy of Douglas Folsom

a murder. Think "The Natural" meets "The Longest Yard" meets "The Shawshank Redemption." Although all lovers of baseball will relate well to this inspirational story, it's a tale that's not just for fans because it connects with universal themes of perseverance and hope, with a bit of divine intervention and romance mixed in.

To learn more about *The Return of the Santa Fe Super Chief*, as well as his other works, visit Douglas Folsom's website www.douglasfolsom.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.

Vegetable Paella Style La Bomba Rice

Executive Chef Mario Cano-Catalan, PAZO

Serves 4

1 shallot, minced

3 heads of garlic, minced

12 oz. Bomba Calasparra Rice

5 ½ cups vegetable stock

1 sprig of rosemary

2 chili de árbol, dried

1 tsp. saffron, toasted and crushed

¼ cup white beans, cooked

1 cup yellow corn, roasted and cut off the cob

¾ cup leeks, diced and sautéed

¾ cup forest mushrooms, roasted

6 scallions, sliced

1 lemon, juiced

2 oz. extra virgin olive oil, Spanish

Sea salt to taste

Preheat oven to 450°F. Sauté the shallot and garlic over medium heat in 1½ oz. olive oil until soft.

Add in the rice and toast lightly on medium low heat.

Meanwhile bring the vegetable stock to a boil. Add in the chili de árbol, rosemary and saffron. Add the vegetable stock mixture to the sautéed rice and bring to a boil over medium high heat. Once it boils, turn down to medium heat and simmer. Stir the rice occasionally to keep it from burning.

When the rice has absorbed ½ of the liquid (about 25 minutes), add in the beans, corn, and leeks. Continue cooking for approximately 15 minutes until all the liquid has been absorbed. Season the rice with salt to taste and spread the rice smooth in the pan. Top with the roasted mushrooms and scallions.

Bake the paella in the oven for about 7 minutes until crispy and golden brown. Add the lemon juice and remaining olive oil to the rice and serve immediately. ♦



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Broadband

Continued from page 11

the support is the necessary tipping point for potential investors. Interested residents are asked to make a \$10 pledge to show support and help fund campaign costs for this all-volunteer effort.

In making this pledge, residents are only agreeing to “consider” purchasing such services, assuming availability at competitive rates.

For Roland Park, this translates to 238 households, each pledging \$10 in support of this campaign. We are still far from our goal and we need your support. If we do not reach this level, but other communities do, Roland Park could be left out. If you would like access to improved broadband service, please discuss this with your neighbors and pledge in support of this campaign.

To support the broadband initiative and to learn

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Comcast	50/10	\$59.99	\$74.95
Comcast	25/5	\$39.99	Not Offered
Verizon	75/35	\$69.99	No Service
Verizon	50/25	\$59.99	No Service

Mighty Minds Go Global

Continued from p. 14

Assisted by the first grade DI team, “The Imaginative Sunrays,” The Mighty Minds fundraised enthusiastically with an after-school pizza night and events at the school’s annual Maymart. While the Roland Park PTA paid the team’s entrance fees to the tournaments,



The Mighty Minds “in disguise.” Photo: Deanna Kelly

they also received sponsorships from the Roland Park Civic League, the Roland Park Alumni and Friends, as well as several local foundations and businesses.

Enthusiasm for DI continues to run strong at RPE/MS and as the new school year begins, Michele Hong anticipates increased participation,

“I believe The Imaginative Sunrays, now in second grade, will compete again in 2014, and we hope to assemble new teams of third- and fourth graders to represent the school.”

For more information on becoming involved or supporting the DI teams, please contact Michele Hong at michele_hong@yahoo.com or Deanna Kelly at dkelly@distcomp.com.

To learn more about the global Destination ImagiNation program, please visit www.destinationimagination.org. ❖



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Baltimore Checkerspot

Continued from page 20



Caterpillars enter the chrysalis stage in May.
Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

their habitats, evaluate potential reintroduction sites and determine the most effective methods of reintroduction. Sites able to sustain turtlehead, as well as other nectar plants, are the most suitable – but only if invasive species can be controlled and browsing deer can be restricted. For more information on this statewide project, please visit www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/BaltimoreCheckerspot.asp.

The Checkerspot Recovery Project at Robert E. Lee Park

This past winter, volunteer Howdy Knipp and park rangers built a wood-and-

wire cage to safely house both the Checkerspot larvae and the plants that sustain them. Park rangers raise the Checkerspots for



Adult Checkerspots laying eggs.
Photo: Ranger Bart Viguers

educational purposes and for future release into the park and surrounding communities. In addition to the hatching cage, rangers and volunteers planted turtlehead, enclosed to protect against deer, in several areas throughout the park, which will support the butterfly population once released.

Long-term plans include organizing a “Turtlehead Trail Group” of interested neighbors, garden clubs and nature lovers who

will volunteer to plant turtlehead in yards and gardens radiating outward from the park to expand the surrounding habitat and further ensure the life cycle of the Checkerspots. For further information, please contact community@relpnc.org.

Protecting Checkerspots in your Backyard

You can contribute to this effort by planting some of the species that sustain Checkerspot butterflies (see list). Caterpillars cannot survive, however, if they feed on pesticide-treated plants, so it is essential to confirm that the cultivars you purchase have been grown without pesticides. Many nurseries, even those specializing in native species, treat their plants with pesticides, so always call and check before you order. The Maryland Native Plant Society website features for a list of nurseries that specialize in native plants (mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html) and also look for butterfly-friendly, untreated plants at our autumn plant sale at Robert E. Lee Park. ❖



Native Plants That Sustain Checkerspot Butterflies

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Dogbane (*Apocynum spp.*)

Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

Penstemons, viburnums (*Viburnum recognitum* Fernald and *Viburnum acerifolium*)

White ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

Lousewort (*Pedicularis spp.*)

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*)

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Daisy fleabane (*Erigeron annuus* Pers.)

Hoary mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum* Michx.)

Short-toothed mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum* (Michx.) Pers.) Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)

Wild blackberry (*Rubus spp.*)



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Hooray for the Red, White and Blue!

Thank you to everyone who contributed time and talents to the annual Roland Park July 4 Parade! Three patriotic cheers for the lovely voices of “Out Too Late,” our local representatives who made time to join us, our fantastic Baltimore City firefighters, the Roland Park Presbyterian Church community and the many neighbors who stepped up to help. See you next year! ♦

Photos: Sally Foster



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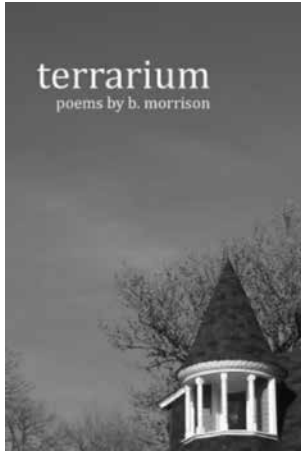
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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

Welcome to the Book Nook. We certainly had a busy summer here at the library, especially as our neighboring branch, Govans, closed for repairs in late June. We are happy to have such friendly folk join us for a few months.



This fall, we are offering several programs for adults and one very special program for the whole family.

In September local poet Barbara Morrison (B. Morrison) will read from her newest poetry collection, *Terrarium*, on Saturday, September 14 at 11 a.m. If you've never heard Barbara read, you're in for a treat. For a preview, visit her webpage <http://bmorrison.com>.

We continue our tradition of hosting a book discussion of the One Maryland/One Book title on Saturday, October 12 at 11 a.m.

This year's title is *King Peggy: An American Secretary, Her Royal Destiny, and The Inspiring Story Of How She Changed an African Village* by Peggielene Bartels. As



others with histories we may have never considered. I hope you find something enticing. As always, reviews are excerpted from the Pratt Library's online catalog (pac.epfl.net).

Fiction

Palisades Park by Alan Brennert.

Following *Moloka'i*, a best-selling, sweeping novel set in Hawaii, Brennert again writes his

always, Kim Riley, president of the Roland Park Library Friends Group, will moderate the discussion.

On Saturday, November 23 at 11 a.m., we are hosting a very special program for the whole family. Local author Susan Fillion will present her latest book *Pizza in Pienza*, a bilingual book about the origins of pizza. Yummy...!

For this issue, I thought we might explore some history. Some writ large, others small. Some about parts of the world we seldom explore and



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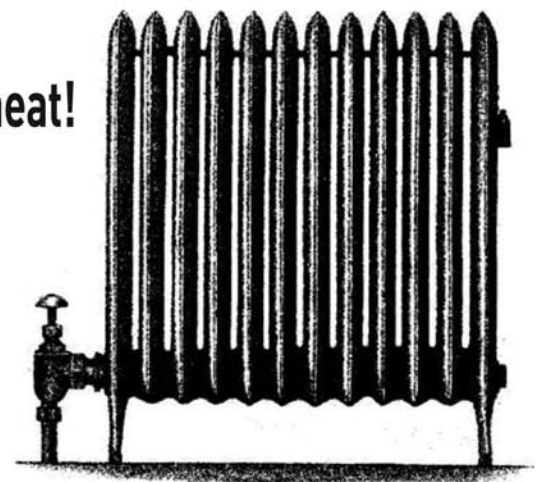
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Continued from page 26

specialty—a book that has such a strong sense of place that the location becomes the story's main character. This time, we are swept into the lives of “carnies” and the generations of families that work for amusement parks. In 1930s New Jersey, seven-year-old Toni Stopka and her family run a french-fry stand at the Palisades Amusement Park. Toni dreams of becoming a high diver, one of the few women who climb a 100-foot ladder to dive into a six-foot-deep saltwater pool. As times change, through World War II and onto the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, we follow Toni and her family while they chase their dreams, sometimes at extremely high costs to others and themselves.

I Am Venus by Barbara Mujica

This novel follows the 17th century Spanish painter Diego Velazquez's career from his humble beginnings as an apprentice to his arrival at the royal court and steady ascension as the king's pet painter. Examination of Velazquez's paintings illuminates the corruption and censorship that surrounded the royal court during the Inquisition. But while the timeline of Velazquez's life drives the plot, it is the everyday players surrounding him who step into the foreground of the story. The exploration of their daily lives, with a particular focus on Velazquez's wife and her ladies-in-waiting, paints a picture that is deliciously contradictory to the perfect representation demanded of Velazquez by the royal court.

Hell or Richmond by Ralph Peters

The author of *Cain at Gettysburg* (2012) now offers what is intended to be the first of a trilogy taking the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia through their final and worst year of fighting. The setting, superbly researched and brought to life, supports three masterful battle pieces: the Wilderness, the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania and the doomed Union assault at Cold Harbor. The real strength of the book is the way the characters, all of them historical, are given life, even if some of them have to be reconstructed. We have a dysentery-ridden Robert E. Lee and an authentically laid-back Ulysses S. Grant. We meet Francis Barlow, a New England aristocrat; Stephen Oates, an Alabama brawler; and John B. Gordon, a Georgian with a natural gift for both combat leadership and inspiring speeches. We also encounter the Fiftieth Pennsylvania, a motley array of veteran canal men, as seen through the eyes of Sergeant (and later, a reluctant Lieutenant) Charles Brown.

The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls by Anton DiSclafani

DiSclafani's debut chronicles a teenager's life-changing year at an elite boarding school in the North Carolina mountains. In the summer of 1930, Thea arrives at the Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls, expanded years earlier to a year-round school. She has been sent away from her home in central Florida for an initially mysterious offense and she bitterly regrets her exile from the isolated rural paradise, where she roamed freely with her twin brother, Sam. Though she frequently tells us she has rarely spent time with anyone other than relatives, Thea is a self-assured newcomer who quickly assumes a favored spot in the girls' pecking order, partly because she's taken up by popular Sissy, partly because she's an excellent horsewoman, but mostly because this stunned survivor of family ostracism seems to her peers a cool, detached observer, indifferent to their approval. Using elegant prose that evokes the cadences of a vanished epoch, DiSclafani unfolds at a leisurely pace the twin narratives of Thea's odyssey at school and the charged relationship with her cousin Georgie that led to a confrontation with Sam and her disgrace.

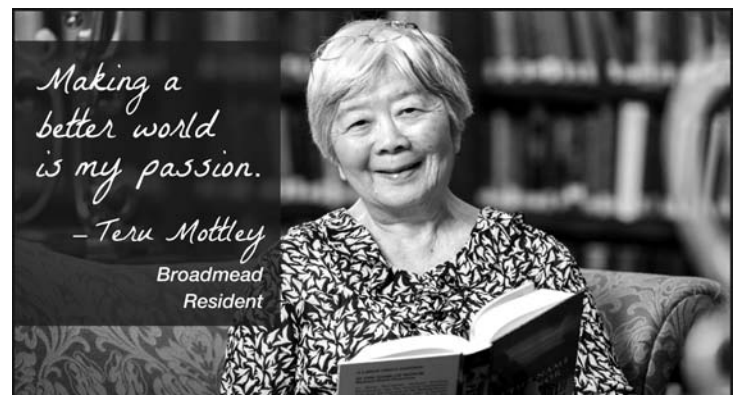
A Concubine for the Family: A Family Saga in China by Amy S. Kwei

This saga about a Chinese family is Young Adult-Novelist Kwei's first for adults. In 1937, Purple Jade, the soon-to-be matriarch of the Huang household, contemplates her tiny lotus feet. “No one calls them golden lilies anymore. Now they are only tiny feet and worse than your big feet,” she says to her beloved servant, Orchid. But Purple Jade has other concerns beyond the constant pain in her bound feet. There's an unsettling influence of American and European “West Ocean Devils,” internal strife between the Nationalists and Communists and an impending Japanese invasion (they have already taken Manchuria) that threatens Confucian China, a world that will soon disappear forever. Kwei details Chinese traditions and the fascinating but evanescent world as only someone steeped in the old ways could. An adept stylist and storyteller, Kwei weaves with simplicity this tale of upper-class China in upheaval.

My Father's Ghost is Climbing in the Rain by Patricio Pron

Pron's American debut can best be described as a purposefully fragmented mystery narrative, unconstrained by the conventions of that or any other genre. Told in whispers, with laughter and tears, it is a complex look at the legacy and mandate of social struggle in Argentina. A young writer with memory loss returns home to Argentina to say good-bye to his dying father, a journalist. In reviewing his father's files, the son uncovers the older man's

Continued on page 28



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obsession with the disappearance and murder of a local man whose sister was also “disappeared” by the infamous Argentinean military dictatorship during the 1970s. In piecing together the mystery, the son-narrator learns that his parents led secret lives as leaders of an underground Peronist resistance movement. This is a melancholy and chilling work of postmodernism, examining family, memory and what collective fear does to a society. Pron brilliantly draws a line from individual crime, which interests few, to the epidemic of social crime, which transforms generations.

Nonfiction

Anatomies: A Cultural History of the Human Body by Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Aldersey-Williams has previously written about the molecule buckminsterfullerene (*The Most Beautiful Molecule*, 1995) and chemical elements (*Periodic Tales*, 2011). Here he works as a geographer, inspecting the territory of the body while merging medical science with art, literature, history and philosophy. Anatomic superstars Andreas Vesalius, William Harvey, and Henry Gray bask in the spotlight, but they share the stage with the likes of Karel Capek, Gogol, Shakespeare, Descartes, Rembrandt and Hieronymus Bosch. The book is crammed with curiosities: the recipe for shrinking and preserving a human head, body-snatchers, phrenology, synesthesia (a sort of mingling of the senses) and Einstein's brain.

Who was Dracula? Bram Stoker's Trail of Blood
by Jim Steinmeyer

Unlike McNally and Florescu's *In Search of Dracula* (1972), which explored the allegedly historical origins of the world's most

Parents' Library Corner

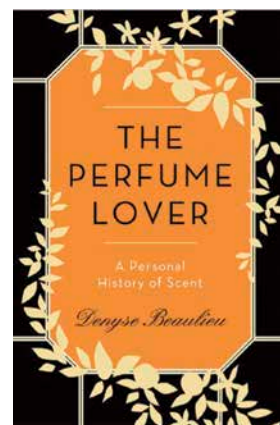
Date & Time	Program
Mondays, 1:30 p.m.	Mother Goose Baby Steps. Ages birth to 2. Interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement for children up to age 2 and their caregivers. If Monday is a holiday, program will be held on Thursday at 1:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 11 a.m.	Preschool Leaps. (Ages 3 to 5) Stories, songs and fun for preschoolers.
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 12 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Sukkot (Birth to 5) Listen and learn about the traditions of the Sukkot holiday.
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 12 p.m.	Mazel Tales (Birth to 5) Listen to stories, make a craft and learn about Judaic culture.
Wednesday, Nov. 20, 12 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Chanukah (Birth to 5) Listen to stories, make a craft and learn about Judaic culture.


famous bloodsucker, Steinmeyer focuses on Stoker's creation of the dread vampire. Think of it as a literary detective story: How did Stoker, an otherwise mostly undistinguished novelist, seize upon the idea for his greatest work? It turns out we can thank the great Victorian stage actor Henry Irving, whose performance as Mephistopheles inspired the visual look of Stoker's creation. John Polidori's seminal 1818 short story, *The Vampyre*, was another influence, as Stoker mined popular vampire mythology for his own novel and Eastern European history for the setting of the story. Steinmeyer notes along the way that, despite the assertions of other writers, Stoker knew little about the historical Dracula, the fifteenth-century Wallachian ruler and torturer, Vlad Tepes. Stoker even got the meaning of the name Dracula wrong, having cribbed its connotation as “devil” from another writer prone to inaccuracy. A work of enthusiastic scholarship and shrewd literary detection, Steinmeyer's book will appeal both to Stoker scholars and garden-variety Dracula fans.

The Perfume Lover: A Personal History of Scent by Denyse Beaulieu

When Parisian perfume designer, Bertrand Duchaufour invited blogger Beaulieu to his lab, one of her memories launched their collaboration on an actual fragrance.

Their process provides focus for an intoxicating book that interweaves both perfume's and the author's personal histories. While Duchaufour teaches Beaulieu, she draws upon a perfume fascination founded in her suburban Montréal upbringing and gradually developed via her childhood style-muse neighbor, school and university friendships, travel to France and Spain and her lifelong relationship history. Beaulieu makes brilliant use of





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such diverse subtopics as prerevolutionary France, 20th century fragrance icons and their products, changing gender ideas and their connection to perfumes, the relationship between perfumes and fragrances in other products and the contemporary mania for celebrity scents.

Here is Where: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History by Andrew Carroll

During the Civil War, at a railroad stop in New Jersey, Abraham Lincoln's son was saved from a near accident by John Wilkes Booth's brother. Historian Carroll had traveled through that spot many times, unaware of its significance; once he learned of it, he wondered how many more such places there were across the United States. He set out on a journey via car, train, plane, helicopter, boat and bike to find historically significant places that have long been forgotten. Among his discoveries were a Civil War-era maritime disaster on the Mississippi River that was worse than the sinking of the Titanic, but was overshadowed by the assassination of Lincoln two weeks earlier, and the crash-landing of a Japanese plane on the private island of Niihau in December 1941 that led to divided loyalties, as Japanese-born residents protected the pilot from Hawaiian natives even as they learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor. From coast to coast, Carroll presents fascinating and rambling history lessons, as well as the quirks that account for what goes into the history books and what is left out, to be later forgotten

General information

Please note that I always update the voice message on the branch

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: September 2 for Labor Day, October 14 for Columbus Day (closed to the public for a staff development day), November 11 for Veterans' Day, November 27 at 5 p.m. for Thanksgiving Eve and November 28 for Thanksgiving Day.

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

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

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Donor Profile: Margaret Gray Kincaid

When I was two, both my grandfathers decided it was time for my parents to leave the house on Bolton Street. I think there was an incident with a bum and a bottle of booze in the alley, while I was left in my blue snowsuit in the backyard.

After much searching, my parents Christopher and Allie Gray found the house at 17 Elmwood Road. My grandfather, Roland Gray, bought the house and my parents slowly paid him back on the salary of an assistant professor of Art History at Johns Hopkins.

I loved our new home and Roland Park was the most perfect place to grow up. During the post-war years, rat packs of us kids roamed the neighborhood. We played baseball in the Shriver's backyard, which is now the Truelove's house. In the winter, we went sledding at the Baltimore Country Club or even down Elmwood Road, making it impassable for cars. In the summer, we went swimming at the Roland Park Pool. Of course, this was before any of us had air conditioning so the pool was our summer place to cool off and relax.

I attended the little Homewood School, on the corner of Roland and Wyndhurst, for nursery school and kindergarten, later transferring to Roland Park Country School for 1st grade. I stayed at RPCS for 12 years, through high school.

My father became ill in his early 50s and my parents sold the house to the Flowers family in 1969. My father died the following year. Both Mother and I always looked back at our time in the

house in Roland Park as our happiest years. Since then, I have married and divorced, raised my family and moved about 10 times. In 2001, my mother decided to buy the house back when Mrs. Flowers died. Mom was supposed to move to Roland Park Place but, instead, she bought 17 Elmwood Road and gave it to me. I was to come back to Baltimore from Berkeley, Calif., and look after her. Mom lived until she was 94 and died in 2009.

I am very happy to be back in my childhood home. I had the house renovated in time for my daughter's wedding in 2007. I have loved gardening in my father's garden and making the house my own. My support of the

purchase of the Baltimore Country Club property stems from my lifelong love of this neighborhood, as I fear that losing this open space to development will irreparably harm the neighborhood I care about. Securing this beautiful parkland for future generations seems like a great thing to do with my time. ♦



Margaret Gray Kincaid Photo: Sally Foster

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Open Space Campaign Update

By Mary Page Michel

Supporters of the Open Space Campaign for Greater Roland Park continue to work hard on the campaign's three main projects—the purchase of the excess land at the Baltimore Country Club; the restoration of the Roland Water Tower with the creation of a pocket park; and the improvements to the Stony Run trail. We continue to receive pledges and payments, and we are thankful for every gift

Baltimore Country Club Property

Fundraising continues for the purchase of the Baltimore Country Club's excess land. We have been meeting with residents and look forward to making a number of presentations this fall. Look for

We have been meeting with residents and look forward to making a number of presentations this fall. Look for invitations to our porch parties via email and in your mailbox. If a neighbor invites you, please say yes.

invitations to our porch parties via email and in your mailbox. If a neighbor invites you, please say yes. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity and commitment in Roland Park and continue to work hard to spread the word of the Open Space campaign.

Roland Water Tower

The Roland Water Tower project, described extensively in the summer issue of the *Roland Park News*, is moving forward towards construction. Since Baltimore City's Board of Estimates voted to transfer responsibility for the tower from the Department

of Public Works (DPW) to the Department of General Services (DGS) last March, the Roland Water Tower team has met regularly with DGS representatives. We are currently determining how the restoration project will be managed and establishing a framework for the tower's long term maintenance. Many public-private partnerships exist in the City but no two are exactly alike, so this process takes time and discussion. Look for more news in the weeks to come — we will celebrate when the chain link fence comes down!

Stony Run Path

The Stony Run project has similarly exciting news. Under the leadership of Genady Schwartz, director of the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department, and in partnership with the Friends of Stony Run, we are making progress on creating safer crossings at Wyndhurst and Cold Spring Lane. In addition, more of the private properties along Stony Run continue to be moved over to the City, so we can establish a genuinely public trail. Finally, the design work for the two bridges on the southern portion of the trail has begun. This trail is a true gem and we are thrilled that everyone's hard work is paying off. ❖

Thank you to everyone in Roland Park who has made a commitment to improving the beautiful green space that makes our community so unique. If you have been meaning to make a pledge or gift, there is no time like today. If you would like to speak to someone from the Roland Park Community Foundation, please don't hesitate to call the office at 410-464-2533 or email communityfoundation@rolandpark.org. We would love to hear from you.



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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.
- ☐ I/we prefer to make pledge payments of \$_____
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