

ROLAND PARK NEWS

Spring
2010
Volume
Thirty-Seven

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The Roland Park Area Master Plan: What's in It for Us?

By David Tufaro, Chair, Roland Park Civic League Land Use Committee, and Member, Roland Park Master Plan Steering Committee

results in the future. Here are a few examples of what the Plan will offer:

In a few words, what is the purpose of the Master Plan?

The broad purpose of the Plan is to preserve the neighborhood and improve it wherever possible—in other words, “Preserve the best; enhance the rest.”

What form will the Plan take?

The Plan will be a written document with plans, design guidelines, specific recommendations and timelines for implementation that reflect the views of the stakeholders—those who are involved in or affected by the Plan—in the Roland Park area, including residents, businesses, institutions and landowners.

What time period is the Plan intended to cover?

This is a plan for the 21st century. In the late 1890s, the founders of Roland Park laid out an original master plan that has served us well for more than 100 years, due to the strength and vision of the individuals who created it and to the residents who, over the generations, have served as stewards of that original plan. The new Plan is intended to take us through the second century of Roland Park's existence, to the degree possible, while recognizing that revisions may be needed to accommodate unforeseen circumstances. The process that we are going through to generate and adopt the Plan will help to ensure that it survives the residents who come and go in this neighborhood, as well as changes in City staff and elected officials.

How specific will the Plan be?

The Plan will not simply be a statement that we would like to preserve the bucolic nature of the neighborhood. There will be specifics as to how to preserve existing conditions and achieve certain



One of Roland Park's most beautiful vistas—the view from the Baltimore Country Club on a fall day. Photo: Anne Stuzin

- A method for controlling modifications to our historic homes and structures, with both design standards and a mechanism for enforcing them. This will enable us to preserve the historic character of Roland Park.
- Specific plans to improve pedestrian access to our commercial areas, which include shops and restaurants.
- A plan to improve neighborhood bus shelters.
- A program for obtaining conservation easements or buying property in order to transform what is a linear park at Stony Run into a true connector of the whole neighborhood.

Could you provide a more detailed example of a specific issue to show how the matter would be addressed in the Master Plan?

A good example would be the Roland Avenue median. Because it defines the spine of our

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Roland Park News

Volume 37
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Editorial Board:
Martha Marani and Anne Stuzin
Advertising Manager: Marni Toop

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5115B Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Telephone: (410) 464-2525
FAX (410)-464-2533

E-mail: rporg@verizon.net
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Editors' Notes

By Anne Stuzin and Martha Marani

As the finishing touches are applied to this issue of the *Roland Park News*, our community has been blanketed by an historic snowfall—one for Baltimore's record books! Spring seems very far away as we gaze out on snow-covered yards and streets. Through it all, we've seen an impressive display of neighbors helping neighbors. People have been spending hours shoveling themselves out, only to spend more time shoveling out their friends next door. Someone with a snow blower cleared several blocks so neighbors could get to work and the grocery store. A fellow with a chainsaw cut up a tree that had fallen across an alley and taken out his elderly neighbor's power. All these stories reminded us of a quote from Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping



Photos: Anne Stuzin

together is progress. Working together is success." No surprise that, in Roland Park, it would appear Mother Nature is no match for the power of community!

In another collaborative effort, the Roland Park Master Plan is well underway. Under the guidance and leadership of Phil Spevak, president of the Civic League, and aided by a talented, dedicated group of Roland Park residents heading up various subcommittees,

the Master Plan will chart the course for our community into the 21st century and beyond.

For this issue's cover story, David Tufaro, Chair of the Civic League's Land Use Committee and member of the Master Plan Steering Committee, answers questions about the Master Plan and urges all residents to get engaged in the process. There is also a sampling of some of the ideas that have been developed.

On the food front, we have a special treat for our readers in this issue—a recipe from Roland Park resident Kerry Dunnington. Dunnington is a food columnist, caterer and cookbook author. Her forthcoming cookbook, *Planet Kitchen Table*, is slated for publication later this year.

Speaking of new books, Beechdale resident and UMBC professor Christopher Corbett has a new book out. *The Poker Bride* is a story of "the essence of the American experience," according to a review in the *Wall Street Journal*. In addition to being interviewed on WYPR's "Midday with Dan Rodricks" on February 1st, Corbett talked with Henry Mortimer, whose column, "Bookends," previews in this issue.

Finally, our spring issue also includes our annual publication of the "Word of Mouth" list as a service to our readers. The businesses included have been recommended by your neighbors for providing quality service. We at the *Roland Park News* offer it as a resource, though not as an endorsement of any of the contractors listed.

While all the snow should be gone by the time you read this, memories of the Blizzard(s) of Baltimore—and all the great community collaboration—will be with us for a long time. Time to think Spring, Roland Park! ♦

Art Happenings

Under the direction of Music Director Tom Hall, **Baltimore Choral Arts** presents A Ruby Cabaret on April 16th at 7 pm in the The Grand Lodge Ballroom in Hunt Valley. This exciting event will benefit Baltimore Choral Arts' education and outreach programs. An evening of sizzling jazz and cabaret, A Ruby Cabaret will feature New York cabaret singer Mark Nadler, along with Hall leading the Chorus. There will also be a delectable dinner, a silent and live auction, and more! Dress is cabaret chic.

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

On March 27th and 28th, from 11 am to 6 pm, the biennial **Baltimore Fair for Contemporary Prints & New Editions** returns to the **Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA)** with 14 major contemporary art dealers, galleries and presses from around the country. On March 25th, artist Christiane Baumgartner will discuss her large-scale woodcut prints of video stills. Tickets are \$15 per person (\$12 for BMA members). A \$30 Weekend Pass (\$20 for BMA members) includes admission to both days of the Print Fair and all events, including the Artist Talk with Christiane Baumgartner. Tickets to the artist talk alone are \$10 (\$8 for BMA members). Students and teachers are free with valid ID at the door. Tickets are available at the BMA box office, online at artbma.org or by phone at 1-800-919-6272.

Upcoming events at the **Cathedral of Mary Our Queen** (5200 N. Charles Street) include:

- March 21st, 5:30 pm, **Cathedral Choir Concert**. The Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Director of Music Daniel J. Sansone, will perform a program of varied choral repertoire celebrating the season of Lent. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.
- March 28th, 5:30 pm, **Organ Recital**. Sansone will perform an organ recital featuring *Le Chemin de la Croix* (The Stations of the Cross) by Marcel Dupré. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.
- April 18th, 5:30 pm, **Solemn Choral Vespers**. The Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Sansone, will sing Solemn Choral Vespers. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.

For more than 45 years, **CENTERSTAGE** (700 North Calvert Street) has been Baltimore's leading professional producing theater company. Upcoming performances include:

- Through March 7th, "Let There Be Love," by Kwame Kwei-Armah (directed by Jeremy B. Cohen)
- March 3rd through 28th, "Working It Out," three plays on the theme of the workplace by Aaron Sorkin, Lynn Rosen and Rick Cleveland
- April 7th through May 9th, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," by August Wilson (directed by Irene Lewis)
- April 29th through May 2nd, Tracie Thoms and Friends, A CENTERSTAGE Cabaret in The Head Theater

For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.centerstage.org, or contact the box office at 410-332-0033 or boxoffice@centerstage.org.

Evergreen Museum & Library (4545

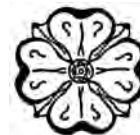
N. Charles Street) is housed in a former Gilded Age mansion surrounded by Italian-style gardens. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the hour 11 am to 3 pm, Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Call 410-516-0341 or visit www.museums.jhu.edu. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$3 for students (13 and over with ID), youth (6 to 12), and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). Upcoming events include:

- Weekends, through March 7th, noon to 4 pm, **Teacher Appreciation Month**. Evergreen Museum & Library will partner with member museums of the Greater Baltimore History Alliance to offer free admission to Maryland teachers. For a list of participating museums, visit baltimoremuseums.org/forteachers.html.



Ma Rainey's Black Bottom at Center Stage

Continued on page 5



The Roland Park Community Foundation Invites You to Celebrate Spring in Roland Park!

Friday, April 23, 2010 ♦ 6:30-10 PM

The Woman's Club of Roland Park
4500 Roland Avenue

Spring Attire

Proceeds will go to the
Roland Park
Community Foundation

Tickets \$60 per person

Look for your
invitation soon

KidsView

by Julianne McFarland

Congratulations to Conrad C. and Winnie H., winners of our Winter 2010 KidsView Contest. Each will receive a \$5 gift certificate to The Children's Book Store for finding such words as "earned," "retina" and, of course, "winner" in the words, "Winter Wonderland."

4x4 Sudoku!

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 4 | |
| | 3 | | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | | 1 |
| | 1 | | |

Hey Guys!

Do you like to cook, like I do? If you do, then there's a great opportunity for you to have fun and help our society at the same time! The Bolton Street Synagogue is working with Our Daily Bread's hot meal program to provide hot meals for the many hungry people in Baltimore City. Here's how you can help! You and your family can make a casserole from one of two recipes each month. Then deliver the casseroles to the synagogue. If you want to help out or would like more information, please contact Claudia Diamond at ClaudiaADiamond@gmail.com, or call 410-662-4734. Thanks a lot! Julianne

Send Kids View submissions to Anne Stuzin,
206 Ridgewood Road,
or email to akstuzin@comcast.net.

Note: May 1st is the deadline for Summer!

Spring

A poem and picture by Lily McFarland and Beatrice McAleer

Sunshine
Pink lilies
Rain in spring
I love the flower's smell
New flowers
Gardens growing



Flower Scramble

How many words can you unscramble in this flower-ific word game?

TLIPU
DFOLIFDA
YASID
LYIL
EROS
FLSUWNORE

The **Spring 2010 Contest** is to find as many words as possible in

CHRYSANthemUM

Send your entry to KidsView, P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210, or email them to Newsletter@rolandpark.org. If you find more words than anyone else (no proper names or foreign words, please) you'll receive a \$5 gift certificate to Shanigans Toy Shop. Good luck!

Answer Key for Flower Scramble:

Tulip
Daffodil
Daisy
Lily
Rose
Sunflower

Sudoku Answers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

Art Happenings

Continued from page 3

- Through April 25th, with a free opening reception on February 28th, 1 to 4 pm, **Meg Page: Nature In and Out.** The eighth installment in the House Guests artist-in-residence exhibition series will feature



The string quartet Brooklyn Rider performs at the Evergreen Museum & Library on March 6th.

Photo: Richard Frank

Baltimore-based artist Meg Page. Inspired by her love of nature as well as a long-held affinity for the art of botanical illustration, Page has created a series of paintings reinterpreting the tastes and interests of Evergreen's former Garrett family, her imagined clients. The exhibition is made possible by the Evergreen House Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council.

- Through April 25th, with a free opening reception on February 28th, 1 to 4 pm, **Stones, Sea, Sky: Celtic Landscapes.** This exhibition of approximately 27 Giclée prints by photographer, teacher and Maryland Institute College of Art graduate Phyllis Berger celebrates the spectacular geologic forms that abound along the wild, unspoiled coastlines of Brittany, France, and southwest Ireland. The exhibition is made possible by the Evergreen House Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council. Reservations are requested; call 410-516-0341 or email evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu.

- Through April 25th, with a free opening reception on February 28th, 1 to 4 pm, and a Curator's Gallery Talk, 2 pm, **Decades of Change: Alice Garrett and the Theatre, 1900–1952.** This student-curated focus show will offer extraordinary insight into the unique relationship arts patron and philanthropist Alice Warder Garrett had with the performing arts in the first half of the 20th century. The exhibition will feature some 30 theater programs, spanning five decades and selected from Mrs. Garrett's collection of about 400 playbills from the U.S. and Europe. Also on view will be her personal "notes to self" on productions, costumes and stage sets, which informed the design of her private theatre at Evergreen by Léon Bakst in 1923. The exhibition has been organized by 2009 Evergreen Museum & Library student curator Suzanne Gold, a senior in the Krieger School, and is made possible by the Evergreen House Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council. Reservations are requested; call 410-516-0341 or email evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu.

- March 6th and April 17th, 3 pm, Bakst Theatre, **Music at Evergreen Concert Series.** The 57th season of Evergreen's concert series will continue with performances by the string quartet Brooklyn Rider (March 6th) and the multidisciplinary ensemble SEGUE (April 17th). Concerts are held in the museum's intimate Bakst Theatre, and guests are invited to

interact with the musicians at post-concert receptions. The program is made possible by the Evergreen House Foundation. Individual tickets are \$20 for the general public, \$15 for members and \$10 for full-time students (with ID), and include museum admission and a reception. Seating is limited and advance reservations are recommended. Visit www.missiontix.com or call 410-516-0341.

- March 10th, 6:30 to 8:30 pm (followed by a reception), **Ema: The Japanese Votive Horse Painting Tradition.** Hilary K. Snow, history of art doctoral candidate at Stanford University, explores the Japanese tradition of Ema, or traditional votive horse paintings, which were presented to Japanese temples and shrines as a means of showing support and devotion. Focusing on Ema made during the Edo Period (1615–1865) by both unsung painters and well-respected and historically influential artists, Snow will explore the artistic and social roles that surround this important tradition of image making. The free lecture is presented by Evergreen Museum & Library and the Walters Art Museum Friends of the Asian Collection. Advance registration is encouraged. Visit evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu or call 410-516-0341.

- March 24th, April 28th and May 26th, 6:30 to 8 pm, **The House Beautiful Lecture Series.** Evergreen's third annual The House Beautiful lecture series explores houses that demonstrate a love of the theatrical, through the inclusion of private theatres, the

Continued on page 6

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Art Happenings

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idea of performance or grand theatrics in design. The illustrated talks will take place in Evergreen's Bakst Theatre, followed by a lightly catered reception. The program is made possible by the Evergreen Museum & Library Advisory Council and the Evergreen House Foundation. Tickets for the series are \$48 for the general public, and \$32 for members and full-time



The Dining Room at Ten Chimneys. Photo copyrighted by and courtesy of Ten Chimneys Foundation

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students (with ID). Individual talks are \$20 for the general public, and \$15 for members and full-time students (with ID). Advance reservations requested. Visit evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu or call 410-516-0341.

March 24th, Keith D. MacKay, **Ten Chimneys: A Design for Living**. Described by actor David Hyde Pierce as "Dolley Madison meets Salvador Dali meets Hello Dolly," Ten Chimneys, the estate lovingly created by Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, is unique among our National Historic Landmarks. MacKay, the estate's director of historic preservation, leads an exploration of Ten Chimneys' whimsical interiors and of how Ten Chimneys Foundation uses the estate and collections today to inspire guests to embrace their own "Design for Living."

April 28th, Susan B. Tripp, **Discovering Evergreen: One Degree of Separation**. The always theatrical Evergreen Museum & Library still was staffed by a number of former employees of John and Alice Garrett when Susan Tripp became curator of art for The Johns Hopkins University in 1974. In this talk commemorating the 20th anniversary of the mansion's three-year, \$4.3 million restoration and re-opening to the public, Tripp will address not only "discovering" Evergreen's remarkable array of collections, but how their presentation has evolved and changed. She will also reflect on how learning about the Garretts from those who knew them added an invaluable dimension to the restoration.

May 26th, Victoria Kastner, **The Silver Screen: Hearst Castle and Hollywood**. William Randolph Hearst is best known as the press lord who built his vast San Simeon estate (known formally as "La Cuesta Encantada" or "The Enchanted Hill") from 1919 through 1947. He is less well known as an early film pioneer and the producer of 120 movies. Victoria Kastner, historian at Hearst Castle, will detail the rich social and architectural history of San Simeon's theater, designed in the 1930s by Hearst and his architect Julia Morgan in the spirit of an early movie palace. Kastner is the author of *Hearst Castle: The Biography of a Country House* and *Hearst's San Simeon: The Gardens and the Land*. She has lectured extensively on San Simeon and has also written about Hearst for the *London Telegraph*, the *American Institute of Architects*, and *The Magazine Antiques*.

- May 2nd through September 26th, with a free opening reception on May 2nd, 1 to 4 pm, **Sculpture at Evergreen 2010: Simultaneous Presence**. The sixth biennial installment in the series features 10 new site-specific, temporary outdoor sculptures that are both inspired by and created specifically for Evergreen Museum & Library. **Simultaneous Presence** is guest curated by artist Jennie Fleming and architect Ronit Eisenbach. The exhibition and its accompanying publication are made possible by the Evergreen House Foundation and the Municipal Arts Society of Baltimore. Additional funding is provided by the Hecht-Levi Foundation, Cindy and Tom Kelly, the Maryland State Arts Council, Jane and Worth Daniels, Joan I. Fabry and Michael Klein, and other generous contributors.
- May 20th through October 24th, with a free opening reception on May 20th, 6 to 8 pm, **Modernism at Evergreen: Baltimore's Billy Baldwin**. The second installment in Evergreen Museum & Library's annual student-curated exhibition series spotlights the career of William "Billy" Baldwin (1903–1983), probably the most ingenious of 20th century interior designers. The exhibition and its accompanying publication are made possible by the Richard C. Von Hess Foundation. Additional funding is provided

by the Evergreen House Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council. Reservations are requested. Visit evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu or call 410-516-0341.

Homewood Museum (3400 N. Charles Street) is a National Historic Landmark built in 1801 by Charles Carroll Jr., and one of the nation's best surviving examples of Federal period architecture. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the half-hour between 11 am and 3:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 3:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Call 410-516-0341 or visit www.museums.jhu.edu. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and AAA members; \$3 for students (13+ with ID), youth (6-12), and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). Upcoming events include:

■ Through March 31st, **On the Road: Travel and Transportation in Early Maryland.**

From foot, horse and sail power to the introduction of steamboats, canals and railways, this Johns Hopkins student-curated focus show will explore how people and goods traveled at the turn of the 19th century.

Programs related to the **On the Road** exhibition will include the **On the Road Speaker Series**, events for which will be held in the museum's reception hall and followed by a reception in the wine cellar.

Individual talks are \$10 for the general public, \$7 for members and free for full-time students (with ID). Due to limited seating, advance registration is required. Call 410-516-5589 or email homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu.

March 4th, Earle Havens, Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries, **Phaetons, Chaises, Ferries & Sloops: Print Culture and the Curiosities of American Travel and Transport**

March 11th, David Schley, The Johns Hopkins University, **Changing the Means and Meanings of Travel: The Early Railroad in Maryland**

■ Weekends, February 6th through March 7th, noon to 4 pm, **Teacher Appreciation Month (see above).**

■ March 5th, April 2nd and May 7th, 5:45 pm, **Peabody at Homewood Concert Series.** This annual performance series will showcase the work of some of Peabody's most promising musicians. Series tickets are \$40 for the general public, \$30 for members and \$20 for full-time students (with ID). Individual concert tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$12 for members

\$8 for full-time students (with ID). Tickets include museum admission and a reception. Seating is limited and reservations are requested. Call 410-516-5589 or email homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu.

March 5th, **Christopher Kovalchick.** A "most mature violinist" who's playing has been described as "a dash of genius" (NJ Times), Kovalchick opens Homewood Museum's 10th anniversary concert season with an all-Bach program.

April 2nd, **Charm City Baroque.** Charm City Baroque is a highly sophisticated ensemble made up of Peabody graduate and undergraduate students.

May 7th, **Brass Roots Quintet.** The Brass Roots Quintet, a group of Peabody brass students, is one of the most impressive ensembles in the Baltimore area.

■ April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th, and May 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th (weather permitting), **Historic Homewood ArtWalk.** This fun, informative and free 45-minute guided walking tour covers historic and artistic sites between the two significant collections of American historic interiors and decorative arts at Homewood Museum and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Guided tours depart at 12 pm from Homewood Museum and 1 pm from the Baltimore Museum of Art (10 Art Museum Drive). Free, but reservations are requested. Call 410-516-5589 or email homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu.

■ May 1st, 10 am to 5 pm, **Maryland House and Garden**

Continued on page 8



Playbill cover, The Belasco Theatre, New York, 1915.

Courtesy of the Evergreen House Foundation

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Art Happenings

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Pilgrimage Baltimore County Tour. This year's tour will highlight the history of the Ruxton and Woodbrook communities, with tours to historically interesting and architecturally significant properties and gardens. Proceeds will benefit Homewood Museum's front portico restoration project. Additional information and complete tour details may be found at www.mhgp.org. Tickets are \$30 by advance purchase in-person at Homewood Museum and Evergreen Museum & Library, or on-line at www.mhgp.org. Tickets are \$35 on the day at any site. Lunch at the Elkridge Club will be available by pre-paid reservation only, by calling 410-516-8645.

The **Lyric Opera House** (140 W. Mt. Royal Avenue), in its 2009-2010 season, is offering stellar performances and artists! These include:

- March 12th, 8 pm, and March 13th, 2 and 8 pm, "The Color Purple"
- March 20th, 8 pm, Country Rock N Country
- March 30th, 8 pm, Norah Jones
- March 31st, 8 pm, David Gray



David Gray

Tickets are available in person at The Lyric box office or by calling audience services at 410-900-1150. For more information, visit www.lyricoperahouse.com.

The 12th season of **Opera Vivente**, Baltimore's chamber opera company, will include performances of the Debussy/Constant "Impressions of Pelléas" on **March 6th and 8th** at 8 pm, and Mozart's "The Magic Flute" on **May 14th, 20th and 22nd** at 7:30 pm. Performances will be sung in English and will be held in the Great Hall of Emmanuel Episcopal Church (811 Cathedral Street). Tickets are \$33 to \$75 for all performances. For season subscription and tickets, call 410-547-7997 or visit operavivente.org.

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

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Cornus: The Dogwood Genus

By Jean Mellott

This is the time of year you begin to notice them. American Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) are scattered throughout Roland Park, and they will begin to unfurl their white and pink blossoms over the next month. One of the reasons they are so striking is that they bloom before they leaf out. They create layers of grey branches holding up four-petaled saucers of pink or white blossoms, slightly curled, with a blushing center. These trees are so easily grown in the Mid-Atlantic and southern states that they are the state tree or flower of three states: Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia, and they seed themselves prolifically into natural areas from New Jersey south to Georgia and west to the Mississippi. Their proliferation is aided by the birds, which eat the berries for essential calories on their northern migration in early spring. As older trees, these American natives develop a distinctive alligator-skin bark. Although the Flowering Dogwood is the most iconic of this genus, there are a number of other dogwoods, both native and introduced, that are available to Mid-Atlantic gardeners, and that provide both spring blossoms and berries for birds. Sadly, we are too warm to grow the groundcover variety, Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), which is common in Maine and the Northeast.

Another frequently planted Dogwood tree is the Chinese or Korean Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), which blooms later, after the leaves have emerged. These trees have been sold as alternatives to the native Dogwood, when so many of that species were being decimated by the anthracnose fungus. However, there are distinct differences, which make this a good tree to plant in its own right. The more pointed four-petaled blossoms sit on top of the green leaves, and have more of a star shape. Their berries are bright pink and hang down, more like a rounded sycamore or sweet-gum ball. The bark, instead of developing the alligator-skin appearance, exfoliates, creating interest in the winter garden when the leaves have fallen. Some cultivars have yellow fruit.

The Corneliancherry Dogwood (*Cornus mas*), a European native, has been planted in the U.S. for more than 100 years. It tends to remain a small tree, with yellow instead of white flowers, and with exfoliating bark and hanging fruit like the Chinese Dogwood. This fruit, however, really does look like a cherry, adding to the confusion of someone who sees it for the first time and tries to figure out what it is. This Dogwood is an early spring bloomer.

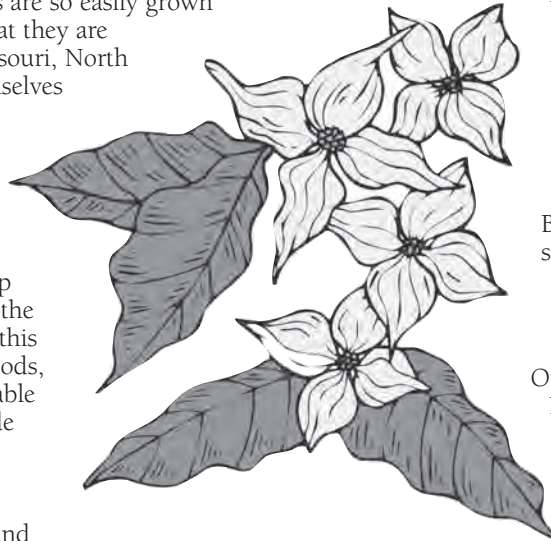
The Red- and Yellow-twigged Dogwoods are very popular. Telling them apart is important, because they require different kinds of soil and maintenance. Most bloom modestly at the tip of the rather upright branches toward the end of the spring and, unlike the American Dogwood, their berries are blue or milky white. Their value as food for wildlife is very high. The native Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) can have either yellow or red stems, and it flourishes in wet or swampy areas. They are best planted in masses, as their color is most striking when viewed from a slight distance. This is a suckering shrub, usually maxing out at 7 to 9 feet high and 10 feet wide, and it does a good job of preventing bank erosion. It can have wonderful fall leaf color, depending on the cultivar.

Easily confused with the native Red-twigged Dogwood are the Blood-twig Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and the Tatarian Dogwood (*Cornus alba*). The Blood-twig Dogwood, native to Europe, has striking red to orange bark, but the flowers can be unpleasantly fragrant. However, this species has been excessively cultivarized and you may not be able to resist acquiring one with such unusual color. These are best in a mixed planting, paired with evergreens to show them off in the winter.

The Tatarian Dogwood requires full sun and regular cutting back to maintain its red color. It is also not as tolerant of saturated soil as the native Red-osier Dogwood. The stems are green until the first good frost, after which they change to a dark red. Because they benefit from severe pruning, the stems make a wonderful late winter addition to flower arrangements. I like to cut enough to place by themselves in a tall glass vase in February.

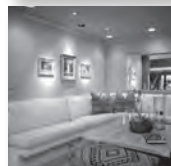
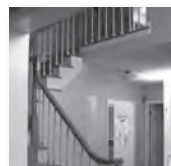
Other Dogwoods worth considering are the Pagoda Dogwood, the Silky Dogwood and the Grey Dogwood. These are all native to

Continued on page 31



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Energy Wise: White Dutch Clover

By Shannon Putman and Lynn Heller

Spring is upon us, and that means it's time to focus on our yards again.

We all know that manicured grass lawns are pleasing to the eye, but they are not terribly energy-efficient, nor are they particularly good for the environment or public health, particularly when maintained by gas-powered lawnmowers and or pesticides.

Did you know that running a gas-powered lawnmower for one hour emits the same level of greenhouse gases as driving a car 340 miles? And that, over its lifetime, the pollution it emits is equivalent to 43 new cars driven 12,000 miles? And that gas-powered lawnmowers use 800 million gallons of gasoline every year (Gary Partain, "Lawnmowers: A Major Source of Greenhouse Gases," September 23, 2009, www.associatedcontent.com)?

Keeping weeds out of a grass lawn often requires the use of pesticides. Yes, pesticides kill weeds, but many types of pesticides

are assumed to be health and environmental hazards. They enter the groundwater, can leak into drinking water, pollute the Chesapeake Bay, and are toxic to fish, bees and birds (National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns, www.beyondpesticides.org).

The good news is that there is an alternative to grass lawns. White Dutch clover (*Trifolium repens* L.) is a low-cost, low-maintenance



White Dutch clover is a low-cost, low-maintenance groundcover.

groundcover that works especially well for shady lawns, like many of those found in Roland Park. This clover naturally prevents the growth of weeds, and you can either mow it or not. If you choose to mow your clover, please consider alternatives to the gas-powered lawnmower, like electric or manual, push-reel mowers, for the reasons listed above. If you leave it unmowed, the clover can grow to a maximum height of approximately eight inches. It's worth noting that White Dutch Clover flowers attract bees, which might be a practical reason to mow the lawn. On the other hand, clover clippings apparently stick to mower blades.

Planting clover is fairly straightforward and consists of the following steps (www.wikihow.com/Grow-a-Clover-Lawn):

1. Buy clover seeds at your local garden store (approximately \$100 for an average suburban American lawn).
2. Once the ground is thawed in the spring, rake it flat.
3. Mix the seeds with soil and distribute the mixture evenly across your lawn.
4. Cover the mix with a quarter-inch of additional, plain soil.
5. Water gently (spray) and keep lawn moist for a week, without walking on it. It should take about two weeks for the sprouts to emerge.

And the best part of a lawn of White Dutch clover is that you dramatically increase your chances of finding one with four leaves! ❖

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Calendar & Announcements

The **Roland Park Civic League** monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Avenue). For more information, call the Civic League offices at 410-494-0125.

Join the **Greater Homewood Community Corporation** in their **Scrabble® Fundraiser for Literacy** on March 27th from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. This event, which supports the adult literacy and English as a second language program, will be held at the Calvert School's middle school gymnasium (4300 North Charles Street). Registration in advance is \$35 for the general public, and \$20 for students with ID and those over 62, with an additional \$5 charged at the door. For more information, call Todd at 410-261-3520.

On Saturday, March 27th, join **Paul's Place** volunteers and supporters in **The Squeal Appeal**, an inaugural walk/run-a-thon to benefit our neighbors in Washington Village and Pigtown. Donations will support Paul's Place programs of food, shelter and clothing to alleviate poverty. To register, visit www.firstgiving.org/paulsplace. For more information, please contact Katie Kamieniecki, Development Associate by phone at 410-625-0775 x23 or by email at kkamieniecki@paulsplaceoutreach.org.

Roland Park Country School will participate in the Walking School Bus project again on March 10th, April 15th and May 14th. For more information, visit www.walkingschoolbus.org.

The **Roland Park Pool** will open for the season over the Memorial Day weekend.

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

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Welcome New Neighbors! (November 2009 through January 2010)

Mark D. Gately, 5900 Roland Avenue

Jennifer C. Frias and Michael D. Smith, 303 Club Road

Abigail F. Lattes, 629 Deepdene Road

Russell Scott Marker, 4907 Roland Avenue

Peter H. Gunst, 6 Upland Road L3

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

Word of Mouth: Recommended Contractors

Neither the *Roland Park News* nor the Community Foundation is endorsing any of the contractors listed below. Rather, neighbors recommended them to us. If you see a contractor listed with whom you've had a negative experience or that you feel should be removed from the list, please send us an email at Newsletter@rolandpark.org.

| Company Name | Contact | Phone No. |
|--|--|--------------|
| Architects | | |
| Melville Thomas Architects, Inc. | Laura Thomas | 410-433-4400 |
| Penza Bailey Architects | Daniel Bailey, Jeffrey Penza, Laura Thul Penza | 410-435-6677 |
| Michelle Trageser | Michelle Trageser | 410-409-2553 |
| Architectural Restoration | | |
| RG Book, LLC | Ray Book | 410-889-8724 |
| Arborists | | |
| A-AAA Tree Service | | 410-321-0921 |
| A&A Tree Experts | Matt Anaker, Ron Orem | 410-486-4561 |
| The Davey Tree Expert Company | Kevin Mullinary | 410-377-4002 |
| Woodsman Tree Experts | Charles E. Odendhal | 410-321-0900 |
| Cabinetry | | |
| RG Book, LLC | Ray Book | 410-889-8724 |
| Carpenters | | |
| Ciesla Carpentry and Cabinet Works | Dennis Ciesla | 410-366-2444 |
| Ray Simmons | Ray Simmons | 410-9783376 |
| Chimney Sweeps/Repair Contractors | | |
| Mark & Buttons Chimney Sweeps Inc. | Mark | 410-655-4367 |
| Swift Chimney Service | Nathan Lewis | 443-992-5629 |
| Computer Consultants | | |
| Rich Campbell | Rich Campbell | 443-631-0611 |
| The Array Group | Pablo Jusem | 443-739-0147 |
| Decorative Contractors (decorative painting, paperhanging and finish carpentry) | | |
| Rising Tide Inc. | Tom Hickey | 443-831-1758 |
| Electricians | | |
| Casper G. Sippel, Inc. | Casper Sippel | 410-668-3910 |
| George Grossman | George Grossman | 410-905-9886 |
| Heubeck Electric | | 410-235-4095 |
| Exterminators | | |
| Western Pest Services | Lori (pests) | 410-252-0930 |
| | Ellen (termites) | 410-252-1019 |
| Furniture Repair and Upholstery | | |
| Dovetail Restoration | Todd Emmons | 410-243-8300 |
| Gutter Cleaning | | |
| Ian Garrett | Ian Garrett | 443-418-2293 |
| Handymen | | |
| J.C. Pilkerton | Joe Pilkerton | 410-299-2703 |
| Ray Simmons | Ray Simmons | 410-978-3376 |
| Jimmy Urena | Jimmy Urena | 443-352-8112 |
| Heating and A/C Contractors | | |
| Acura System Control, Inc. | Mike White | 410-488-3505 |
| Blue Dot | Janet Talley | 410-803-4323 |
| Pipco Air Conditioning and Heating Company | Vince Pipitone, Jr. | 410-252-7400 |
| Home Entertainment System Installation | | |
| TecHDemand | Greg Ledwell | 410-241-3327 |

Home Improvement/Renovation Contractors

| | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|
| ADR Builders | Gary Stokes | 410-561-0221 |
| ATH Home Repair and Improvement | Tony Himlin | 443-690-5129 |
| Bob Tuttle Roofing & Remodeling | Bob Tuttle | 443-418-4067 |
| Fulton Construction, Inc. | Paul Fulton | 410-876-3567 |
| Gerlak Construction, Inc. | Joe Gerlak | 410-377-0733, 443-604-1964 |
| Greenbuilders Inc. | Polly Bart | 410-833-4814 |
| Kate Culotta Interiors | Kate Culotta | 410-804-4750 |
| Level Designs | Rob Morrow | 443-829-5592 |
| Plumb Construction | Tom Rayner | 410-557-4310 |
| Preferred Contractors and Companies, Inc. | Jerry Skaggs | 410-768-5935 |
| Taylor Made Home Improvements | Kevin Taylor | 410-499-2064 |
| Thomson Remodeling Company, Inc. | Clyde Thomson | 410-889-7391, 410-889-7999 |
| Volkman Construction LLC | Mark Volkman | 410-715-9069 |

Home and Office Cleaning and Organizing Services

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| A Class Act Cleaning | Glenda Doeller | 410-377-5148, 443-935-7954 |
| Next Step | Sally McCabe | 410-207-4475 |
| Simplify Organizing Services | Amy Rehkemper | 410-661-6248 |

Lawn and Landscape Contractors

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Broadleaf Nurseries | | 410-343-0169 |
| Maxalea Nurseries | Michael McWilliams | 410-377-7500 |
| Pinehurst Nurseries | Corey Branch | 410-592-6766 |
| Wm. F. Turner Landscape Inc. | Bill Turner | 410-472-9333 |

Painters

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Baltimore Paint Authority | Michael Vardi | 410-484-0753, 410-419-2000 |
| Michael Coady | Michael Coady | 410-366-7294 |
| Cutting Edge Custom Painting | Tom Hailley | 443-789-4111 |
| The Good Bros. | Mark Crosby | 410-532-8641 |
| Goode Painting | Denny Goode | 410-893-1860 |
| McGarity Brothers | Tom McGarity | 410 366-8224 |
| GreenSpaces, LLC (interior) | Rod O'Connor, Janet Olney | 410-746-2019 |

Plaster/Sheetrock Contractors

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mark Smith | Mark Smith | 410 483-8499 |
| Alan Taylor | Alan Taylor | 410-377-5835 |

Plumbers

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Forster Plumbing | Bryan | 410-444-0016 |
| Brent Goldsmith | Brent Goldsmith | 443-463-2766 |
| O'Neill Plumbing and Heating | Pat O'Neill, Dave DeLauder | 410-433-4047 |
| Saffer Plumbing and Heating | Dave Saffer | 410-665-5164 |

Roofing Contractors

| | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Columbia Roofing | | 410-379-6100 |
| Meticulous Metal Roofing by R J Stoner Contracting, LLC | Ron Stoner | 301-432-5327 |
| Remarkable Home Improvements | Justin Cheetham | 443-618-5225 |
| Stained Glass Contractors (new and repair) | | |
| Artisan Glass Works, Inc. | Tage Jakobsen | 410-435-0300 |
| Daniel Hermann Stained Glass Studio | Dan Herman | 410-332-4550 |
| Great Panes | Len Berkowitz | 410-461-9336 |

Tilers

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jim Rawlings | Jim Rawlings | 410-265-8190 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|

Window Washers

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Ian Garrett | Ian Garrett | 443-418-2293 |
| Janitor On Wheels | Aubrey Winters | 410-298-2950 |

For a complete and up-to-date listing of contractors, please visit www.RolandPark.org/foundation/foundNews.html and click on "Word of Mouth Guide." To check and see if a contractor is properly licensed and/or if they have had any complaints filed against them, contact the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at 410-230-6309 or 1-888-218-5925, or visit www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic. Please submit information for this table to Newsletter@rolandpark.org.



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Balt. MD 21222

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Spring Asparagus Soup

By Chef Cindy Wolf

Serves one person

6 snails, rinsed well
¼ tsp. garlic, finely chopped
1 tsp., shallot, finely chopped
2 button mushrooms, finely chopped
1 tsp. bacon, finely chopped and cooked until crispy (remove fat)
1 circle puff pastry
butter, salt and pepper
2 cups reduced chicken and veal stock
1 oz. red wine
1 egg for egg wash, simply whisk the egg and have a pastry brush handy

Sauté the mushroom and shallot in butter until the shallot begins to brown. Add the garlic and sauté 1 minute. Add the bacon and sauté 1 minute.



After the mixture cools, place it in the center of the puff pastry. Brush the edges of the pastry with the egg wash. Bake the pastry in a 400 degree oven until golden brown.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a small pan and put the snails in to heat them. When the pastry is done, put the hot snails on top and plate.

The sauce is simple. Heat the red wine, and add your chicken and veal stock reduction to it. Bring the mixture to sauce consistency. If you don't have the ingredients, you can skip it; the pastry is fine without the sauce, just better with it.

Enjoy! ♦



fig. 1.

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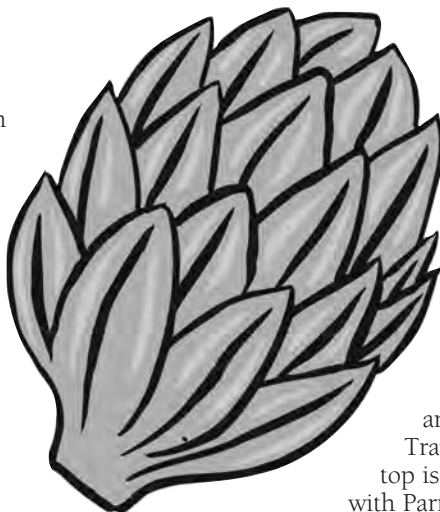
410-464-8000 / www.woodberrykitchen.com / 2010 Clipper Park Road, Baltimore, Maryland

Springtime Artichoke and Chèvre Frittata

From Eddie's of Roland Park

The rich flavors of artichokes and goat cheese make an ideal light spring meal. Try pairing this Springtime Frittata with Eddie's Salad Niçoise and a bottle of Gini Soave Classico from the wine department at Eddie's of Roland Park on Roland Avenue!

- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 T. scallions, chopped
- 1 tsp. garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup Italian parsley, chopped
- 3 oz. crumbled chèvre or other mild goat cheese
- 1 13.75-oz. can quartered artichoke hearts, drained



6 eggs

½ cup milk

⅓ tsp. salt

½ tsp. fresh ground pepper

2 T. fresh grated Parmesan cheese

1 tsp. lemon zest

Preheat broiler. Heat oil in 10-inch ovenproof nonstick skillet. Add scallions, garlic, artichoke hearts and lemon juice, and sauté until softened. Whisk together eggs, milk, parsley, salt and pepper. Add to skillet and top with crumbled chèvre. Cook until firm around bottom and sides, approximately 5 to 10 minutes. Transfer skillet to broiler and broil for another 5 minutes until top is brown and frittata is puffy. Remove from broiler, sprinkle with Parmesan and lemon zest, and serve. Makes 4 servings. ❖

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Roads & Maintenance News

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

People will be out more, enjoying the "walkability" of Roland Park. Happy hordes of school children will be skipping cheerily to and from school. To that end, please be sure that you keep shrubbery trimmed well back from the sidewalks, paths and lanes that border your property. Unfortunately, many bushes were planted too close to these public rights-of-way, so when they reach their mature sizes, they encroach upon them. Pruning back shrubbery is an ongoing task, since trimming encourages new growth. Be a good neighbor and keep your shrubbery cut back! A side note: plants that bloom in spring, such as forsythia, bridal wreath spirea, weigela and azaleas, should be trimmed immediately after blooming. If spring bloomers are pruned in the late summer or fall, the next spring's flowers are what are cut off. Privet hedge grows well in full sun, but poorly in shade. If you have a scruffy looking privet hedge around your property, consider replacing it with a shade loving hedge plant such as euonymus. Both privet and euonymus need trimming several times a year to look their best.

Spring also turns one's thoughts to home improvement. When you decide to make a change to the exterior of your home, remember to submit an application to Roads & Maintenance for review. We are comprised of your neighbors who, like you, moved to Roland Park for its unique ambience and we love it, too. We also understand that 100-year-old houses need not only maintenance, but also updating to meet the needs of today's families. This is regularly accomplished through sensitive planning and execution of changes. The good results are visible all over the neighborhood. Also visible are some changes that make you stop dead in your tracks and say, "What were they thinking?!" There are several reasons for such eyesores:

- Over the years, ideas of what is appropriate have changed. For example, chain link fences (in the front yard!) were approved during the 1930s. Today, chain link makes you think more of a prison than a home.
- There have been times when Roads & Maintenance was not as vigilant as it should have been in keeping track of alterations to properties. Today, Roland Parkers are more aware of the historic nature of our gem of a neighborhood and work to maintain that.
- Neglect by property owners who don't see, don't care or can't afford to keep the property maintained.
- Covenants in Plats 2 through 6 expired and some were not renewed. Why would some people not sign new covenants? People are concerned that they won't be able to do as they wish, that they would never make unattractive changes, that the property will be more difficult to sell (not true!) or they just don't understand why covenants are important. Properties not under covenant must still comply with applicable City regulations, but good taste and even common sense are not covered by these regulations.

Many applications received by Roads & Maintenance are approved as submitted, most are approved with minor changes and many homeowners find that R&M's suggestions are useful. Dare I say that we're here to help you? ♦

CSA: Bolton Street Synagogue's Casserole Program

Looking for an opportunity to engage your family in an activity that serves the larger community? Members of the Bolton Street synagogue invite Roland Parkers to join with them in addressing hunger and homelessness in our city. This past fall, the synagogue, located on Cold Spring Lane, started a monthly casserole program to help provide food to Our Daily Bread's hot meal program. Our Daily Bread, located near downtown, currently serves more than a quarter-million meals to Baltimore City's hungry each year. Each month, participants in the program make casseroles, choosing one of two recipes, and deliver the frozen, homemade meals to the synagogue the fourth Sunday of each month, in the morning (alternative delivery arrangements can be made and you are not obligated to make a casserole every month). If you are interested in participating, please contact Claudia Diamond at ClaudiaADiamond@gmail.com or 410-662-4734. This is a great activity for kids!

kdLeidoscope

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Tales of Roland Park: House Calls

By Kathy Hudson

"Here comes Daddy looking like the man of the hour," Kitty Hoen announced as her aging father walked out the screen door of the house next door.

I was weeding by the brick wall between the two houses. I looked up as Kitty's white-haired, slender, bare-chested father in slippers, black socks and boxers moved slowly down his front path. Mr. Hoen was steady on his feet, so he didn't use a cane, as he inched to the folding beach chair near his sickle pear tree.

Because he was hard of hearing, I yelled "Hello, Mr. Hoen!" He turned his milky blue eyes towards me and said with uncertainty, "Hello." I knew he didn't recognize me.

Because I was on the other side of the fence, I didn't take the time to introduce myself, as I often did,



even though my family had lived next door for almost 30 years. I didn't remind him either that I was Margaret Hudson's daughter. Usually, when I said my mother's name, his eyes brightened. Their friendship was forged in their adjacent gardens.

Albert Berthold Hoen was Mr. Hoen's name. "Bert," his wife and grandsons called him. His family, beginning in the late 1880s, owned and operated the renowned A. Hoen & Company, lithographers and publishers, whose work included the National Geographic Society maps.

He was a gentle, well-read man whose passion was his garden. He taught my mother how to grow roses and propagate cuttings from tree peonies under mayonnaise jars. They

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shared a passion for organic practices, even before Rachel Carson's *A Silent Spring* was published.

He was quiet in voice, but loud in sneeze, as was my mother. When either sneezed while working outside, both families heard them inside, even with windows and doors closed. The only difference was that our mother's sneeze sounded like a high-pitched screech, and Mr. Hoen's was basso profundo with great vibrato.

By the time I moved back to Ridgewood Road in the 1980s, his memory was failing. When his house was robbed of wallets and purses another summer day, Mr. Hoen was heard, by his daughter upstairs as the robbers were leaving, saying "thank you for coming by." His ever-polite ways made her think that it was one of us neighbors or one of his three grandsons who had stopped by.

In his late years, when he wasn't sitting in the first floor den, Mr. Hoen was out in his lawn chair. The afternoon I remember, he was sitting quietly in his boxers when a blue Checker car drove up. I knew before the driver stepped out, who it was: Worth Daniels. The Daniels' trademark was their Checker cars; they had two at a time. I also knew what Dr. Daniels was doing: making a house call on his way home to Ridgewood Road from his office downtown.

Dr. Daniels was a dwindling breed of doctors who made house calls. Bill Fritz made them. Iredell Iglehart and his partner, William

McConnell, still do, and so does Carla Rosenthal. When we had bouts of bronchitis and childhood diseases, Dr. Helfrich was the doctor who frequented our first house on Roland Avenue. His white house, also on Roland Avenue (where his son lives today), had an office and a door for patients on its St. John's Road side.

Dr. O'Donovan, who also lived in Roland Park for many years, was our pediatrician after we moved to Ridgewood Road. His office was on Deepdene Road in one of the frame houses later torn down for the parking garage.

Making house calls expanded the patient-doctor relationship. It made the relationship more personal and reinforced a sense of community. It also put doctors in touch with other generations of a family, widening the net of interconnections that create neighborliness.

With the fast-paced ways of today's medicine and insurance dictates about time spent with patients, few doctors make house calls. Carla Rosenthal Iredell Iglehart and his partner William McConnell still do. Drs. Rosenthal and Iglehart, in fact, both live in Roland Park with their families. Tradition continues. ♦

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M H I C 1 8 4 2 1

Roland Park Master Plan

Continued from page 1

neighborhood with the beauty of its trees and its calming effect on traffic, residents do not want the median reduced to accommodate more automobiles and a faster flow of traffic. The preservation of the median, or its expansion in certain places, will be established as a priority in the Plan. That would mean that if the Baltimore City Department of Transportation is approached with a request to reduce the median to allow for additional turning lanes or car stacking, the Plan would be available as a guiding document and the request would be referred to the Civic League for its consideration.

Who will be bound by this Master Plan?

Both the community and the City will be bound by the Plan. The process of creating the Plan will secure buy-in from the City's elected officials as well as important City departments, including the Planning, Transportation, Housing, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire departments. As the City is currently undergoing a comprehensive rezoning for the first time in 40 years, the timing of our efforts could not be more perfect. At the end of the planning process this spring, the Plan will be presented to the City's Planning Commission for approval. Once approved, it will become the guiding document for the City, the Civic League and the other neighborhood organizations that participate in the Plan (identified below). Developing the Plan now will ensure that it is incorporated into the new zoning ordinance.



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Aside from Roland Park, what other neighborhoods are participating in the development of the Master Plan?

The official boundaries of Roland Park that were established by the Roland Park Company in the 1890s do not always constitute practical boundaries for the purposes of planning or decision-making, so it has been important to facilitate the participation of and agreement on common issues from adjacent neighborhoods. These include: Tuxedo Park, Keswick, Coldspring Newtown, Bellona-Gittings, Chatham, Tuscany-Canterbury, Wyndhurst, Evergreen, Alonsoville, Heathbrook, Hoes Heights, Roland Springs, Rolden, North Roland Park, the Orchards, Blythewood and Cross Keys.

Who will have access to the Plan?

The Plan is not intended to sit on a shelf, but rather to be a document that all residents of the participating neighborhoods, along with our City partners, can access. It is important that everyone has a shared understanding of and agreement on how to address issues as they are presented to the community or to the City. The Plan will be available for all to see on the Roland Park website (www.RolandPark.org).

Will all the recommended actions included in the Plan be completed by the time of its adoption in June of this year?

No, it is not intended that they will all be completed by that date. We will be able to implement some actions immediately, like the incorporation of our zoning recommendations into the City's zoning plan. Other recommended actions may take several years to complete, depending on the complexity of the action and the participants required for its implementation. For example, the process of acquiring property rights might include several steps (e.g., fundraising, negotiating purchase agreements for property or easements). The Plan will spell out each of the steps and present a timeline for their completion.

How will the Civic League and other neighborhood organizations use the Plan?

The Plan will serve as a guideline for development activities, so that, for example, when an individual proposes to develop a vacant lot or property, there will be a template to which that proposal will need to adhere. That template will set out the desires of the community. The Plan will help us be more proactive, setting down the community's rules so that developers are forewarned about what will work in Roland Park and what will not.

What are the keys to the success of the Plan?

The keys are full participation by all stakeholders throughout the community and dialogue among stakeholders to reach a consensus on the Plan. We urge all residents of Roland Park and the other communities identified above to participate fully in the planning process, which includes joining the Master Plan subcommittees, attending community-wide meetings, sending in your comments to the subcommittee leaders and the steering committee, keeping current on the progress through the Roland Park website (see the sidebar on the Master Plan Meta Blog), and talking the Master Plan up with your neighbors. ♦

Mapping Livability

By Janet Felsten

What are the components that make Roland Park such a livable community? What do we want to preserve and enhance for ourselves and for the next generations of residents? What do we want to change?

According to the Victoria Transportation Management Institute in Victoria, British Columbia, “**Community Livability** refers to the perceived environmental and social quality of an area. This includes safety and health (traffic safety, personal security, public health), local environmental conditions (cleanliness, noise, dust, air quality, water quality), the quality of social interactions (neighborliness, fairness, respect, community identity and pride), opportunities for recreation and entertainment, aesthetics, and existence of unique cultural and environmental resources (e.g., historic structures, mature trees, traditional architectural styles).”

Community livability directly benefits people who live in, work in or visit an area, increases property values and business activity, and it can improve public health and safety. Livability is largely affected by conditions in the public realm, places where people naturally interact with each other and their community, including streets, parks, transportation terminals and other public facilities, and so is affected by public policy and planning decisions.” (Transportation Demand Manual, www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm97.htm)



There is an online, interactive forum where you can weigh in on this topic, the Roland Park and Environs Livability Map (www.opengreenmap.org/greenmap/roland-park-and-environs-livability-map). Using the Open Green Map Google Maps interface made available through Baltimore Green Map, you can suggest sites, add images, make comments and more. The map uses universal icons to show natural, cultural and sustainable living resources. Try it out!

There is also a link to the Livability Map in the Master Plan section of Roland Park's website (www.RolandPark.org/MasterPlan). ♦

Master Plan Meta Blog

By Doug Munro, Webmaster, www.RolandPark.org

If you go to this web page on the Roland Park website, www.rolandpark.org/MasterPlanMetaBlog, you will find a list of the issue-area committee leaders and links to online forums associated with each topic. From this web page, you may email the committee leaders and leave your comments on one or more of the issue forums. We've made it all very easy—really supremely easy—for you, so go right ahead.

But “why?” you ask. Between them, Roland Park and the neighborhoods immediately around it represent one of the nation's largest surviving and best-preserved 19th century streetcar suburbs (Guilford and Homeland are 20th century). Many communities like ours around the country have been “edge chipped” to death, a fate that we can all agree should not be allowed to befall greater Roland Park. Once we lose a building, once we pave over an open space, once we allow an incompatible use...eventually there will be nothing left.

The master planning process is soliciting area residents' views on zoning and land use, historical preservation and resource sustainability, transportation, and many other topics. The idea is to turn these views into a comprehensive plan that, in turn, can be used to influence City zoning regulations for this area. Remember, the City is currently rewriting the municipal code for the first time in nearly 40 years. It is important that Roland Park have a master plan, the tenets of which can be used to inform the City about what is best for us. If we don't undertake this, who will? If someone else does, will you trust him or her?

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Master Plan Subcommittee Reports

In the second charrette, six subcommittees held round-table discussions of the ideas for the Master Plan. What follows is a selection of a few of those ideas, which will be discussed further before any are incorporated into recommendations. To see a complete report from each subcommittee, please visit www.rolandpark.org/MasterPlanMetaBlog.

Housing Subcommittee

- Establish design guidelines for exterior renovations that will be a resource for the community and serve as an overlay for the Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation.
- Provide resources related to home energy upgrades and upgrades related to aging in place.

Infrastructure Subcommittee

- Establish some “green” alleys, using pervious pavement.
- Install granite curbs and gutters for the community’s commercial areas, and historically correct butcher-block gutters in other areas.



Commercial/Retail Subcommittee

- Develop streetscape design guidelines for Cold Spring Lane that incorporate street furnishings, paving materials, lighting and banners. These will also recommend moving parking behind businesses, where possible, to maintain the consistency of the street edge.
- Introduce traffic calming solutions. For example, the “Eddie’s block” might have curb bump outs, crosswalk signage and/or delineated crosswalks, and a new pedestrian crossing to the library at the south end.

Transportation Subcommittee

- Reduce school-related peak morning and afternoon congestion and impacts on local streets by staggering school opening and closing times.
- Encourage safety improvements for bus and car drop-off areas, and improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the Cold Spring Light Rail Station.

Green and Open Space Subcommittee

- On the Baltimore Country Club land, the discussion was premised on the hope that the community would be able to purchase the roughly 17 acres of land. Any proposed uses would be discussed with the Club.
- Maintain the Big Meadow for sledding and dog walking, either retaining the grass or establishing a native groundcover, and plant native trees along Falls Road.
- Use the water tower as an observation tower, and the area around it as a community park for neighborhood gatherings.



Livability Subcommittee

- Offer a variety of places and opportunities for people of all ages to congregate, socialize and recreate.
- Host community events that contribute to social cohesion.
- Encourage aging in place so that people can remain in the community in which they have lived.



What’s Next?

A discussion of a Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) designation for Roland Park will be held on **March 4th**. Also in March, there will be an effort to meet with key stakeholder groups—schools, churches, businesses, political leaders, other institutions and surrounding community organizations—in preparation for the next charrette, which will be held on **April 8th**. The final Master Plan will be presented at the annual Civic League meeting on **May 19th**.

The specific dates and locations of these meetings will be announced through the Roland Park e-letter (sign up at www.rolandpark.org/cgi/mlm/subscribe.cgi). ♦

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From the Earth...To Your Kitchen

By Kerry Dunnington, Food Columnist, Caterer and Cookbook Author

Buying locally grown food is vital for supporting local communities; it helps to reduce our carbon footprint and, by doing so, it won't throw Mother Nature out of kilter. Moreover, you will benefit from optimum freshness, flavor and nutrients that otherwise get lost during transportation. Most asparagus hails from Peru, a mere 3,500 miles from Maryland! Asparagus is considered to be one of the most nutritionally well-balanced vegetables in existence. The local asparagus season is notoriously short, so make sure it doesn't slip away before you can sample this delicious dish from my forthcoming cookbook, *Planet Kitchen Table*.

Asparagus and Shrimp with Grilled Halloumi

Helpful to know: Over the years, I have found that most pre-cooked, peeled shrimp have become almost devoid of any flavor, so I prefer to use 26-30 count raw shrimp that I cook, peel and devein. Plan accordingly; the shrimp need to marinate for 3 hours. Also, remember to save the shrimp marinade, as it's used later in the recipe!

Halloumi ranks as one of my all-time favorite cheeses because of its wonderful flavor and texture. And who wouldn't marvel at a cheese that can be sautéed or grilled, yet still keeps its shape and doesn't melt? Halloumi can be found in the refrigerated specialty cheese section of most health oriented grocery stores and specialty cheese shops. Serve this with slices of good quality bread, like French or ciabatta, and plenty of olive oil for dipping.

Shrimp and Marinade

- 1 lb. large shrimp, cooked, peeled and deveined
- 3 T. olive oil
- 2 T. fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp. salt
- Fresh ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 T. toasted sunflower seeds

In a medium bowl, combine shrimp with olive oil, lemon juice, salt and black pepper. Marinate for 3 hours (save marinade for later!)

Asparagus

- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into bite-sized pieces

Cook asparagus in rumbling water for 3 to 5 minutes, or until desired tenderness (for best results, asparagus should be tender crisp). Run asparagus under cold water or let them sit in an ice bath until cooled.

Grilled Halloumi

- 1 T. olive oil
- ½ lb. halloumi, cubed

Heat olive oil in a medium skillet over moderate heat. Add halloumi cubes and sauté for about 2 minutes or until just slightly brown.

Place 4 to 5 shrimp into each of 6 rimmed serving bowls. Evenly top shrimp with asparagus pieces and cubes of halloumi. Spoon reserved marinade over contents of each bowl and top with toasted sunflower seeds. Yields: 6 servings.



Kerry Dunnington is author of This Book Cooks. Her forthcoming cookbook, *Planet Kitchen Table*, is slated for publication in 2010. Dunnington can be reached at kerrydunnington@verizon.net.

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Bookends

Exploring the American West: a Place Where “Fact and Fantasy Collide”

An Interview with Christopher Corbett

By Henry Mortimer

Roland Park resident Christopher Corbett, a former news editor with The Associated Press, is the author of several books. His most recent, The Poker Bride: The First Chinese in the Wild West, was published by Atlantic Monthly on February 1st. The Poker Bride tells the story of Polly Bemis, a Chinese girl who married an Idaho gambler and became a living legend. But her story offers more than a bit of celebrated folklore, says Corbett, who teaches at UMBC. Polly's story provides an intimate portrait of the history of the burgeoning American West and how the “brave and hardworking” Chinese immigrants helped shape it.

Tell us about your latest book, *The Poker Bride – The First Chinese in the Wild West*.

The *Poker Bride* is a nonfiction account of a beautiful Chinese girl, Polly Bemis—we do not know her Chinese name—whose family sold her for a lot of money during a famine in the early 1870s. She wound up in a mining camp in the Idaho goldfields. [Much of the] story is a bit murky.



Christopher Corbett's new book, *The Poker Bride*, was published in February. Photo courtesy of Christopher Corbett

Is it a true story?

Yes, but like a lot of stories in the Old West, it has a fair bit of baggage. Whether Polly was an actual “poker bride” is much debated. She married a white man named Charlie Bemis, a gambler who, according to one of the most celebrated bits of Idaho folklore, won her in a poker game. Such an arrangement was unheard of in those days. The use of the title is somewhat figurative. That was what she was known for by a lot of people. When she died in 1933, even the newspapers referred to her as a “poker bride.”

Why did you write this book?

I am fascinated with the 19th century American West, a place where fact and fantasy collide, where stories are rooted in fact but layered with embellishments, exaggeration and sometimes outright lies.

Why did you choose to write about the Chinese?

The Chinese played a significant role in the Old West, due to the Gold Rush and, later, the construction of the transcontinental railroad. Thousands of Chinese peasants streamed into San Francisco [starting in the 1850s] and then headed out into the countryside to make what they hoped would be their fortunes. They were often called “sojourners,” because they did not intend to stay but merely wanted to make a little grubstake and go home. I think it is a subject that is much overlooked. These were brave and hardworking people who took terrific risks in coming here.

What sort of research did the book require?

Most of the Chinese who came to this country in those days went back to China, and few of them left any records. The Library of Congress lamented the lack of such information a few years ago. But we know a fair bit about the Chinese in the West at that time—albeit, largely from non-Chinese sources. There is actually quite a bit of Idaho history about the Chinese. Many historians and writers have attempted to make some sense of the story of Polly Bemis, the *Poker Bride*.

What was your main source of information?

Plenty of people—now dead, of course—knew Polly and wrote about meeting her. There were actual interviews with her, at the end of her life in the 1920s and early 1930s. Cissy Patterson, the celebrated American newspaper heiress, met her. A popular Idaho historian knew her, too, as did a very prominent mining engineer. These folks left us some real information.

What can we learn from Polly's story?

The larger story is that her little life shines a light on what it was like to be a “Chinaman,” as they were called, in the American West. This was the world of “the Chinaman's chance” —no

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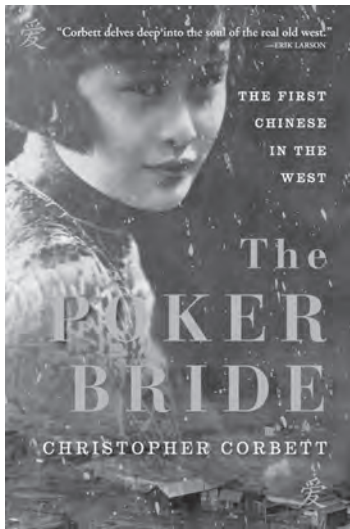
chance at all. It was a hard world and a cruel world. Newspaper accounts of the treatment of the Chinese in this period are pretty grim. Polly was also a victim of the sex slave trade, and that's important because she puts a human face on that dreadful experience.

What inspired you to write this book?

My inspiration for this book was my last book, Orphans Preferred: The Twisted Truth and Lasting Legend of the Pony Express, which was also set in the West. It, too, was a story about myth and memory. While I was writing that book I stumbled on the story of the Chinese. Their memory is all over the American West—like ghosts. I found it mesmerizing.

Who are the writers that inspire you?

I like a number of Western writers—Wallace Stegner, Bernard DeVoto, Edward Abbey, for example, and, of course, Mark



Twain, who was probably the first writer to say anything important and sympathetic about the Chinese, in his classic, *Roughing It*. And then modern fiction writers, such as Cormac McCarthy and Annie Proulx.

What about Baltimore and Roland Park? Have you ever written about them?

I came to Baltimore more than 30 years ago, from Maine, to be the news editor for The Associated Press here. I have written the “Back Page” column for *Style* magazine for 15 years, so I suppose things that happen in Baltimore get on that page. My wife often wishes that were not so.

What are you working on next?

I would like to do another book on the American West. But so much hangs on whether someone (in other words, a publishing house) wants that book and what my agent thinks. The West is full of stories, I can tell you that. Some of them are even true! ♦

Corbett was interviewed by Dan Rodricks on his “Midday” show on WYPR on February 1st. You can listen to the podcast by visiting “Midday” on the web at stream.publicbroadcasting.net/production/mp3/wypr/local-wypr-883107.mp3.

Henry Mortimer lives in Roland Park with his wife and children. He writes Scribbleskiff.com, an occasional blog about books and other distractions. In his spare time, he works as a communications consultant.

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| 629 Deepdene Road | \$295,000 | \$295,000 |
| 4239 Wickford Road | \$299,500 | \$310,000 |
| 4411 Atwick Road | \$349,900 | \$332,000 |
| 5900 Roland Avenue | \$332,500 | \$332,500 |
| 303 Club Road | \$425,000 | \$410,000 |
| 912 W. University Parkway | \$474,500 | \$467,000 |
| 14 Edgevale Road | \$499,000 | \$475,000 |
| 109 Hawthorne Road | \$499,000 | \$499,000 |
| 4721 Keswick Road | \$525,000 | \$525,000 |
| 5906 Wilmary Lane | \$549,000 | \$540,000 |
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Cylburn Arboretum Reopens

By Nell Strachan

Cylburn Arboretum has re-opened and will be hosting an exciting line-up of events in the month of May, all celebrating the refurbishment of the Cylburn Arboretum and the opening of the new Vollmer Center, a "green" building that offers visitor services and information, and features a 250-seat auditorium.

[insert picture of the Vollmer Center here]

Roland Park residents have long considered Cylburn "their" park, taking advantage of its 207 acres of open space, magnificent trees, wooded hiking trails and nesting sites for Baltimore Orioles. The lawns around the historic Victorian-era mansion are the perfect venue for Frisbee games, picnics or a quiet hour's worth of reading in a beautiful setting.

Now, Cylburn Arboretum, located at 4915 Greenspring Avenue in Baltimore City (just south of Northern Parkway and just east of Sinai Hospital) on the site of the former Tyson Estate, has

received modern improvements and amenities. Owned for many years by Baltimore City and operated as a public park, Cylburn Arboretum features stellar collections of shrubs and trees, and has more than a dozen ornamental display gardens, broad expanses of lawn and more than three miles of trails through the woods. Cylburn Arboretum presents a wide range of environmental and nature education programs for all ages, plant sales, lectures, demonstrations and other events for families, dog walkers, plant lovers and people just going for a walk. The Vollmer Center is the first stop for all visitors. Maps and brochures, and tour information are available at the visitor desk in the main lobby. And



The new, "green" Vollmer Center boasts a 250-seat auditorium and visitor attractions. Photo: Sara Sergent

be sure to notice the green roof, the composting toilets and other "green" features of this building! Tours of the buildings, gardens and grounds are offered periodically. The grounds are open every day of the year, so come through the refurbished main entrance on Greenspring Avenue, park in the new parking areas and enjoy your visit!

Of special interest are the events scheduled for the month of May to celebrate the grand opening. These include:

- On Saturday, **May 1st**, the official opening of the Vollmer Center will begin with dedication of the building and a ribbon cutting at 11 am, followed by a day of family-oriented events, garden demonstrations and activities for all. William Moss, nationally known TV personality and ambassador extraordinaire on urban gardening, will present lectures and programs.
- On **May 2nd**, at 2 pm, peony expert Carol Warner will present a special lecture on these beautiful flowers. The Cylburn Arboretum's fabulous collection of tree peonies should be in full bloom, and a visit to this collection will offer a memorable adjunct to the lecture, which is free and open to the public.
- Cylburn's annual Market Day will be on Saturday, **May 8th**. This traditional plant sale will bring together plant fanciers, home gardeners and those who just want a nice Mother's Day gift for someone special (or themselves!). Garden clubs, plant societies, the Cylburn greenhouses and other vendors will offer a wide variety of plants for all your gardening needs.
- Family nature activities will be held on Sunday, **May 9th**, Mother's Day.
- The Horticultural Society of Maryland, which has moved into its new office in the Vollmer Center, will host a lecture by Laura Deeter entitled "Bringing Up Your Perennials Right" on Tuesday, **May 11th**. Deeter, a faculty member at Ohio State University, has lectured and taught about perennials and how to work with them

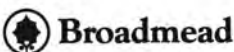
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in home gardens for years, and is an entertaining and engaging lecturer. The lecture is open to all, and is free to Horticultural Society members. Tickets are \$15 for the general public.

- The Cylburn chamber music series will continue with a free concert on Wednesday, **May 12th**. Advance registration is advised.

- The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, **May 22nd and 23rd**, will feature a wide range of horticultural displays, educational workshops and exhibits, all under the auspices of the Federated Garden Clubs, whose annual flower show of judged arrangements will be on display. This event is free and open to the public.

- A "history day," focusing on the fascinating history of the Cylburn property and the Tyson family and its business interests, will be presented on Saturday, **May 29th**. Come and learn about the mining and shipping successes of Jesse Tyson, his marriage late in life to a beautiful 19-year-old and her many years of residence on the property. A history "tour" will begin at 11 am. Registration in advance is encouraged. The event is free and open to the public.

- Cylburn is home to a number of "champion" trees, meaning they are registered as the biggest specimens of species in the city or state. On Sunday, **May 30th**, John Fitzpatrick, PhD, a renowned horticulturist who teaches at Morgan State University and Baltimore Community College in Dundalk, will lecture on these and other outstanding trees on the Cylburn property. The lecture will begin at 2 pm, and is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required.

- On Sundays throughout May, the Baltimore Bird Club, one of the organizations based at Cylburn, will be offering weekly "introduction to bird watching walks" specifically for newcomers to bird watching. The Baltimore Bird Club will also have weekly spring migration bird watching walks, for novices and experienced bird watchers alike. Bird watchers will meet at the Vollmer Center at 8:30 am on Sundays in May.

Cylburn Arboretum benefits from the many hours of volunteer support provided by members of the Cylburn community. There are many volunteer opportunities, including greeting visitors at the Vollmer Center; showing visitors through the Nature Museum with its extensive collections of Maryland birds, butterflies and other natural history exhibits; working in the gardens with our professional gardeners; volunteering in the Greenhouse; working on the trails with the Cylburn Naturalist; or helping with major events. Contact Sara Sergent at 410-367-2217 to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Want to learn how to be a better gardener? Join the introductory gardening skills "learn and serve" workshops starting this spring. Learn from a professional and "pay" for the workshops by volunteering in the Cylburn gardens this summer. Contact education coordinator Nancy Hill for more information: **Nancy**.

Hill@cyburnassociation.org or 410-367-2217.

Cylburn Arboretum, part of the Baltimore City park system, is operated as a public-private partnership by the City and the Cylburn Arboretum Association, a 501 (c)(3) organization

dedicated to supporting the arboretum. Visit **www.cylburnassociation.org** for more information about the association, the events described here, educational programs, and other activities and organizations based at Cylburn Arboretum. Inquiries may also be directed to the association office at 410-367-2217. ♦



Cylburn Arboretum's Japanese maple collection is spectacular. Photo: Pat Draisey

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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

Hello, and welcome to the Book Nook! We hope that everyone has survived the snowy winter and is ready to welcome spring, with its lovely flowers and warmer temperatures.

Join us on Saturday, March 13th, at 2 pm, when local photographer Denny Lynch will present his program, "Exploring Ireland and Irish Heritage." For those you who haven't seen one of Lynch's programs, they are always a delight. He will, as always, have some lovely photos for purchase, signed and matted, of course.

As always, reviews are excerpted from the editorial reviews on amazon.com.

Fiction

The Children's Book by A. S. Byatt. *The Children's Book*, her brilliant new novel...takes a jump to fin de siècle Europe, from the end of the Victorian era to the beginning of the modern age. Bristling with life and invention, it is a seductive work by an extraordinarily gifted writer. Set primarily in the downs and marshes of the Kent countryside and the southeastern coast at Dungeness, the story also flings characters to London, Paris, Munich, the Italian Alps and the battlefields of Europe, where real historical figures such as J.M. Barrie and Emma Goldman mix with invented characters, including layabout students, Fabian socialists, potters, puppeteers, randy novelists and poets in the trenches of France. In

its encyclopedic form, *The Children's Book* is a kind of anatomy of the age in which the young men and women of the Edwardian era were confronted by a rapidly changing society and the grim reality of the Great War.

The Museum of Innocence by Orhan Pamuk. Nobel laureate

Pamuk's latest is a soaring, detailed and laborious mausoleum of love. During Istanbul's tumultuous 1970s, Kemal Bey, 30-year-old son of an upper-class family, walks readers through a lengthy catalogue of trivial objects, which, though seeming mundane, hold memories of his life's most intimate, irretrievable moments. The main focus of Kemal's peculiar collection of earrings, ticket stubs and drinking glasses is beloved Füsün, his onetime paramour and longtime unrequited love.



An 18-year-old virginal beauty, modest shopgirl and poor distant relation, Füsün enters Kemal's successful life just as he is engaged to Sibel, a very special, very charming, very lovely girl. Though levelheaded Sibel provides Kemal compassionate relief from their social strata's rising tensions, it is the fleeting moments with fiery, childlike Füsün that grant conflicted Kemal his deepest peace.

The Humbling by Philip Roth. A deteriorating and increasingly irrelevant actor finds the possibility of renewal in a younger woman in Roth's tight Chekhovian tragedy. At 65, Simon Axler, a formerly celebrated stage actor, is undergoing a crisis: he can no longer act, his wife leaves him and, suicidal, he checks himself into a psych ward. Then he retires to his upstate New York farm to wait for...something, which arrives in the form of Pegeen, daughter of some old theater friends who is now a lithe, full-breasted woman of 40, though with something of a child still in her smile. A Rothian affair ensues, despite (or perhaps because of) their age difference and Pegeen's lesbian past...Roth observes much (about age, success and the sexual credit lovers hold one with another) in little space, and the svelte narrative amounts to an unsparing confrontation of self.

Kisser: A Stone Barrington Novel by Stuart Woods. At the start of bestseller Woods' entertaining 17th Stone Barrington novel (after *Loitering with Intent*), the handsome New York lawyer smoothly picks up Carrie Cox, an aspiring actress who's recently moved from Georgia to New York City, at Elaine's, his favorite Manhattan restaurant. As usual, every beautiful woman Barrington encounters pursues him, including Carrie, art gallery assistant Rita Gammage, U.S. attorney Tiffany Baldwin and mentally unstable Dolce Bianci, to whom he was once briefly married. In spite of all the female attentions, Barrington manages to shield Carrie from her ex-husband, protect young heiress Hildy Parsons from a con artist/drug dealer and plot to take down Ponzi scammer Sig Larsen. Too crafty to let Barrington sail unscathed through encounters with women or criminals, Woods devises plenty of snarls to provoke laughs and keep the action interesting in a series that excels at playing out male fantasies.

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Nonfiction

Eco House Book by Terence Conran. This large-format publication continues Conran's long-standing "House Book" series. His design influence in the U.K. is perhaps equivalent to Martha Stewart's here. Not as comprehensive as his *Ultimate House Book*, this new effort, devoted to green building, touches on siting, orientation, building materials, finishes, gardens, recycling, energy saving and home-scale energy generation. Conran also discusses conversions and adding on. Quality color photographs show innovative design approaches and detailing, though carpets and curtains are rare. In the final section, "Case Studies," Conran profiles 17 green homes located in Europe, the U.S., and Australia.

American Rebel: The Life of Clint Eastwood by Marc Eliot. Eliot, biographer of stars ranging from Walt Disney to Bruce Springsteen, tackles the life, career and artistic challenges of Clint Eastwood...Updating previous biographies, Eliot analyzes both box-office bombs and successes, while probing the never-ending drama of Eastwood's modus vivendi, his financial empire and his personal relationships. Married twice, Eastwood has seven children by five different women. Although Eastwood did not consent to be interviewed and key sources asked not to be named, Eliot documents a wealth of details in this well-researched, comprehensive biography that will not disappoint Eastwood's fans.

The Secret Lives of Buildings by Edward Hollis. Form follows function, or so says the modernist architectural maxim. Rubbish, replies Edward Hollis, an architect himself and author of *The Secret Life of Buildings*. Function never stands still. Architects may think they're erecting lasting structures that can fulfill only one

purpose, but the recalcitrant humans who actually use buildings, Hollis argues gleefully, waste no time at all in altering builders' visions to suit their own ever-evolving needs. Nor is this some evil wrought on perfection. The things generations of inhabitants have done to those defining buildings have created "something rich and strange," a history in stone that captures the rise and fall of empires, Hollis convincingly argues in his survey of 13 iconic Western structures. They range from the Parthenon, the Platonic ideal of the perfect building (at least for centuries of aesthetes), to Las Vegas's Venetian Resort Hotel (no one's definition of the ideal).

Raymond Carver: A Writer's Life by Carol Sklenicka. He has been called a chronicler of blue-collar despair. He led a relatively private life, much of it spent trying to raise cash via odd jobs and the writing-conference circuit, and died from the cancerous effects of excessive drinking and smoking. Raymond Carver (1938–1988) is a fascinating figure more for what went on in his imagination, as it registered the dynamics of couples' relationships amid the counterculture, than for his messy life. He came from the lower-middle class of Yakima, Washington, and was a father before he turned 21. Maryann Burk, his first wife, had her own measure of success as a memoirist, but as the Carvers' lives came to resemble his stories, they divorced. Carver soon found his second great love, Tess Gallagher. It's ironic that the master of the minimalist short story has his own life recounted in such whopping detail by short story writer and essayist Sklenicka. Earnest and carefully researched, this biography interestingly recounts Carver's working

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Book Nook

Continued from page 29

relationship with editor Gordon Lish and other publishing figures. But the writing is most compelling in an epilogue that highlights posthumous legal disputes showing Gallagher maintaining an iron grip on Carver's growing legacy and reputation.

General Information

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

Roland Park Branch hours are Monday and Wednesday: 12 to 8 pm; Tuesday and Thursday: 10 am to 5:30 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm; and Friday and Sunday: closed. Please note the following holiday and furlough closings for all Pratt Libraries: April 2nd, for Good Friday; April 4th, for Easter Sunday; May 28th, for a City Furlough Day; and May 31st, for Memorial Day. ❖

Parents' Corner

| Date and Time | Program |
|---|---|
| Mondays, 1:30 pm, and Thursdays, 10:30 am | Mother Goose on the Loose. An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement for children up to age three and their caregivers. |
| Thursdays, 11:30 am | Preschool Storytime. Stories, songs and fun for preschoolers. |
| Wednesday, March 10th, 3:30 pm | Bookopoly returns for this year's Black-eyed Susan Award Nominees! Join fellow readers and test your knowledge of this nominee. <i>Swindle</i> by Gordon Korman. |
| Thursday, April 15th, 3:30 pm | "Talkin' Eggs and Talkin' Dogs." Listen to folktales about talking eggs, dogs and witches, performed by Bunjo, the "West Baltimore African Talkin' Drum." |
| Saturday, April 24th, 11 am | Preschool Fairy Tale Ball. Live music, dancing, and crafts. A cooperative event between the Roland Park Branch and Hampden Branch. Please call 410-396-6099 to register. |



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Cornus: The Dogwood Genus

Continued from page 9

our area, and are recently more available to the home gardener. The Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) grows to tree height and has distinctively layered horizontal branches (hence its name). It blooms from May to June, and the flowers can be fragrant. Like the American Dogwood, it requires partial sun and moist, but well-drained, soil. Its blue-black berry attracts the appetite of a number of birds.

The Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) is another streamside Dogwood. It tends to remain shrub sized and has blue-black fruit. It is not as useful in the home landscape, but it is a wonderful plant to add to a natural area, especially for attracting wildlife, which eat the fruit and nest in the thicket that it makes.

Grey Dogwood is a plant for areas with full sun and poor soil. Again, it is more available in the last few years, and has a high wildlife value, making it better for natural areas rather than the ornamental garden. Some cultivars have great fall color.

Dogwood Culture

Dogwoods share some common characteristics. One is the distinctive leaf venation and shape. Another is a susceptibility to fungal diseases. The American Dogwood, in particular, requires what are known as good horticultural practices to avoid the stresses that can lead to tree death. They require cool, moist soil

(mulching is essential), almost full sun without glare (placing them next to a bright sidewalk or where sun reflects off a large window can be stressful) and good air circulation. The powdery mildew that frequently attacks them is ugly, but not harmful to the tree itself. A good horticultural practice is to remove dead leaves from around the plant every year to prevent the fungus from wintering over, and to avoid planting other mildew prone plants (Phlox, for example) nearby. Limit watering to the morning hours, and avoid using a sprinkler; try watering the root zone directly with a hose. Never place mulch in contact with the bark, and use a pine bark or needle mulch, which is less likely to develop mildew. Dogwoods also prefer their soil on the acid side. With the exception of the Dogwoods mentioned as streamside plants, Dogwoods do not thrive in saturated soil. They also become very stressed by drought.

Commercial growers have been working to make this an easier plant to grow. When choosing a Dogwood, look for disease resistance and good fall color. Check the botanical name to make sure you have the desired species, as the common names are similar and confusing. You will probably have the option of choosing bloom color, white or pink, in the American and Chinese Dogwoods, and of choosing solid green or variegated leaves. Check the light, temperature and water requirements. Although several are listed as tolerating full sun, they do not do well next to sidewalks because of the glare and the soil compaction. They will, however, perform well in the middle of the lawn. There is enough variation in this genus that you should be able to find one to fit your yard's characteristics.

Happy Gardening! ♦

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